





DIOCESE OF LAGOS WEST

ARCHBISHOP VINING MEMORIAL CHURCH CATHEDRAL
Oba Akinjobi Road, G.R.A. Ikeja, Lagos.

ORDER OF FUNERAL SERVICE

FOR

*Mrs Oluremilekun
Abimbola*

1939 - 2020
Aged: 80 Years

ON

FRIDAY, 7TH AUGUST, 2020

9.00 AM

DIOCESE OF LAGOS WEST

(Anglican Communion)

Archbishop Vining Memorial Church Cathedral

Oba Akinjobi Road, GRA, Ikeja, Lagos.

Mr Femi Williams

Mr Sina Oyeneye

Dr Chinedu Osinigwe

Assistant Organists

Mr Dapo Okunmuyide

Assistant Resident Organist

Mr Sunday Olawuwo

Organist & Master of the Music

Mr. Adetunji Adekoya

Mr Charles Ojo

Cathedral Wardens

The Rev. Ayodeji Oluwatusin

The Rev. Opeyemi Ibikunle

The Rev. Dr. Benjamin Chijioke Okere

The Rev. Dr. Samuel Opaaje

The Rev. Canon Benson Odude

The Ven. Azubike Ahubelem

The Ven. James Adekanye

The Ven. Gbenga Oniye

Cathedral Priests

The Ven. Festus Olowosile

Canon Residentiary

The Ven. Goke Agara

Dean of the Cathedral

The Rt. Rev. Dr. James Olusola Odedeji

Bishop, Diocese of Lagos West

ORDER OF SERVICE

1. Meeting the body
2. Sentences
3. Hymn: *CH 344 - Jesus lives thy terror now*
4. Psalm 90
5. Lesson: *Revelation 7:11-17*
6. Hymn: *CH 674 - Who are these like stars appearing*
7. Sermon
8. Hymn: *CH 347 - I know that my Redeemer lives*
9. Prayer
10. Announcement
11. Nunc Dimittis
12. Withdrawal Hymn: *CH 633 - HARK! HARK, MY SOUL!*

AT THE CEMETERY

13. Hymn: *CH 44 - ABIDE WITH ME*
14. Burial
15. Affirmation of Faith
16. Committal
17. Commendation
18. Benediction

1. MEETING THE BODY

The Minister shall meet the body at the entrance to the Church

Reception of the body

Priest: With faith in Jesus Christ, we receive the body of our sister, Mrs Oluremilekun Abimbola, for burial. Let us pray with confidence in God, the giver of life, that He will raise her to perfection in the company of the saints.

Silence may be kept, after which the Minister says:

Heavenly Father, you have power over death and you have given victory through the death of Your Son, Jesus Christ; may Your Holy Spirit remind us daily of our inheritance in Your kingdom, so that we may not be overcome by the world and miss our fellowship with You in Heaven but keep our faith constant in Your Son, who is the resurrection and life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Priest: I have set God always before me for He is on my right hand, therefore, I shall not fall.

People: Wherefore my heart was glad, and my soul rejoiced, my flesh also shall rest in hope.

Priest: You shall not leave my soul in hell: nor shall You allow Your Holy one to see corruption

People: Thou shall show me the path of life, in Your presence is the fullness of joy and at Your right hand are pleasures for evermore.

All: Amen.

2. SENTENCES

I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die.

For I know that my Redeemer lives, And He shall stand at last on the earth; And after my skin is destroyed, this I know, That in my flesh I shall see God, Whom I shall see for myself, And my eyes shall behold, and not another.

For to this end Christ both died and rose that He might be Lord both of the dead and of the living. Let not your hearts be troubled; ye believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house, there are many mansions.

For I am persuaded that neither death nor life nor angels, nor principalities nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

3. HYMN: CH 344

JESUS LIVESTHY TERRORS NOW

1. Jesus lives! thy terrors now
can no longer, death, appall us;
Jesus lives! by this we know
thou, O grave, canst not enthrall us.
Alleluia!
2. Jesus lives! henceforth is death
but the gate of life immortal;
this shall calm our trembling breath
when we pass its gloomy portal.
Alleluia!
3. Jesus lives! for us he died;
then, alone to Jesus living,
pure in heart may we abide,
glory to our Savior giving.
Alleluia!
4. Jesus lives! our hearts know well
nought from us his love shall sever;
life, nor death, nor powers of hell
tear us from his keeping ever.
Alleluia!
5. Jesus lives! to him the throne
over all the world is given:
may we go where he has gone,
rest and reign with him in heaven.
Alleluia!

4. PSALM 90

1. Lord, thou hast been our dwelling place in all generations.
2. Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting thou art God.
3. Thou turnest man back to the dust, and sayest, "Turn back, O children of men!"
4. For a thousand years in thy sight are but as yesterday when it is past, or as a watch in the night
5. Thou dost sweep men away; they are like a dream, like grass which is renewed in the morning:
6. In the morning it flourishes and is renewed; in the evening it fades and withers.
7. For we are consumed by thy anger; by thy wrath we are overwhelmed.
8. Thou hast set our iniquities before thee, our secret sins in the light of thy countenance.
9. For all our days pass away under thy wrath, our years come to an end like a sigh.
10. The years of our life are threescore and ten, or even by reason of strength fourscore; yet their span is but toil and trouble; they are soon gone, and we fly away.
11. Who considers the power of thy anger, and thy wrath according to the fear of thee?
12. So teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom.
13. Return, O LORD! How long? Have pity on thy servants!
14. Satisfy us in the morning with thy steadfast love, that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.
15. Make us glad as many days as thou hast afflicted us, and as many years as we have seen evil.
16. Let thy work be manifest to thy servants, and thy glorious power to their children.
17. Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us, and establish thou the work of our hands upon us, yea, the work of our hands establish thou it.

5. BIBLE READING: *REVELATION 7:11-17*

11. And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshipped God,
12. Singing, 'Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honour and power and might be to our God for ever and ever! Amen.'
13. Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, 'Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?'

14. I said to him, 'Sir, you are the one that knows.' Then he said to me, 'These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.
15. For this reason they are before the throne of God, and worship him day and night within his temple, and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them.
16. They will hunger no more, and thirst no more; the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat.
17. For the Lamb at the centre of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of the water of life, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.

Reader: This is the word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

6. HYMN: CH674

WHO ARE THESE LIKE STARS APPEARING

1. Who are these like stars appearing,
These before God's throne who stand?
Each a golden crown is wearing;
Who are all this glorious band?
Alleluia! Hark, they sing,
Praising loud their heav'nly King.
2. Who are these of dazzling brightness,
These in God's own truth arrayed,
Clad in robes of purest whiteness,
Robes whose luster ne'er shall fade,
Ne'er be touched by time's rude hand?
Whence come all this glorious band?
3. These are they who have contended
For their Savior's honor long,
Wrestling on till life was ended,
Following not the sinful throng;
These who well the fight sustained,
Triumph through the Lamb have gained.

4. These are they whose hearts were riven,
Sore with woe and anguish tried,
Who in prayer full oft have striven
With the God they glorified;
Now, their painful conflict o'er,
God has bid them weep no more.

5. These, like priests, have watched and waited,
offering up to Christ their will;
Soul and body consecrated,
Day and night to serve Him still:
Now in God's most holy place
Blest they stand before His face

7. SERMON

8. HYMN: *CH 347*

I KNOW THAT MY REDEEMER LIVES

- 1 I know that my Redeemer lives:
What comfort this sweet sentence gives!
He lives, He lives, Who once was dead
He lives, my everlasting Head.

- 2 He lives, triumphant from, the grave,
He lives, eternally to save,
He lives, all glorious in the sky,
He lives, exalted there on high.

- 3 He lives to bless me with His love,
And still He pleads for me above;
He lives to raise me from the grave,
And me eternally to save.

- 4 He lives within my heart to dwell,
And save me from the power of hell;
To comfort me whene'er I faint,
And soothe my heaviest complaint.

5 He lives my mansion to prepare;
And He will bring me safely there;
He lives, all glory to His name!
Jesus unchangeably the same! Amen.

9. PRAYER

Priest: The Lord be with you.

People: And with thy spirit
Let us pray
Lord have mercy
Christ have mercy

Lord have mercy

Our Father, which 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 them that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. Amen

Priest: Enter not into judgment with thy daughter MRS OLUREMILEKUN ABIMBOLA

People: For in thy sight shall no man living be justified

Priest: Grant eternal rest unto OLUREMILEKUN ABIMBOLA

People: And let perpetual light shine upon her

Priest: We believe verily to see the goodness of the Lord

People: In the land of the living

Priest: Oh Lord, hear our prayer

People: And let our cry come unto thee

Priest: O Lord God, who conquered death through His only Begotten Son, Jesus Christ thereby opened for us the way of life everlasting, we thank you for the life of your servant MRS OLUREMILEKUN ABIMBOLA who ended her sojourn on earth trusting and fearing Thee and we beseech Thee that by the examples and teachings of thy faithful who passed away to their glorious rest, we may be partakers with them in thy perpetual light. Give succour to her children, friends and well wishers, be their comforter, helper, supporter and shield unto them at all times through Jesus Christ, Thy Son our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

O God, the maker and redeemer of mankind, grant us, with your Daughter MRS OLUREMILEKUN ABIMBOLA and all the faithful departed the sure benefits of Your Son's saving passion and glorious resurrection that on the last day, when you gather all things in Christ, we may with them enjoy the fullness of Your promises through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Our dear Lord God, You hold all souls in life, shed forth we pray, upon Your holy Church in paradise and on earth, the bright beams of Your light and heavenly comfort and grant that we, following the good example of those who have loved and served. You here and now at rest, may at last enter with them into the fullness of joy, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Almighty God, Father of all mercies and giver of all comfort, deal graciously we pray with those who mourn; that casting every care on you, they may know the consolation of your love. Help us we pray Thee to live as those who believe and trust in the Communion of Saints, the forgiveness of sins and the resurrection of life everlasting and strengthen this faith in us through the love of Thy Son, Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.

Father, creator of Heaven and Earth, we beseech Thee for those who traveled here to this town to pay their last respect to our departed MRS OLUREMILEKUN ABIMBOLA we pray that just as you protected them on their way here, you may guard them equally on their return home, protect them from all dangers that attends travelers, and take them to their destinations in peace and joy. Let them not fall into any danger. Bless their going out and their coming in.

Furthermore, may it please Thee to give each and every one of us grace to enjoy long life. Give unto us that our life on earth may be long, full and satisfying; that we may be privileged to bring up our children to a point where they can stand on their own feet before we answer thy call in the late night or our lives. Grant this to us our most merciful Father through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

To be said by all:

O Lord, support us all the day long in this troubled life until the shade lengthens and the evening comes and the busy world is hushed, the fever of life is over, and our work is done. Then Lord, in your mercy, grant us safe lodging, a holy rest and peace at last, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

10. ANNOUNCEMENT

11. NUNC DIMITTIS

1. Lord now You let Your servant/ go in/ peace:
Your/ word has/ been ful/ filled

2. My own eyes have/ seen the sal/vation:
Which You have prepared in the/ sight of/ every/ people
3. A light to re/veal You to the/ nations
And the/ glory of Your/ people/ Israel

Glory be to the Father and/ to the Son:
And/ to the/ Holy/ Spirit;
As it was in the be/ ginning is now:
And shall be for/ ever. Amen

12. WITHDRAWAL HYMN

SHALL WE GATHER AT THE RIVER

1. Shall we gather at the river,
Where bright angel feet have trod;
With its crystal tide forever
Flowing by the throne of God?

Refrain:

*Yes, we'll gather at the river,
The beautiful, the beautiful river;
Gather with the saints at the river
That flows by the throne of God.*

2. On the margin of the river,
Washing up its silver spray,
We will walk and worship ever,
All the happy golden day.
3. Ere we reach the shining river,
Lay we ev'ry burden down;
Grace our spirits will deliver,
And provide a robe and crown.
4. Soon we'll reach the shining river,
Soon our pilgrimage will cease;
Soon our happy hearts will quiver
With the melody of peace.

AT THE CEMETERY

13. THE BURIAL

Man that is born of a woman has but a short time to live and is full of misery. He comes up and is cut down like a flower, he flees as it were a shadow, and never continues in one stay. In the midst of life we are in death, of whom may we seek for succour, but of you, O Lord?

Yet, O Lord, God most holy, O Lord most mighty, O holy and most merciful Saviour, deliver us not into the bitter pains of eternal death. You know, Lord, the secrets of our hearts, close not your merciful ears to our prayer, but spare us Lord, most holy, O God most mighty, O holy and merciful Saviour, you most worthy judge eternal, suffer us not, at our last hour, for any pains of death, to fall from you.

14. AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Priest: All that the Father gives me shall come to me

People: And him that comes to me I will in no wise cast out

Priest: He that raised Jesus from the dead will also give life to our mortal bodies

People: By the Spirit that dwells in us

Priest: Wherefore my heart is glad and my spirit rejoices

People: My flesh also shall rest in hope

Priest: You shall show me the path of life. In your presence is the fullness of joy

People: And at your right hand there is pleasure for ever more.

15. HYMN: CH44

ABIDE WITH ME

1. Abide with me; fast falls the eventide;
The darkness deepens; Lord with me abide.
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, O abide with me.

2. Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day;
Earth's joys grow dim; its glories pass away;
Change and decay in all around I see;
O Thou who changest not, abide with me.
3. I need Thy presence every passing hour.
What but Thy grace can foil the tempter's power?
Who, like Thyself, my guide and stay can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, Lord, abide with me.
4. I fear no foe, with Thee at hand to bless;
Ills have no weight, and tears no bitterness.
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory?
I triumph still, if Thou abide with me.
5. Hold Thou Thy cross before my closing eyes;
Shine through the gloom and point me to the skies.
Heaven's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee;
In life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.

16. COMMITTAL

(The body is lowered)

In faith and in the hope of resurrection to eternal life through our Lord Jesus Christ, we commend the soul of MRS OLUREMILEKUN ABIMBOLA to the Almighty God and commit her body to the ground.

Earth to Earth,
Ashes to Ashes,
Dust to Dust.

May the Lord bless her and keep her
The Lord make His face shine upon her
And be gracious to her;
May the Lord lift His countenance upon her
And give her peace. Amen.

Priest: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Priest: Let us pray

All: Our Father in heaven.
Hallowed be your name,
Your kingdom come,
Your will be done,
On earth as in heaven
Give us today our daily bread

Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are Yours
now and forever. Amen.

17. COMMENDATION

OLUREMILEKUN ABIMBOLA, our sister in Christ, go forth upon your journey in the name of God the Father who created you, in the name of Christ, who suffered for you, in the name of the Holy Spirit who sanctifies you, and may your rest be in peace and your dwelling in the paradise of the people of God. Amen.

18. BENEDICTION

The God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ the great Shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do His will, working in you that which is pleasing in His sight, and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be with you now and forever more. Amen.

Life Biography

OLUREMILEKUN STELLA ABIMBOLA

Oluremilekun Stella Abimbola was born on Monday, 28th August 1939, in Ilesa, Osun State; a princess of the Onibokun Dynasty from the Ologbara ruling house of Iwoye-Jesa.

Mama Isokun, her mother, was from the Famose at Isikin in Ilesa Urban. She gave her the name "Oluremilekun" after ten years of trying to conceive a baby; it means "the Lord has rested my tears". Her name "Stella" means "Star" in Latin and both names became her outlook on life. Her royal name was Adenike, but she rarely used that name.

She was baptized at a young age in the Anglican Communion and attended missionary schools. She attended St Cyprian's Primary School in Port Harcourt, Rivers State. Then the Archdeacon Crowther Memorial Girl's Secondary School, Eledenwa Port Harcourt, where she was a school prefect and sports captain and represented her school running the 100 yds, 220 yds, and the relay race. It was "the school" for girls in those years in the Eastern part of Nigeria before the civil-war.

She did her A-levels at the City of Westminster College, London. Then, she studied at Bedford College (University of London) in Regent's Park, London and had honours in Sociology with Economics and Law. There were only two African women in the college of over 1000 students then (1961 –1964). Her second degree was in Social Administration. After which, she undertook advanced courses in Public Administration, Librarianship Documentation and Informatics which took her to Geneva in Switzerland, Budapest in Hungary, Frankfurt and Munich in Germany, Paris France, Washington USA, Moscow and Leningrad in USSR and Addis Ababa in Ethiopia and Sudan.

She married Lashe Abimbola, who was from Ijebu-jesa, Osun State. They had courted as students in England when he was a law student at Lincoln's Inn, Holborn, London. They would have four children together, three boys and one girl.

Her first working experience was at the Supreme Court Library. She was the first Nigerian woman to work there. Other women then were English employed as Confidential Secretaries to the Judges at the Supreme Court. She spent 9 months there before she left to further her studies.

Her second employment experience was working as a Postgraduate Diploma Librarian in the National Library of Nigeria in 1968. She was one of the first set of qualified librarians. She had been talked into Librarianship by a close friend when the desire in the country was to encourage graduates to take up professional courses in addition to their degrees. It was something new then in Nigeria and they were more highly paid than other graduates. She majored in the technical area of the profession -classification and cataloguing; an area dreaded by most professionals of her time.

She went on to become in charge of the National Bibliography of Nigeria when the National Library took it over from the University of Ibadan (1970 to 1978). Her colleague was Mrs. Ronke Orimolade, who was once the Bookshop Manager UNILAG.

There are testimonies of her being a devoted and dedicated Librarian, whose record in the National Library testifies to the fact that she was one of the foremost Librarians in the country. She served the Federal Government in two Commissions between 1976 -1978; The National Commission for Youths and Culture. And, The National Task Force on Black Arts and African Civilisation, which came into being after FESTAC (Festival of Arts and Culture) 1977.

Among those who served with her in these two commissions were: Dr Christopher Kolade, the former president of Nigerian High Commissioner in London; the Late Scott Emokpae, the then-Federal Director of Information; Mr. Fred Egbo, the then-Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Information; and Mrs. Lolade Oke, who was for many years known as "Mama Youth" in Nigeria.

She was a very creative person and always left her mark in whatever she undertook. Before she left the National Library she introduced into Nigeria the popular ISBN (International Standard Book Numbering), the ISBD (International Standard Bibliographic description) and card services to other libraries.

In 1979, she was sent to ECOWAS as one of the first four professionals representing the Nigerian Government. They were covered by Diplomatic Immunity on swearing an oath of allegiance to no other country but the ECOWAS community.

She was the first female Nigerian to become a full permanent staff of the community. She started as a Senior Officer at the ECOWAS Secretariat but within two years she was promoted to Principal Officer (Library and Documentation). When she assumed the role as Principal Officer, there was no physical office for her and she was tasked with setting up her own division. Within a year, her division went from occupying a single room to occupying a whole floor with a full complement of staff. Three quarters of the collection in the library were free due to her contacts and colleagues in similar institutions around the world.

She worked at ECOWAS for fifteen years and travelled extensively to the West African countries that made up the community. She was popular and sought after for her wealth of information and dedication to excellence. She was referred to as the Madam of ECOWAS, or "Mrs. A" by the younger members of staff.

Her legacy at ECOWAS includes: the numbering system on all the documents in ECOWAS today; initiating the idea of ECOWAS having its own logo and the journal of ECOWAS called "Official Journal" in both the English and French languages and at the time she left in 1994, the last issue was the 22nd edition. She was the only Principal Officer that was allowed to write letters outside the community without them passing through the Executive Secretary which showed the trust that was placed on her authority.

After retirement in 1994, she started Remstel Nigerian Services, a consultancy outfit for Research, Library and Documentation, and was the Executive Director. She owned a bakery at Ikeja and when asked about it, she would tell you that her major aim was to help God feed His people and not necessarily for profit. She was also a prolific writer and author.

Her passion was her Christianity and charity work. She joined Zonta International, an organisation dedicated to empowering women, in 1984, a few years after she became a widow. She held posts of Directors of Service, United Nations and International Affairs. She was the General Secretary for three years and was a President of her local chapter. She organised a symposium for Zonta at N.I.I.A, which was well attended and contributed articles on most of the editions of her chapter newsletters or journals.

She took Zonta to Lome, Togo, where she introduced it to a friend and colleague, Mrs. D Macaulay, who later became the Charter President of the Lome Zonta club and afterwards, an International Officer who served in District 18 Area 03 (Africa) where she became the Chairman of the International Relations Committee.

She was a lay reader of the Anglican Church and a holder of both the Ordinary and Advanced Diploma in Bible Studies. She loved Bible Studies and Evangelism. She was one of the first set of students at the Lagos Anglican Bible College (LABICO), Ikeja Campus, which started in 1998 and she later became a Bible College Co-ordinator, a role she cherished for many years. Her happiest day in the week was Sunday, when she was in the church singing, dancing and fellowshiping to her heart's content. She was a valued member of the Archbishop Vining Memorial Church Cathedral until her passing on Sunday, 19th July 2020. She was 80 years old.

Mrs. Abimbola will be remembered by her children, grandchildren, family, relatives and friends too numerous to mention, who wish her farewell in her journey to eternity.

Rest in peace.

All Life

STORY

Oluremilekun Stella Abimbola, nee Onibokun, was a mother, grandmother, sociologist, diplomat, publisher, author, documentalist, lay reader and worker for the Lord as a Bible College Co-ordinator of Lagos Anglican Bible College (LABICO), Ikeja Campus.

She was married to Late Barrister Lashe Abimbola LLB and though she gave birth to four children, she gave her life to many more she considered were hers. When asked what she wanted out of life, she would respond, "to serve the Lord and make my children proud."

She wanted her life to be an example of active faith for others and marked everything that she set her mind to with her touch of excellence.

She had a great sense of humour, enjoyed travelling and was a staunch advocate for self-empowerment. After she became a widow, she re-dedicated her life to the church. She considered herself "married to Jesus" and bought herself a ring which she wore and seldom removed.

She will be remembered for speaking her truth and sharing her dear light.

BEAUTIFUL LIFE

Oluremilekun Stella Abimbola, nee Onibokun, passed on in the early hours of Sunday, 19th July 2020, which is befitting because she was a fervent Christian and Sunday was her favourite day. She was my dearest mother and the rock from which I took my leap.

What made her my rock were her teachings. It was what she loved to do, to train people. She caught and taught anyone who was weary enough to wander within her radar, very little could get past her. Teaching was her passion and she was fearless about it. She truly believed that when she was faced with a situation that she could make better and she did nothing, she had let herself down.

She believed in self-discipline and sticking to one's word. Woes betide you if she ever caught you in a misrepresentation or omission. She was also a consummate diplomat and a world-class charmer. She could make you laugh out loud when you know you should be crying but she took you by surprise and you couldn't help yourself.

She did not believe in short-cuts or quick fixes. She would say to me your hands are tools, combine them with your mind and you can accomplish anything. She was a determined woman and she wanted to leave the world a better place than she found it.

Why did she love teaching so much? I believe it's because it made her happy. She found it fulfilling and loved helping people achieve their potential. She did this by example, instruction, guidance, reprimand but most of all, with sincerity. It was a calling that she took seriously and she will be dearly missed for it.

I feel like my train has left the station. There are no other trains coming, she was the last one. She's left behind solid tracks that anyone can follow but they can only lead to her essence and not her embrace. But, I am grateful for her life, her light, her love and her laws. They remind me that once your heart has been touched with sincerity, it will always guide you through the dark.

I can hear her now, her voice in my head, telling me that it's late and I should be sleeping. I can finish this tomorrow. She was like that in life; she stayed with you, even after she was gone.

She was a beautiful woman and she led a beautiful life.

Abolaji Abimbola



Tributes

TRIBUTE TO OUR COORDINATOR MRS OLUREMILEKUN STELLA ABIMBOLA

It was a shock to all of us to hear of your demise on the 19th of July 2020. You were the Voice of Widows in AVMCC. You were sincere, spiritual and God fearing. You encouraged us as Wves of Jesus to be shining and outstanding in whatever we do. Our Husband who is on the throne is watching over us. That we need not fear but put our trust on Jesus Christ.

Mrs Abimbola saw the Widows as her Family showing that we should always be there for each other. Your bluntness at times created some issues but nobody is perfect as we learn to tolerate each other. You touched many lives positively.

We shall surely miss you and your humours.

May the Lord God comfort your Children, Grandchildren and other Family members.

Eternal rest grant unto her O Lord.

Men and Women of Grace. AVMCC



May the soul of the departed rest in peace and that the good Lord grant the entire family left behind the fortitude to bear this irreparable loss.

Mum, you came, you saw and you conquered. Till we meet to part no more

Adetona Onibokun



I had the opportunity to meet mama twice in October/November 2010 when I went home for my mother's burial. My first impression was her hospitality.

That I was sent to her by her daughter in London is enough. That I am from Ibokun gave her more joy because of the Onibokun's relationship with the Awogboro Royal Family in Ibokun. I was lavishly entertained and my driver was not left out.

She will continue to be remembered by her children, her family and those of us who have the opportunity to have met her.

May her soul rest in peace and perpetual light will continue to shine on her.

Felix Adejumo

TRIBUTE TO A TRUE FRIEND PASSION FOR CHRIST
OLUREMILEKUN STELLA ABIMBOLA

Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His Saints - Ps 116:15

You were more than a friend to me, you were a true sister in the Lord. Your death was a shock to me but who are we to question God.

I thank God for your life which you lived in serving God and humanity. You had a great passion for Christ, you used your Talent, Treasure and Time in serving Him. You had the ambition of becoming a Priest, but the Anglican Communion in Nigeria do not ordain women as Priest. It never crossed your mind to join other Denomination that have women as Priest.

Your zeal for the Work of God earned you the title of "Mama Labico", (Lagos Anglican Bible College). You were the First Co-ordinator of Labico Ikeja Centre, since inception, till last year when you retired. You Marketed Labico like a Salesperson. You wanted everyone to attend Labico and bought forms for the ones that can't afford. You made sure that Labico Ikeja Centre always come First among the Centres in Lagos. Nobody knew you were tidying up when you gave up the Posts you were Heading saying you want to concentrate on your writing of Tracts for Evangelism.

The same Lord that sustained you and your children as a Young Widow, will also take care of your Children and Grandchildren now you have gone.

Oluremilekun (As You wished to be called), you have fought the good fight, you have finished the race, you have kept the faith like St Paul. The good Lord will give you what He has in Stock for all His people.

Rest in Peace my good friend till the Glorious Dawn when we meet to part no more.

Chief Mrs Nancy Uzochuku Smith



Mama Remi, you are a great woman. You had been a man since you lost your husband my uncle, years back. A great parent and great believer of God.

May your gentle soul rest in perfect peace in the blossom of the Lord Almighty, Amen.

Abimbola, Olasupu James



EULOGY ON MRS OLUREMILEKUN STELLA ABIMBOLA
(Aug. 1939 - July 2020)

My Aunt - Mrs Stella Oluremi Abimbola (nee Onibokun) was a kind hearted woman who loved everyone. She was a light through darkness. Aunt Oluremi Abimbola is irreplaceable, and the world we live in is darker without her. She saw clearly into the lives of many in the family which was part of

her personality that allowed her to understand family members like no one else could. Perhaps what I loved most about my Aunt (Mrs Stella Oluremi Abimbola) nee Onibokun was that she was kind, intelligent, lighthearted, and brave.

She was never afraid to try new things. Mrs Abimbola helped many people in the community overcome hard times with her loving embraces and she never failed to light up someone's day. The void left in our hearts after her departure will be a challenge for us all to overcome. I know many of you have felt the light of her generous spirit.

I hope that your memories of my Aunt Mrs Stella Oluremi Abimbola (nee Onibokun) will forever bring you warmth as we all walk forward into a future without her. Thank you.

Prince Dotun Onibokun

New York. United States.



The passing to the Great Beyond of Mama Oluremi Abimbola was indeed a very sobering occasion, albeit providing an opportunity to give praise to the Most Merciful for a fulfilled life. Mama, as reflected in the character and personality of her offsprings, contributed most creditably to humanity through her unparalleled passion for high family and societal values. One cannot fail to notice Mama's 'Midas Touch' in the sterling qualities of tolerance, kindness, honesty, perseverance and all the trappings of savoir-faire, with which her children are imbued. I beseech the Omnipotent to grant Mama's gentle soul eternal repose and to bestow on the entire families of Abimbola and Onibokun the fortitude to bear the loss of the Matriarch of the family.

Adieu Mama as you rest in De blossom of De Lord.

Ambassador Hameed Opeloyeru



CELEBRATION OF A WORTHY AND EXEMPLARY LIFE

The Onibokun Royal Family is celebrating the worthy and exemplary life of our dear daughter, Princess Stella Oluremilekun Onibokun-Abimbola who has gone to join our numerous ancestors in the silence hall of death, where all of us would surely be one day. Well, it is not the death that counts but the vacuum it always creates.

You built a name, reputation and integrity for yourself by remaining steadfast on your principles that life is a mission; and not wealth, not position nor power but ability to render selfless service and the legacy you are able to bequeath to the family.

This ennobling value will always endeared you in the mind of those who know you. The world will be a better place for all to live if there are many models and pillars of society like you.

The quality and fullness of our lives is not measured in length but in the love and examples we leave for those we leave behind. Non quam diu, sed quam bene vixeris refert – Not how long, but how well you have lived is the main thing.

Now that you are gone, all I can say is that you will live on always, in our thoughts and dreams, wishes and in our most precious memories.

Omo alagbara igbi ogbele. Omo epo ru pupa, omo adin so dudu soso, omo a m'omo rubo ki yeye re ya karufin. Omo edun ugbo okun kee feyeeyi rin ki'gi mo baa gun omo hun loju. Onijiku agbe, omo a bobi rere ona umo. Omo olobi ko o pere petu, oito ni obi o, oito ni etu ku.

Requiesce in pace!!!

Prince Kayode Onibokun for Onibokun

Royal Family United Kingdom



A BRIEF TESTIMONY ON THE LIFE OF LATE MAMA OLUREMI ABIMBOLA (MAMA LABICO)

Mama Oluremi Abimbola was a totally committed, highly disciplined, intelligent, self sacrificing and fully detribalized Child of God who served the cause of LABICO and humanity without asking for any form of material reward, for so many years.

Her demise has robbed LABICO of a Spiritual Giant that had stood firmly in support of this project, right from the early days of inception under the vision oriented leadership of late Primate Joseph Abiodun Adetiloye and the premier leadership of the late Ven Dr. A. A. Akinade.

Her shoes are so large that it may take many to fill it. May her soul rest in perfect peace in the bosom of her master, at whose instance she gave all.

May God comfort the family she left behind and all of us all at LABICO.

When the Saints go marching in, Lord, I want to be in their number.

May the soul of the faithful departed by the mercy of God, rest in perfect peace.

Ven Joe Eziaghighala, Lecturer

ECOWAS TRIBUTE IN MEMORY OF MRS STELLA O ABIMBOLA (THE ECOWAS PIONEER LIBRARIAN AND DOCUMENTALIST)

The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) had the privilege of enjoying the services of Mrs. Stella Abimbola as the pioneer ECOWAS Librarian and Documentalist.

Mrs. Abimbola was a very competent professional who rendered indispensable service at a critical period in the life of ECOWAS, an international organization established to lead the integration and development of the national economies of all the fifteen countries in West Africa. In her own unique way, she generated harmony and solidarity among the government and international officials engaged in the noble enterprise of building socio-economic bridges and uniting the different people of the region into a prosperous and peaceful West African community.

Mrs. Abimbola was among the first set of permanent senior staff members whose responsibility it was to design and run the various departments of the ECOWAS institutions. As the pioneer Librarian, she was given free rein to build and manage an ECOWAS Library and supervise the documentation needs of the regional organization. This was an assignment that called for initiative, resourcefulness and much professionalism. Mrs. Abimbola proved to be more than equal to the challenge of establishing a library and documentation centre for the day-to-day needs of the ECOWAS Secretariat, and a regional integration reference library for both government officials and researchers.

She employed imagination, patience and diplomacy in her efforts at creating reliable sources of supply of relevant publications for the nascent ECOWAS Library. She built, very early for ECOWAS, extremely valuable partnerships with the international development community; she established a constant flow of books, journals, exclusive magazines and research publications from many United Nations institutions, the European Union and other regional integration bodies, universities and research institutes in West Africa and elsewhere, etc.

Most of her colleagues referred to her as ECOWAS Documentalist rather than Librarian, because of their heavy reliance on her for retrieving technical documents for routine office work and, even more importantly, for preparing and servicing the numerous ECOWAS meetings, whether at technical, ministerial or summit level. Her dedication and commitment to duty always became evident in the way Mrs. Abimbola would personally visit offices of directors to cajole them to hurry up with the submission of documents for impending meetings; she could be relied upon to anticipate and pack in boxes all reference documents that would be needed at meetings held outside the ECOWAS Headquarters. She was a stabilizing force in the tension-packed conference-secretariat, hard pressed to work magic to bring out, by dawn, English and French final reports of high-level meetings!

Mrs. Abimbola was simply loved by her colleagues. She was affable with a very healthy sense of humour. She was a motherly and mature person who gave sound advice to all those who sought her help on official and personal issues. When news of her passing reached her former colleagues, the exchanges among them constituted a moving testimony to the invaluable impact Mrs. Abimbola made on their individual lives: a cherished senior sister; very helpful; known for her gentle teasing to defuse tension; respectful to all, junior or senior and younger or older; she served God through her work.

Dear Mrs. Abimbola, ECOWAS is ever grateful to the Almighty for your part in setting our regional organization on its feet. May the Lord receive you into His Eternal Home. Amen.

Olayinka Abayomi

TRIBUTE TO MRS OLUREMI ABIMBOLA

Mrs Oluremi Abimbola was a member that the Christian Unity Band (CUB) of AVMCC was very proud to have. She was a gem in our midst hence her demise is a blow to us.

She joined the CUB in 1999 and in a record time of three years, she was unanimously elected as the Vice President, a post she also held for three years. As a member, she was loved by all members, younger or older than her. She was a committed member showing deep interest in the affairs of the Society particularly the spiritual aspect. Her attendance at the Lagos Bible College, where she was a teacher at a later part of her life, was of benefit to the spiritual life of our Society. She will always be remembered for her leadership in the recent Chain prayers organized by the Cathedral in which she showed great devotion and depth. She was committed to the service of God as a lay reader in the Cathedral and in our Society. Throughout her membership of our Society, she upheld and lived up to our logo "Up Unity, Unity Unbroken"

Accounts of some of our members on the Society platform go thus:

"Well, there goes a woman of substance!!! Very unique, with lots of good attributes to emulate. "She was motherly, caring, supportive and God fearing."

"A very humble and amiable Sister. She would ask after your family and encouraged regular prayers and praises which confirms her faith in strong love for the unity of the family. She was a virtuous woman. We will miss her exemplary character."

One admirable attribute that runs through the condolence messages to us is her beautiful smiles with which she receives people indicating love and welcome. A past President recants "I will always miss your sunshine smile. You were a source of joy, pride and motivation to all couples in our Society".

All members of CUBN were blessed to have had Mrs Abimbola as one of us. We will miss her spiritual leadership, superior character traits and her unique spirit of camaraderie. We commiserate with her children and family for losing such a virtuous woman. May Almighty God reward her labour of love and dedication and grant her safe passage to his side in Jesus name.

Adeiu, Layreader Oluremi Abimbola.

Rest in Peace.

Bro. Sunday Ayodele Odunfa
President, Christian Unity Band of Nigeria



LAGOS ANGLICAN BIBLE COLLEGE

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23 July 2020

The Family of Mama Oluremi Abimbola
2, Yesufu Okunade Close,
Idiroko Estate,
Maryland Ikeja,
Lagos.

Dearly Beloved,

LETTER OF CONDOLENCE

"Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live." (John 11:25)

Calvary greetings in the most gracious name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

We received the message of the demise of our beloved Mrs. Oluremi Abimbola (one of the pioneer students and erstwhile Ikeja Center Coordinator) of Lagos Anglican Diocese Bible College with a hopeful assurance that she was called to a higher and glorious duty of praising God along with His Angels.

On behalf of the Governing Council, Staff, Alumni and the current students, we sincerely commiserate with you. Please be rest assured of our prayers. The lord whom Mama served shall remain your God and fill up, whatever vacuum that her demise could have created.

May the God of "all comfort" (2 Cor. 1:3) comfort you and the entire family in Jesus name. Amen. He shall give you strength and grace to keep on serving him as our beloved Mrs. Oluremi Abimbola did all her life. Amen.

Yours in His Service,


The Ven. Dr. Femi Fatile
Rector

Study to Show Thyself Approved.....



Mrs. Dorcas Onibokun (Mama Isokun)
Mother of Oluremilekun Abimbola



Mrs Oluremilekun Abimbola @ 50 years old



Mrs Oluremilekun Abimbola at Biola's wedding in 2012



Mrs Oluremilekun Abimbola at 72 years old

A P P R E C I A T I O N

THE ABIMBOLA AND ONIBOKUN FAMILY
express their heartfelt gratitude

to God for the life of
MRS OLUREMILEKUN
ABIMBOLA

to the church for its support and comfort,
and to everyone, friends, colleagues
and well wishers for their
thoughts, prayers and presence.
We pray that God, who sees all will
reward you abundantly, Amen.

INSIDE BACK COVER

CHURCH EVENTS

Please feel free to join any of the Programmes/Services/Activities of the Church listed below.

Family members, relatives, friends, staff or colleagues at work are also invited.

	7.00 a.m	10.00 a.m	6.00 p.m
1st Sunday	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	Holy Communion Anointing
2nd Sunday	Holy Communion	Mattins	Family Evening
3rd Sunday	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	Even-Song
4th Sunday	Holy Communion	Mattins	Youth Evening

YOUTH CHAPEL

1st Sunday	Holy Communion	Holy Communion
2nd Sunday	Mattins	Mattins
3rd Sunday	Holy Communion	Holy Communion
4th Sunday	Mattins	Mattins

CHILDREN CHURCH

Sundays	Mattins	Mattins
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WEEKLY PROGRAMMES

Tuesdays	6.00 p.m – 8.00 p.m	Bible Study
Wednesdays	6.00 p.m – 8.00 p.m	Prayer Meeting
Mondays- Saturdays	7.00 a.m – 8.00 a.m	Holy Communion

MONTHLY ACTIVITIES

3rd Fridays	6.00 p.m – 8.00 p.m	Deliverance & Healing	
3rd Thursday	6.00 p.m – 8.00 p.m	Counseling & Prayer	
Tuesdays	6.00 p.m – 8.00 p.m	Counseling & Prayer	
Wednesdays	6.00 p.m – 8.00 p.m	Counseling & Prayer	
Sundays	7.00 a.m– 10.00 a.m	Counseling & Prayer	Every Sunday after Services
Last Fridays	10.00 p.m	Night Vigil	
1st Day Monthly	6.00 a.m – 7.00 a.m	Hour of Blessing	

CHOIR PRACTICE HOLDS ON MONDAYS & FRIDAYS: 6: 30p.m

BOYS AND GIRLS BRIGADE MEETING HOLDS ON SATURDAYS: 4:00p.m

For Counselling, Prayers and Enquiries please call:

0803-7222146, 0803-7152811, 0802-3149601, 0803-3100270 & 0803-8171702