



Appreciation

On behalf of the extended family of LATE MAZI DENNIS I. OKORONKWO, I wish to express our immense gratitude to all who have shared with us our moment of sorrow.

We pray that our good Lord will continue to direct, protect, strengthen, replenish and prosper you abundantly.

May He also grant you journey mercies to your respective destinations.

ENGR. EMMA OKORONKWO
For the Family

to
God
be the
Glory



Sir Rowland Okereke
OKORONKWO (KSA)
1945 - 2011 (66YRS.)

Funeral Service FRIDAY 19TH AUGUST 2011
CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS, UGWUAVOR, AROCHUKWU

Prologue

As We Depart!!

Eternity

Do you know that you will outlive the sun? Do you know that when earth and the stars have all passed away, you will just be beginning your endless day - a time without end? Once you are born, you will never cease to live. You will live forever, you will be alive eternally. Eternity has no end. This is a solemn and fearful truth. Suppose it were possible to tie a rope from earth to heaven and an ant were to go to the sun and return with this rope, when the ant has done that a hundred times, then a small fraction of eternity has passed. Suppose a small boy were to empty an ocean with a cup, the time it will take the boy is an infinitesimally small part of eternity. If it were possible to gather all the books that have ever been written in all fields of human endeavor and in all languages, and a student were to read them one by one, the time he will spend reading all the books will only amount a minute fraction of eternity. If a grain of sand represent one day, all the sand at the sea shore will represent only a small, negligible part of eternity! If a bird went to sharpen its beak once a year at a mountain, when the bird wears the mountain in this day, only an insignificant part of eternity would have passed.

ETERNITY! In short eternity is the life-time of the never-dying God. And you will be alive eternally. You will live for eternity, just as God is alive eternally. Once born a person remains consciously alive for ever, eternity does not terminate at the time of death. Death is just another wrung on a ladder of eternity. It is only a gateway to eternity – eternity in heaven or in hell. There is the resurrection of damnation. This may shock you. I pray it does. Every sinner will end up in eternal hell and every saint will go into eternal heaven. You will live forever in heaven or in hell. You are either a Christian or a sinner. You are either on the narrow way to heaven or on the board way that leads straight to hell. You will either live with God forever in heaven or live in hell forever with Satan. These are stark realities you must face. "Choose you this day". Where do you want to spend eternity? You can only answer with an action. Throw off this paper; or tear it into pieces: neglect its message and warning. Postpone your day of repentance and continue in sin. Then you have answered the question. Eternity in hell is sure for every sinner who refuses or neglect to repent. "Chose you this day" Where will you spend eternity? In heaven with God? Then you must repent NOW! He that coveredth his sin SHALL NOT PROSPER, but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them SHALL HAVE MERCY" (proverbs 28:13) "Seek ye the lord... let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the lord, and He will abundantly pardon" (Isaiah 55:6). You must seek the lord. How? What does God expect you to do? You should pray to him now asking for the forgiveness of all your sins. Don't hide or cover any one of them. God sees you and he says you CANNOT, and WILL NOT prosper if you hide your sins. Repent and confess your sins, forsake them and turn to God. Life with God in Christ is an endless hope. Life without God in sin is a hopeless end. You want the abundant life that Christ gives? God is ready to forgive you now as you pray". Almighty God, I pray in Jesus name that you should look down with mercy on me, a guilty sinner. Forgive me these sins of..... (name them one by one, don't hide any). I promise, through your grace and enabling power never to go back to them again. Please make me your child now and cleanse me from all sins. I give my life to Jesus Christ and accept him now, as my personal lord and savior. Thank you, O God for I believe you have answered my prayer. In Jesus Christ's name I have prayed! Amen". Does this now as urgently and correctly as you carry out a doctor's instructions. Turn away from all sins and decide in your heart never to go back to them any longer. Tell God to forgive you and cleanse you. He will answer immediately if you pray with faith in atoning sacrifice of Jesus Christ He will change your life and set your feet on the path of godliness and righteousness. Then, eternity with God in heaven will be yours. Life with God in Christ is an endless hope. Life without God in sin is a hopeless end.

*Culled from the Deeper Life International friendship league, Nigeria

"Every sinner will end up in eternal hell and every saint will go into eternal heaven... Death is just another wrung on a ladder of eternity. It is only a gateway to eternity – eternity in heaven or in hell."

"One news too many"!

Yes the sudden exit of Bro Row can be described in many ways. The urge to do a tribute was strong but notwithstanding my inclination to write, 'the centre could not hold in my thoughts'. How does one begin? It took a loud cry from Aunt Selina Merechi Ogbonna in Chicago for me to realize that a major calamity had occurred. Ikechi Ezumah and I struggled amongst ourselves and reached her in a moment but it was after I picked her cell phone from the floor that Bro Benson confirmed the news. She could not hold the phone any longer due to the nature of the news that broke. Before my trip, I spoke with Bro Row and though he was sick, there was no sense of imminent danger. Again, after my wife informed me that he was back at hospital, I spoke with him and Meg and nothing seemed too serious. So I promised to visit once am back to the country. That was Friday before the Sunday he died thus, effectively aborted further earthly interaction. Now, you can imagine my anguish. As founder/editor-in-chief of *Aro News Newspapers*, Row's encouragement was part of what stood me on good stead to successfully contend with the challenges of pioneering sustainable community newspapering at Arochukwu. Indeed, Row was a man of many parts; he meant so many things to so many people. This will however, be a story for another day. Suffice it to recall that my first email to people clearly indicated that given the humble and very friendly disposition of Sir Row, which endeared him to people and earned him the respect of many, his burial would be better organized outside the auspices of 'small' inner family circle. To this end, the *Organizing Committee* membership was left open and people 'self-selected' and we worked jointly to achieve the success we see today.

Further, in the course of producing this program, I read all the materials and gave significant attention to the tributes, so I have a sense of the mood and general feeling of most people. Indeed, the many ways his exit has been described – untimely, death is wicked, why the rush home, rude shock, etc; show the profundity of our love for him. Given the circumstances of the times therefore, I refuse to dwell on lengthy oration; I shall rather thank God for the special insight which the event of his death has afforded many and also appreciate the abundant love people exhibited. First, I want to thank the *Organizing Committee* led by Mazi Egeonu Ezumah, Coordinators and all those that stood by them, locally and overseas. As aforementioned, given Row's broad-based relationships, we deemed it necessary to create a platform outside the nuclear family in order to bid him deserving farewell and it is a huge success. Second, we thank the immediate family for their understanding and support which was largely responsible for the success recorded. In a special way, we want to appreciate members of the Anglican Communion, particularly the leadership that worked in concert with us, the Board of Internal Revenue, Aba Sports Club, Nzuko Arochukwu, Amuvi Welfare Union, Okoro-Avigbo Family Union, In-laws, Old Boys Govt. College, Afikpo, Ebonyi State, Pensioners, ABSUTH, Neighbors, Nzerem Community, Mbala Isuochi, Aro-Achi, Onyemaranwanne, Aro Okeigbo Social Club, the Abuja Group, Committee of friends at various levels, Ndi Akuma, Okoronkwo Mpi family, etc.

As we depart, let's recall that its only when an iroko tree is down that its true length could be ascertained. Our heart and prayer should therefore, continue to be with the immediate family – particularly Meg, Kelechi and Ezinne whose emotional state shall be devastated by the vacuum; Broda Emma who shall henceforth shoulder the leadership mantle and relations and friends who will have to learn to live without Row. The French satirist, Franz Fanon told an interesting story about life and death when he wrote that every generation (man) shall out of its relative obscurity discover its mission, fulfill it or deny it. Row eminently met these criteria given the testimonies evident in the tributes. As we depart, I pray that the Almighty shall grant us the grace to discover and fulfill ours. It's well. Good bye.

Mazi Azubike Okoro
President, *aronline*
Read more about Sir Row at www.aronline.com



ORDER OF FUNERAL SERVICE
FOR LATE SIR ROWLAND OKORONKWO
1945 - 2011 (66YRS.)

OFFICIATING MINISTERS

THE MOST REV. UGOCHUKWU U. EZUOKE
(ARCHBISHOP OF ABA PROVINCE & BISHOP OF ABA DIOCESE)

RT. REV. JOHNSON C. ONUOHA
(BISHOP OF AROCHUKWU/OHAFIA DIOCESE)

RT. REV. CHAMBERLIN OGUNEDO
(BISHOP OF MBAISE DIOCESE)

RT REV. (PROF.) A.O. IWUAGWU
(BISHOP EMERITUS, ABA DIOCESE)

REV. FESTUS E. CHUKWUDIEGWU
(VICAR, CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS, AROCHUKWU)

REV. CLIFFORD AMUCHIE
(VICAR, OUR SAVIOR'S CHURCH, AMUVI)

VEN. J.C. DIKE
(VICAR, ST. MICHEAL'S CATHEDRAL ABA)

& OTHER CLERGY PRESENT

DATE:
FRIDAY 19TH AUGUST 2011

VENUE:
CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,
AROUCHUKWU

TIME: 10.00AM



Epilogue

What is your purpose on earth?

This is an absolutely incredible short interview with Rick Warren, 'Purpose Driven Life' author and pastor of Saddleback Church in California. In the interview by Paul Bradshaw with Rick Warren, Rick said: People ask me, what is the purpose of life? And I respond: In a nutshell, life is preparation for eternity. We were not made to last forever, and God wants us to be with Him in Heaven. One day my heart is going to stop, and that will be the end of my body-- but not the end of me. I may live 60 to 100 years on earth, but I am going to spend trillions of years in eternity. This is the warm-up act - the dress rehearsal. God wants us to practice on earth what we will do forever in eternity. We were made by God and for God, and until you figure that out, life isn't going to make sense. Life is a series of problems: you are in one now, you're just coming out of one, or you're getting ready to go into another one. The reason for this is that God is more interested in your character than your comfort; God is more interested in making your life holy than He is in making your life happy. We can be reasonably happy here on earth, but that's not the goal of life. The goal is to grow in character, in Christ likeness. No matter how good things are in your life, there is always something bad that needs to be worked. And no matter how bad things are in your life, there is always something good you can thank God for. You can focus on your purposes, or you can focus on your problems: If you focus on your problems, you're going into self-centeredness, which is my problem, my issues, my pain.' But one of the easiest ways to get rid of pain is to get your focus off yourself and onto God and others.

Actually, sometimes learning to deal with the good is harder. For instance, this past year, all of a sudden, when the book sold 15 million copies, it made me instantly very wealthy. It also brought a lot of notoriety that I had never had to deal with before. I don't think God gives you money or notoriety for your own ego or for you to live a life of ease. So I began to ask God what He wanted me to do with this money, notoriety and influence. He gave me two different passages that helped me decide what to do, II Corinthians 9 and Psalm 72. First, in spite of all the money coming in, we would not change our lifestyle one bit. We made no major purchases. Second, about midway through last year, I stopped taking a salary from the church.

Third, we set up foundations to fund an initiative we call The Peace Plan to plant churches, equip leaders, assist the poor, care for the sick, and educate the next generation.

Fourth, I added up all that the church had paid me in the 24 years since I started the church, and I gave it all back. It was liberating to be able to serve God for free. We need to ask ourselves: Am I going to live for possessions? Popularity? Am I going to be driven by pressures? Guilt? Bitterness? Materialism? Or am I going to be driven by God's purposes (for my life)? When I get up in the morning, I sit on the side of my bed and say, God, if I don't get anything else done today, I want to know You more and love You better. God didn't put me on earth just to fulfill a to-do list. He's more interested in what I am than what I do. That's why we're called human beings, not human doings.

Happy moments, PRAISE GOD.
Difficult moments, SEEK GOD.
Quiet moments, WORSHIP GOD.
Painful moments, TRUST GOD.
Every moment, THANK GOD..

Courtesy:
JESUS POWER OUTREACH MINISTRIES
www.jesuspoureach.org

*"We were made by God
and for God, and until
you figure that out,
life isn't going to make sense"*



SIR ROW: A BIOGRAPHY

EARLY CHILDHOOD:

Sir Rowland Okereke Okoronkwo (KSA) was born to the family of - Mazi Dennis Igwe Okoronkwo Oriri Okerekeocha and Madam Mary Ogbonnie Okoronkwo, nee Okereke Akuma Oziza (both of blessed memory) on 13th October, 1945 at the then Aba General Hospital. The parents were of Ndi Okoro-Avigbo family descent, Eziukwu Compound, Amuvi Village Arochukwu. Rowland was the first child (son) of seven surviving siblings. While alive, he was known by many as "SIR ROW", "ROW BOY", "DEE ROW", "and UNCLE ROW"

EDUCATION:

Sir Rowland attended several primary schools in different towns due to the nature of his father's job as a Post & Telegraphs (P&T) staff that entailed several transfers to towns in the old Eastern Region. He started at St. Michael's Primary School Aba, continued at St. Theresa's Primary School Oron and finished at St. Michael's Primary School Aba in flying colors in 1959. In 1960, he gained admission into the famous Govt. Secondary School, Afikpo and finished in good grade in 1964. In 1982, he attended College of Technology Owerri as part of in-service training for Civil Servants.

WORKING/ CAREER:

On completion of Secondary Education, he joined the Eastern Region Civil Service Board of Internal Revenue, Ministry of Finance, Enugu in 1965 and was posted to the Internal Revenue Office Aba. He worked in several locations – Aba, Ngwa, Umuahia etc. On 26th April, 2000 he retired meritoriously from service in the Abia State Civil Service, Ministry of Finance, Board of Internal Revenue. His last beat was the Aba Motor Licensing. While he worked, he undertook different kinds of training.

CHRISTIAN LIFE:

Sir Rowland was a Christian and he devoted his entire life as a communicant of the Anglican Communion - St. Michael's and All Angels Cathedrals, Aba. He belonged to the St. Peter's Station until his death. Early in life from primary school, he joined the St. Michael's Choir – English section. As a chorister, Sir Row, rendered selfless service and devoted his time, resources, energy to the advancement of St. Michael's Choir as an Organist and Choir Master. He held several challenging positions including membership of Music Council which he discharged creditably. Because of his faithful service and support to the church, exemplified by his activities during the establishment of Anglican Church at Arochukwu, he was honored with the Knighthood of St. Augustine by Rt. Rev. (Prof) A.O. Iwuagwu (Bishop Emeritus, Aba Diocese) in 1994. He is a Patron of Anglican Youth Fellowship and served for several years as Secretary, Council of Knights, Arochukwu.

MARITAL LIFE:

In 1984, Sir Rowland married his heart throb and life partner, Lady Margaret Nkemji Okoronkwo (nee Akomah), a certified nurse/midwife. The marriage is blessed with twins - two precious children – Kelechi Okoronkwo and Ezinne Okoronkwo. Though the kids were late in coming, they never gave-up and trusted God. He lived a faithful family life and ensured that members of his family/household embraced Christianity.

COMMUNITY/SOCIAL LIFE:

Sir Rowland lived a very good sociable life with good heart to all. His dispositions and interactions transcended age, statues, religion, ethnicity, etc. This earned him an uncommon and compelling attraction at different fora. Sir Row was visibly a society

person, so he belonged to many organizations and clubs including Aro-Okeigbo Social Club of Nigeria, Aba Sports Club etc. His membership of the community unions – Okoro-Avigbo family Union, Amuvi Welfare Union and Nzuko Arochukwu brought to light his interest in community development. His contributions were always inspiring and welcomed and they assisted in the formulation of policies that guided major decisions. At Nzerem-the Ulo-Ubi of our fore fathers, he was one of the early young educated boys. Arising from his disposition, he made himself available to many in various dimensions including writing correspondences on behalf of family(s), community and individuals.

SPECIAL INTERESTS:

Sir Rowland was a multi talented person which he manifested in his life time.

MUSIC:

A lover of music of all shades-Hymns, supra, native air, highlife etc. as a chorister he did not only sing alongside others, he is well adept in playing organ and piano instruments, supplying tunes from music book not vamping.

WRITING:

A prolific writer from his school days at Afikpo. He belonged to the Editorial Board and infact expressed desire to be trained as a journalist.

SPORTS:

He played hockey and cricket to competitive level at Afikpo. Representing the school alongside with others, even as a junior student in class 2. His fitness and physical ability led him at school to be selected among trainee cadet officers in the military. The training as military cadet equipped him to be recruited as a Biafran Soldiers. He fought at Eastern Ngwa, Aba, Umuahia, Ikot Ekpene Sectors.

HIS LAST DAYS:

Sir Rowland had health challenge-Diabetes for 26 years. During the burial of his Cousin late Mazi Isaac Ezumah Okoronkwo on Saturday 23rd April, 2011, he had health crisis. But it became unbearable by the morning of Sunday 24th April, 2011 and was taken to Umuye Ihiechiowa. But the constant relapse after treatment he was taken to Abia State Teaching Hospital, Aba. Examination/tests were elaborately conducted and waiting for the result by Monday 20th June, 2011, to enable commence adequate treatment. However by morning of Sunday 19th June, 2011 after having his bath and breakfast came this last crisis/relapse that eventually took his life. He gave up the ghost at 8.20am of 19th June, 2011.

Survived By:

1. Wife - Mrs Meg Row Okoronkwo
2. Children - Kelechi Okoronkwo (son), Ezinne Okoronkwo (daughter)
3. Aunty - Mrs Jane Igwe
4. Step Mother - Mrs Nnenna Okoronkwo
5. Brothers
6. Sisters
7. Cousins
8. Nephews
9. Nieces
10. In-laws
11. And a host of other relatives too numerous to mention



NZUKO AROCHUKWU
ABA BRANCH

08131310966, 08033156630, 080835526123

Our Ref: _____ Your Ref: _____ Date: _____

CONDOLENCE MESSAGE
TO THE FAMILY OF SIR ROWLAND OKORONKWO

With heavy heart but with total submission to the will of Almighty God, the President, Branch Executive Committee and entire members of Nzuko Arochukwu ABA Branch write to Commiserate with the enlarged family of our amiable member **Sir Rowland Okoronkwo** whom his heavenly beli rang on the 19th day of June, 2011. Indeed the news of his death came to us as a shock.

Sir Ro as popularly called was as an epitome of peace, love and kindness considering the bond of love and affection he shared with everyone.

His demise has created an irreplaceable vacuum in the history of Nzuko Aro ABA branch.


However, we cannot question God because death is a necessary end but the mystery about it is that the appointed date and time is hidden from us.


God knows the best for we are pencils in the hand of the Almighty.

We urge you all to take solace in the fact that he lived a life worthy of emulation.

Sir Ro, opinion leader and a good writer, Nzuko Aro ABA branch bid you Good Night.

Signed: _____


MAZI KANU EZIM KANU
President


N'MAZI EMMANUEL ONU
Secretary



RECEPTION OF THE BODY AT THE
ENTRANCE OF THE CHURCH

Bishop: The Lord be with you
Response: And also with you
Bishop: Let us pray

Bishop: With faith in Jesus Christ, we receive the Body of our brother Rowland for burial. Let us pray with confidence in God, the Giver of life, that He may make his perpetual light shine on his servant that he may be enabled to share the life of His Saints through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SENTENCES:

I am the resurrection and the life says the Lord, he that believeth in me, though he was dead, yet shall live and whosoever lives and believes in me shall never die.

HYMN: A&M 140

1. Jesus lives! thy terrors now
Can no more, O death, appall us:
Jesus lives! by this we know Thou, O grave, can not
enthrall us. Alleluia!

(B) *I know that my Redeemer lives, and He shall stand at the latter day upon the earth, and though after worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God, whom I shall see for myself and mine eyes shall behold Him, and not as a stranger.*

Jesus lives! Henceforth is death
But the gate of life immortal:
This shall calm our trembling breath, When we pass
its gloomy portal. Alleluia!

(C) *We brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we carry nothing out. The Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away, Blessed be the name of the Lord.*

Jesus lives! for us he died; Then, alone to Jesus living,
Pure in heart may we abide, Glory to our Saviour
giving. Alleluia!

INABATA OZU N'ONU UZO
ULO UKA

Bishop: Onyenweayi nonyere-unu
Response: Ka ononye-kwara gi
Bishop: Ka-ayi kpere Chineke

Bishop: Site n'okwukwe nime Jisos Kraist, anyi anabata aru nwanne anyi Rowland maka ili ya. Ka anyi site na ntukwasi obi anyi nwere na Chineke, onye-na enye ndu, kpere ya ka o kpobata oru ya nka n'ebe ihe na udo ya, ka o wee keta oke ndi nso nile, site na Jisos bu onyenweanyi. Amen.

IHE NGUPUTA:

Mu onwem bu mbilite n'onwu na ndu ka Jisos kwuru. Onye nekwere na mu, O buna ma asi na onwuru anwu, o gadi ndu ozo. Ozo onye obula nke na-adi ndu, na ekwere kwa na mu, o gaghi anwu ma oli rue mgbe ebigh-ebi.

Abu: 45

1. Jisus di ndu! gi, onwu,
I pugh ime k'ayi tua egwu;
Jisus di ndu! gi, ili,
I pugh ime k'ayi bur'oru. Halleluya!

(B) *Mu onwem, amawo n'onye mgbaputam di ndu na oga-ebilikwa ozo n'elu aja n'ikpe azu, mgbe emebisi kwara arum nke a, obu na m'gesi n'anu arum hu Chineke onye mu onwen gahuru onwem, anyam abua gahukwa ya, obughi kwa onye al'ozo.*

Jisus di ndu! rue ugbu a
Onwu bu on'uzo nke ndu;
Nka gewepu egwu-ayi
Mgb'ayi gagabiga uzo- ya. Halleluya!

(C) *Anyi ewetagh ihe obula n'uwa, ayi apughi kwa iwere ihe obula pua n'ime ya. Jehova nyere, Jehova anarawo kwa. Ka aha Jehova buru ihe agoziri agozi.*

Jisus di ndu, O nwur'ayi;
K'ayi diri nani Jisus ndu;
K'ayi biri n'obi ocha. Neto onye-
nzoputa-ayi. Halleluya!



(D) *Whether we live, we live unto the lord, and whether we die, we die unto the Lord, whether we live therefore or die; we are the Lord's for to this end, Christ both died, and rose again that He might be Lord both of the dead and the living.*

Jesus lives! our hearts know well Naught from us his love shall sever; Life nor death nor powers of hell; Tear us from his keeping ever, Alleluia

(E) *Neither death, or life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor thing to come, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

Jesus lives! to Him the throne
Over all the world is given;
May we go where he is gone,
Rest and reign with him in heaven. Alleluia!

EXHORTATION & PRAYERS:

Beloved, it was our Lord Jesus himself who said "come unto me, all that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest", let us pray to God to give our brother Rowland his peace and rest from all exertions of this life and that his gentle soul be received into the eternal Kingdom of God.

LET US PRAY: (ALL KNEELING)

V. O Lord, receive your servant Rowland for he returns to you.

R. Into your hands, O Lord, we commend our brother Rowland.

V. Wash him in the holy water of eternal life and clothe him in the heavenly wedding garment.

R. Into your hands, O Lord, we commend our brother Rowland

V. May he hear your words of invitation say, "come, you blessed of my father"

R. Into your hands, O lord, we commend our

(D) *Oburu na ayi di ndu, O bu n'ebe Onye-nwe-ayi no ka ayi di ndu, ma asi na ayi nwuru anwu, O bukwa n'ebe Onye-nwe-ayi no k'ayi nwuru; ya mere, ma ayi di ndu, ma ayi nwuru anwu, ayi bu nke Onye-nwe-ayi. N'ih na ihe Kraist ji nwua dikwa ndu ozo bu nke a, ka o we buru Onye nwe ma ndi di ndu ma ndi nwuru anwu.*

Jisus di ndu! ayi mara O dighi ihe ga ekewap' ayiN d u , onwu na Ekwnsu, H'apugh inapu'ayi n'aka-ya. Haleluya!

(E) *Onwu, ma-obu ndu, ma obu ndi Mo-ozu, ma obu ibu isi di iche iche, ma obu ihe di iche iche, ma obu ihe obula ozo ekere eke, agaghi apu iwepu ayi n'ihu n'anya Chineke nke di n'ime Kraist Jisus Onye-nwe-ayi.*

Jisus di ndu! ewere,
Oche-eze nile nye ya; Ayi pur'iru eb'O no,
So ya buru Eze n'igwe.
Haleluya! Amen.

OKWU NDUMODU NA EKPERE:

Umu nnam n'ime Kraist, Onyenweanyi kwuru si, "Biakutenum, unu nile ndi na adogbu onwe unu n'olu, ndi ebokwara ibu di aru, mu onwem ga-eme kwa ka unu zuru ike". N'ih nke a, ka anyi kpere Chineke ka O nye nwanne anyi nwoke Rowland udo na ezumike nkeYa site na ndogbu nile nke ndua, ka o nabata kwa muo ya n'ala-eze-ebigh-ebi nke Chineke.

K'ANYI KPERE CHINEKE: (ALL KNEELING)

V. Onyenweanyi, nara oru go Rowland n'ih na O lakwutere Gi.

R. N'aka Gi Onyenweanyi ka-ayi na aranye nwanne anyi nwoke.

V. Were miri nso nke ndu ebigh-ebi wuchaa ya, yikwasi kwa ya uwe agbam akwukwo nke El'igwe.

R. N'aka Gi Onyenweanyi ka-ayi na aranye nwanne anyi Nwoke.

V. Kwee ka onu olu ikpo oku Gi na-asi "Bia Onye Agoziri agozi nke Nnam.

R. N'aka Gi Onyenweanyi ka-anyi na aranye nwanne anyi Nwoke.

V. Kwee ka o lee Gi anya n'iru, ka o keta kwa Ngozi izuru ike zuru oke.

brother Rowland

V. May he look upon your face and taste the blessedness of perfect rest.

R. Into your hands, O Lord, we commend our brother Rowland

V. Almighty God, our Father in heaven before whom live all who die in the Lord, receive our brother Rowland into your palace of your heavenly dwelling. Let his heart and soul rejoice in you O! Lord the living God, and the God of those who live, this we pray through Jesus Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

4. Psalm 90:

1. Lord thou hast/been our refuge: from one gener-ation/to an-/other.

2. Before the mountains were brought forth or ever the earth and the/world were /made: thou art God from everlasting and /world with-/out/end.

3. Thou turnest man/back to de-/struction: again thou art sayest Come a-/ gain ye/ children of-/men.

4. For a thousand years in thy sight/are but as/yesterday: when it is past or as a /w a t c h / i n the/night.

5. As soon as thou scatterest them* they are Like even/as a/sleep: and fade away/ sudden-ly/like the-/grass.

6. In the morning it is green and/growth/up: but the evening it is cut down/dri-ed/up and /wither-ed.

7. For we consume away in/thy dis/pleasure: and are afraid at thy/wrathful/indignation.

8. Thou hast set our mis/deeds be-/fore thee: and our secret sins in the/light/of thy/countenance.

9. For when thou art angry all our/days are /gone: we bring our years to an end as it were a/tale/that is /told.

10. The days of our age are threescore years and ten and thou men be so strong that they come to/fourscore years: yet is their strength then but labour and sorrow so soon passeth it a-/way and

R. N'aka Gi Onyenweanyi ka-anyi na aranye nwanne anyi Nwoke.

V. Chineke Nna nke puru ime ihe nile, Onye ndi nile nwuru n'ime Onyenweanyi na-adi ndu n'ebe I no. nabata Nwanne anyi Rowland n'ime ulo nke elu-igwe, ka obi ya na muo ya nuria nime Gi ezi Chineke di ndu na Chineke nke ndi nile di ndu. Anyi nario nke a, n'ih Kraist bu Onyenweanyi.

R. Amen.

4. Abu Oma 90

1. Onye-nwe-ayi, ebe-obibi ka Gi/onwe-gi: buworo/anyi n'ogbo nile.

2. Tutu amuputa ugwu, ma-obu tutu I kpua uwa na elu-uwa dum/madu bi, obuna site na mgbe ebighi-ebi rue mgbe-ebigh-ebi, Gi onwe-gi bu Chineke.

3. I neme ka madu lagha/chi n'aja; I we si, laghachi/nu, umu madu.

4. N'ih na nnu aro abuo na ogu iri n'anya-Gi; di ka nyahuru mgbe/o na aga, na dika o/tu nche n'abali.

5. I wuchapuwo ha dika oke miri-ozuzo; nani ura/ka ha bu: n'ututu ha dika ahi/hia neto-eto;

6. N'ututu o nagbawa uzari, neto-/kwa eto; n'anyasi ka ana-ebipu/ya, o we kponwua.

7. N'ih na emewo ka ayi gwusia/ n'iwe Gi, o bu kwa n'onuma Gi ka emeworo ka/ anyi ma jijiji.

8. I dowo ajo omume nile anyi/ n'iru Gi, I dowo nmehie anyi zoro ezo n'i-/he nke iru-Gi.

9. N'ih na ubochi-anyi nile agawo n'ime nrubiga-oke nke iwe-Gi: anyi emewo ka aro nile ayi gwusia dika/otu nze-ume.

10. Ubochi aro nile anyi di ogu aro ato na iri, ma oburu na ha esite n'idi-ike- anyi rue ogu aro ano; otu o di, neganga- ha bu nani idogbu-onwe-ha n'olu na a/jo ihe. N'ih na o gbapuwo ososo, ayi we fe/la dika nnunu.



11. But who regardeth the power/of thy/wrath: for even thereafter as a man feareth/so is/thy dis-/pleasure.

12. So teach us to/number our/days: that we may apply our/hearts/unto/wisdom.

13. Turn thee again O Lord/at the/last: and be/gracious/unto thy/servants.

14. O sanctify us with thy mercy and/that/soon: so shall we rejoice and be glad all the/days/of our/life.

15. Comfort us again now after the time that thou hast/pla-gued/us: and for the years wherein/we have/suffer-ed.ad-/versity.

16. Shew thy/servants thy/work: and their/children/thy/ glory.

17. And the glorious Majesty of the Lord our God / be up-/on us: prosper thou the work of our hands upon us O prosper / thou our / handy- / work.

Glory be to the Father/and to the/Son: and to the Holy Spirit; As it was in the beginning, it's/now: and shall be for/ever.Amen.

5. THE LESSON:REV.7:9-17

9. After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no-one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands.

10. And thy cried out in a loud voice: "Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb.

11. All the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures. They fell down on their faces before the throne and worshiped God,

11. Onye mara ike nke/iwe-Gi, na nrubiga-oke nke iwe-Gi dika egwu nke kwe/siri Gi si di?

12. Si otu a me ka ayi mara iguta u/bochi-ayi, ka ayi we me ka obi/amam-ihe bia

13. Leta, Jehova; rue/ole mgbe? Cheghari kwa Obi-Gi baye-/re ndi-oru-Gi.

14. Were ebere-Gi me ka afo ju ayi/n'ututu; ka ayi we tie nkpu onu, nuria kwa,u/bochi-ayi nile.

15. Me ka ayi nuria dika ubochi nile si di; I wedaworo ayi n'ala/nime ha, na dika aro si di nke ayi huworo ihe/ojo nime ha.

16. Kwe ka ndi-oru-Gi hu/olu Gi, kwe kwa ka ha hu ima-nma-G/n'aru Umu-ha.

17. Ka idi-uto nke Onye-nwe-ayi, bu Chineke-ayi, di/kwasi ayi; Gi me kwa ka olu aka-ayi guzosie ike n'aru ayi; E, olu aka-ayi, me ka o/guzosie ike.

Otuto diri Nna/na Okpa/ra: na Muo--/Nso; Otu o diri na mbu, k'odi ugbu a, o gadigide o/tu a: we rue n'uwa/ebgh-ebi.Amen.

5. IHE NGUPUTA:REV.7:9-17

9. Mgbe ihe ndia gasiri m'we hu, ma le, oke igwe madu, nke onye o bula napugh iguta onu, ndi sina mba nile o bula, na ebo nile, na ndi nile, na asusu nile, puta, neguzo n'iru oche-eze ahu na n'iru Nwa-aturu ahu, egbokwasiworo ha uwe-nwuda di ocha, igu-nkwu di kwa n'aka ha.

10. Ha we were oke olu tie nkpu, si, Nzoputa diri Chineke-ayi, Onye nanokwasi n'оче-eze ahu, di-kwa-ra Nwa-atutu ahu.

11. Ndi-mo-ozie nile neguzo kwa n'оче-eze ahu na ndi-okenye ahu na ihe ano ahu di ndu buruburu; ha we da kpuchie iru-ha n'ala n'iru oche-eze ahu, we kpo isi ala nye Chineke.

12. Saying: "Amen! Praise and glory and wisdom and thanks and honour and power and strength be to our God for ever and ever,Amen!

13. Then one of the elders aked me, "these in white robes – who are they, and where did they come from?

14. I answered, "Sir, you know". And he said, "These are they who have come out of the great tribulation; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

15. Therefore, "they are before the throne of God and serve Him day and night in His temple; and He who sits on the throne will spread His tent over them.

16. Never again will they hunger, never again will they thirst. The sun will not beat upon them, nor any scorching heat.

17. For the Lamb at the centre of the throne will be their shepherd; He will lead them to springs of living water, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.

6. HYMN:SS & S 8731.

1. Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine! O what a foretaste of glory divine! Heir of salvation, purchase of God, Born of His Spirit, washed in His blood.

Chorus: This is my story, this is my song, Praising my Savior all the day long; This is my story, this is my song, Praising my Savior all the day long.

2. Perfect submission, perfect delight! Visions of rapture now burst on my sight; Angels descending bring from above Echoes of mercy, whispers of love.

3. Perfect submission—all is at rest, I in my Savior am happy and blest; Watching and waiting, looking above, Filled with His goodness, lost in His love. Amen.

12. Si, Amen: Ngozi nile, na otuto nile, na amam-ihe nile na ekele nile, na nsopuru nile, na ike nile, na ume nile diri Chineke ayi rue mgbe nile ebighi-ebi. Amen.

13. Otu n'etiti ndi okenye ahu we zaa, sim, Ndia ndi egbokwasiworo uwe-nwuda ahu di ocha, ha bu ole ndi, ole ebe ha si bia kwa?

14. M'we si ya, Onyenwem, gi onwe-gi matara. O we sim, Ndia bu ndi nesi n'oke nkpagbu ahu puta, ha sa-kwa-ra uwe-nwuda-ha, me ka ha di ocha nime obara Nwa-aturu-ahu.

15. N'ihika ka ha no n'iru oche-eze Chineke; ha nefe kwa ya ofufe ehihe na abali n'ulo nso Ya: Onye ahu Nke nanokwasi n'оче-eze ahu gabasakwa ulo ikwu Ya n'isi ha.

16. Agu agah-agu ha oso, akpiri agagh-akpo kwa ha nku ozo; anyanwu agagh-acha kwa ha ozo, ma-obi okpom-okpu o bula:

17. N'ihika na Nwa-aturu ahu Nke no n'etiti oche-eze ahu gazu ha dika aturu, O geduru kwa ha ga n'isi-iyi nke miri nke ndu: Chineke gehichapu kwa anya-miri nile obula n'anya-ha.

6. HYMN:SS & S 8731.

1. Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine! O what a foretaste of glory divine! Heir of salvation, purchase of God, Born of His Spirit, washed in His blood.

Chorus: This is my story, this is my song, Praising my Savior all the day long; This is my story, this is my song, Praising my Savior all the day long.

2. Perfect submission, perfect delight! Visions of rapture now burst on my sight; Angels descending bring from above Echoes of mercy, whispers of love.

3. Perfect submission—all is at rest, I in my Savior am happy and blest; Watching and waiting, looking above, Filled with His goodness, lost in His love. Amen.



7. INTERCESSIONS:

(Let us pray):

1. Almighty God who has bound together your elect in one communion and fellowship in the body of Your Son Jesus Christ, grant we beseech You to Your whole Church in Paradise and on earth Your light and Your peace. Amen.

2. Grant that all those who have been cleansed by the death and resurrection of Christ, may die to sin and rise to newness of life, and through your grace we may pass through the gate of death to your joyful resurrection. Amen.

3. Grant to us who are still on our pilgrimage, and who walk as yet by faith, that Your Holy Spirit may lead us in holiness and righteousness all the days of our lives. Amen.

4. Help us to pray in the midst of things we cannot understand to believe and trust in the Communion of Saints, the forgiveness of sins, and the resurrection of life everlasting. Amen.

5. Grant to those who mourn for the death of Rowland, especially his wife, children, brothers, relations and the entire family, in-laws and neighbors, may have a sure confidence in your fatherly care, that casting all their grief on you, they may know the consolation of your love. Amen.

6. Grant us grace to entrust Rowland into your unfailing love, receive him into the arms of your mercy and remember him according to the favour which you have for your children. Amen.

7. Grant that by knowing you more fully, and by your love he may go from strength to strength in the life of perfect service in your heavenly kingdom. Amen.

All: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us now and ever more. Amen.

7. IRIOARIRIO:

Ka anyi kpere Chineke

1. Chineke puru ime ihe nile, Onye jikotara onu ndi I rotara nime nmeko na idi n'otu nke aru Okpara Gi Jisos Kraist, anyi na ario Gi, ka I nye nzuko nso Gi nile no n'uwa, ihe Gi na udo Gi. Amen.

2. Kwee ka ndi nile awuchara n'ime onwu na mbilite n'onwu Kraist, nwua n'ebe njo di, we bilie nime ndu ohuu site n'amara Gi, we gafee onu uzo onwu soro Kraist ba na mbilite n'onwu nke onu. Amen.

3. Kwee ka Muo Gi na-edu anyi, bu ndi no n'uwa, ndi no kwa na-adi ndu n'okwukwe, nime nso na ezi omume, ubochi nile nke ndu anyi. Amen.

4. Kwee ka ndi nile okwukwe ha di na Gi nwee ngbaghara na udo, ka awuchaa njo anyi nile, ka anyi wee fee Gi n'obi ume ala. Amen.

5. Kwee ka ndi nile n'elu uju n'oge a maka onwu Rowland, tumadi nwunye ya, umu ya, umu nne ya, agbata obi ya, ndi ogo, ikwu na ibe ya nwe ezi ntukwasi obi na I nelekota ha anya dika Nna, ka ha site n'ibutere Gi nkpa ha nwe nkasi obi nke ihunanya Gi. Amen.

6. Nye anyi amara ka anyi ranye Rowland n'aka ihunanya Gi na-adigide mgbe nile, nara ya n'aka ebere Gi, cheta ya dika amara I n'emere umu Gi si di. Amen.

7. Kwee ka site na imawanye Gi na ihunanya Gi, ka o site n'ike baa nime idi ndu na ije ozi zuru oke n'ala eze-elu-igwe Gi. Amen.

Madu Nile: Ka amara nke Onyenweanyi Jisos Kraist, na ihunanya nke Chineke, na nnweco nke Muo Nso, dinyere anyi nile ugbo a na mgbe nile. Amen.

8. FUNERAL ORATION

9. HYMN FOR SERMON

10. HYMN: SS & S 902.

1. My hope is built on nothing less Than Jesus' blood and righteousness; I dare not trust the sweetest frame, But wholly lean on Jesus' name. Chorus: On Christ, the solid rock, I stand; All other ground is sinking sand, All other ground is sinking sand.

2. When darkness veils His lovely face, I rest on His unchanging grace; In every high and stormy gale, My anchor holds within the vale.

3. His oath, His covenant, His blood Support me in the whelming flood; When all around my soul gives way, He then is all my hope and stay.

4. When He shall come with trumpet sound, O may I then in Him be found! Dressed in His righteousness alone, Faultless to stand before the throne!

Amen.

11. SERMON

12. COLLECTION & PRAYER FOR THE BEREAVED FAMILY

13. ANNOUNCEMENT

14. DEAD MARCH IN SAUL – (ORGAN)

15. COMMENDATION

As you go forth upon your journey O! Christian Brother Rowland, we commend you to the loving care of God the Father who created you, of Jesus Christ who suffered for you, and of the Holy Spirit who sanctifies you. May you rest in peace, and may your dwelling place be in the paradise of God. Amen.

16. WITHDRAWAL TO THE GRAVE: A&M 527

1. For all the saints who from their labours rest, who thee by faith before the world confessed. Thy name O Jesus be forever blest Alleluia.

2. Thou was their rock, their fortress, and their might; Thou Lord, their captain in the well fought fight. Thou in the darkness still their one true light. Alleluia.

8. FUNERAL ORATION

9. ABU MAKA OKWUCHUKWU

10. HYMN: SS & S 902.

1. My hope is built on nothing less Than Jesus' blood and righteousness; I dare not trust the sweetest frame, But wholly lean on Jesus' name. Chorus: On Christ, the solid rock, I stand; All other ground is sinking sand, All other ground is sinking sand.

2. When darkness veils His lovely face, I rest on His unchanging grace; In every high and stormy gale, My anchor holds within the vale.

3. His oath, His covenant, His blood Support me in the whelming flood; When all around my soul gives way, He then is all my hope and stay.

4. When He shall come with trumpet sound, O may I then in Him be found! Dressed in His righteousness alone, Faultless to stand before the throne! Amen.

11. OKWUCHUKWU

12. ONYINYE NA EKPERE MAKI NDI MMADU HA NWURU

13. IMA OKWA

14. DEAD MARCH IN SAUL – (ORGAN)

15. IRANYE MMADU

Dika I naga ije gi ugbo a nwanne anyi Rowland, anyi na-aranye gi n'aka Chineke Onye kere gi, n'aha Jisos Kraist Onye tara gi ahuhu, na n'aha Mmuo Nso Onye n'edo gi nso. Ka izuru ike gi buru izuru ike udo; ka ebe obibi gi buru na paradise nke Chineke. Amen.

16. IJE N'ILI ABU 91

1. N'ihidi nso, ndi nez'ike n'olu, Ndi ji okwukwe kwusa gi n'uwa. K'aha Gi, Jisos, buru aha ngozi. Alleluia.

2. Gi b'ebe mgbaba, nkume, n'ike ha; Gi b'ochi-agma n'agma ha nile; Gi n'ime ochichiri b'ezidi ihe ha. Alleluia.



3. O may thy soldiers, faithful, true, and bold,
fight as the saints who nobly fought of old. And
win, with them the victor's crown of gold.
Alleluia.

4. O blest communion fellowship divine!
We feebly struggle, they in glory shine;
Yet all are one in thee; for all are thine, Alleluia.

5. And when the strife is fierce, the warfare
long; Steals on the ear the distant triumph
song, and hearts are brave again and arms are
strong. Alleluia.

6. The golden evening brightens in the west;
Soon, soon to faithful warriors comes their rest.
Sweet is the calm of paradise the blest. Alleluia.

7. But lo there breaks a yet more glorious day;
the saints' triumphant rise in bright array; the
king of glory passes on his way. Alleluia.

8. From earth's wide bounds, from ocean
farthest coast. Though gates of pearl streams in
the countless host; singing to Father, Son and
Holy Ghost. Alleluia. Amen.

17. CONSECRATION OF THE GRAVE
O God, whose blessed son was laid in a sepulcher,
bless, we pray you, this grave, and grant that your
servant Rowland whose body is to be buried here
may dwell with Christ in Paradise, in the name of
God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

18. SENTENCES

A. Man, that is born of
a woman hath but a short
time to live and is full of
misery. He cometh up and is
cut down, like a flower; he
fleeth as it were a shadow,
and never continueth in one
stay.

B. In the midst of life
we are in death, of whom
may we seek for succor, but
of Thee O! Lord, Who for
our sins are justly
displeased?

3. Ka ndi agha oma Gi ndi dike, lua ogu ha
Ka ndi nso nke mgbo'ochie,
Soro ha nweta okpu nke nmeri. Alleluia.

4. Nriko di ngozi, nweko nke ndi nso!
Anyi nalu ogu, ha no n'otuto. M'ayi b'otu n'ime Gi;
Anyi dum bu nke I. Alleluia.

5. M'agha d'ufu ogu gadigide,
Nti nanu abu nmeri nke el'igwe.
Obi nwe ik'ozo, aka di ike. Alleluia.

6. Anyanwu nenwu s'ike n'anyasi,
nd'ogu ndi kwesiri gezi'ike ngwa.
Ngozi nk'udo nke paradise d'uto. Alleluia

7. M'ubochi otuto ka nma chi gabo,
Ndi nso gebili n'uwe mmeri ha.
Eze nk'otuto naga n'uzo ya. Alleluia.

8. Site n'ala, n'osimiri nile,
Usu agutagh-onu nezuko. Naburu Nna,
n'Okpara, na Mmuo Nso. Alleluia. Amen.

17. IDO ILI NSO
Chineke, onye atogboro Okpara Gi Jisos Kriast
n'ili, gozie ili nkea ayi na-ario Gi, kwe ka nkpuru obi
oru gi bu Rowland aga-eli aru ya n'ime ya binyere
Kraist na Paradise n'ala eze el'igwe, site na ato nime
otu Chineke bu Nna, na Okpara na Mmuo Nso.
Amen.

18. IHE NGUPUTA

A. Madu nke nwanyi muru nwere nani
nkpumkpu mgbe idi ndu. O juputakwara n'ihuju
anya, O puputara, egbuda kwa ya dika ifuru-osisi, O
n'agbapu dika onyinyo, odighi anogide n'otu ebe.

B. N'etiti ndu anyi n'onwu: onye ka ayi ga-
agbakwuru n'ihhi inye-aka, ma obughi Gi
Onyenweanyi, bu onye n'ewe iwe kwesiri ekwesi
n'ihhi nmehie-ayi nile?

C. Yet O Lord, God Most Holy, O Lord Most
Mighty, Holy and Most Merciful Saviour, deliver us
not into bitter pains of eternal death.

D. Thou knowest Lord, the secrets of our
hearts, close not your merciful ears to our prayers,
but spare us Lord Most holy and Merciful Saviour;
You Most worthy Judge suffer us not, at our last
hour for any pains of death to fall from you.

19. LOWERING THE BODY INTO THE GRAVE: SS & S 152

1. Low in the grave He lay
Jesus my saviour! Waiting the coming day
Jesus, my Lord!

Chorus: Up from the grave He arose...
With a mighty triumph o'er His foes...
He arose a Victor from the dark domain,
And he lives for ever with His saints to reign:
He arose! He arose!
Halleyah! Christ arose!

2. Vainly they watch His bed
Jesus my saviour! Vainly they seal the dead
Jesus, my Lord!

3. Death cannot keep His prey
Jesus my saviour! He tore the bars away
Jesus, my Lord!

20. AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

V. All that Father gives me shall come to me

R. And him that comes to I will no wise cast
out.

V. He that raised up Jesus from the dead will
also give life to our mortal bodies.

R. By His spirit that dwells in us.

V. Wherefore my heart is glad and my spirit
rejoices.

R. You shall show me the path of life.

C. Ma otu di, Gi Onyenweanyi, Chineke kasi di
nso, Gi Onye Nzoputa di nso kasi kwa n'ebere,
ararala ayi nye n'aka ihe-ufu di ilu nke onwu ebigh-
ebi.

D. Onyenweanyi, I mara ihe nzuzo nile nke obi
ayi, emechila nti ebere Gi n'ekpere-ayi, ma rapu ayi,
Onyenweanyi kasi di nso, Gi Chineke kasi ike, Gi
Onye Nzoputa di nso kasi-kwa ebere, Gi Onye
ikpe kwesiri ekwesi nke uku, Onye n'adi ndu ebigh-
ebi, ekwela ayi dapu n'ebe I no mgbe ikpe azu n'ihhi
ihe ufu obula nke onwu..

19. IDONYE OZU N'IME ILI: ABU 50

1. O togboro n'ili
Onye nzopotam! Nech'ubochi ahu
Jisos Ezem!

Korus: O siwo n'ili bilie,
O meriwo ndi-iro Ya
Onye-mmeri nke ike ochichiri,
Ya na ndi nso- Ya gachi ebigh-ebi,
O bilie, O bilie, Haleluya! Obilie!

2. Ha nech'ozu- I n'efu
Onye nzopotam! Mech'ili Gi nefu
Jisos Ezem!

3. Onwu ejideghi Gi
Onye nzopotam! I tiw'ogba ili
Jisos Ezem! Amen.

20. NKWUPUTA NKE OKWUKWE

V. Ihe nile nke Nnam na enyem ga-
abiakutem

R. Onye nabiakutem, Mgaghi
achupu ya ma oli.

V. Onye ahu nke mere ka Kraist si
na ndi nwuru anwu bilie, g'enye kwa aru
anyi nke puru inwu anwu ndu ozo.

R. Site na Mmuo Ya nke n'ebi n'ime
anyi.

V. N'ihhi nkea, obim anuriwo onu,
mkpuru obim eteghariwokwa egwu
onu.

R. I ga eme ka m mara uzo ndu;
ojuju afo onu di n'iru Gi.



V. In your presence is the fullness of joy.
R. My flesh also shall rest in hope.

21. THE COMMITTAL

In faith and in the hope of resurrection to eternal life through our Lord Jesus Christ, we commend the soul of our brother Rowland to the Almighty God and commit his body unto the ground.

Earth to Earth
Ashes to Ashes
Dust to Dust

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

V. The Lord be with you.
R. And also with you.

All: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name; your kingdom come; your will be done on earth as it is 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 ever. Amen.

V. Lord give Rowland eternal peace.
R. Shine upon him eternal light of Your countenance.

V. May his soul, and the souls of those who died in the Lord rest in peace.
R. Amen.

V. E, uto di iche iche di n'aka nri Gi ebigh-ebi.
R. Ozo, anu arum ga-ebi na ntukwasi obi.

21. ILI OZU

N'ime okwukwe na ezi olile-anya nke mbilite n'onwu baa na ndu ebigh-ebi, site n'Onyenweanyi Jisos Kraist, ayi arara mkpuru-obi nwanne anyi Rowland nye n'aka Chineke nke puru ime ihe nile, rarakwa aru ya nye n'ala.

Aja lara aja! Ntu lara ntu!
Uzuzu lara uzuzu!

Ka Chineke gozie ya debe ya; ka Onyenweanyi mukwasi ya ihe nke iru ya, wee mere ya ebere; ka Onyenweanyi gosi ya iru oma Ya, nye-kwa ya udo. Amen.

V. Onyenweanyi nonyere unu.
R. Ka o nonyekwara gi.

Mmadu nile: Nna-ayi nke bi n'elu-igwe, ka Aha Gi di nso; K'ala-eze Gi bia; Ka-eme ihe I nacho, dika esi eme ya n'elu-igwe ka emekwa ya otu ahu n'uwa. Nye anyi nri taa nke gezuru ayi n'ubochi ta. Gbaghara ayi ihe ojo nile ayi mere otu anyi onwe ayi si gbaghara ndi mere ayi ihe ojo. Edubala ayi n'ime onwunwa, ma doputa ayi n'aka ajo ihe; Nihi na ala-eze bu nke Gi, na ike na Otuto, ugbu a mgbe nile. Amen.

V. Onyenweanyi nye Rowland izuru ike ebigh-ebi.
R. Mukwasi ya ihe ebigh-ebi nke Gi.

V. Ka nkpuru-obi Rowland na mkpuru-obi ndi nile nwuru n'ime Onyenweanyi zuru ike n'udo.
R. Amen.

22. HYMNS WHILE FIILING THE GRAVE: SS & S 798

1. Fading away like the stars of the morning,
Loosing their light in the glorious sun,
Thus would we pass from the earth and its toiling,
Only remembered by what we have done.

*Chorus: Only remembered, only remembered,
`only remembered by what we have done.
Thus would we pass from the earth and its toiling,
only remembered by what we have done.*

2. Shall we be missed though by others
succeeded, Reaping the fields we in springtime
have sown, Yes, but the sowers must pass from
their labours. Ever remembered by what they
have done.

3. Only the truth that in life we have spoken.
Only the seed that on earth we have sown;
These shall pass onward when we are forgotten.
Fruits of the harvest and what we have done.

4. Oh, when the Saviour shall make us His
jewels. When the bright crowns of rejoicing are
won. Then shall His weary and faithful disciples.
All be remembered by what they have done.
Amen.

HYMNA&M 210

1. Rock of ages, cleft for me,
Let me hide myself in thee; Let the water and the
blood, From thy riven side which flowed,
Be of sin the double cure; Cleanse me from its
guilt and power.

2. Not the labours of my hands
Can fulfill thy law's demands; Could my zeal no
respite know, Could my tears for ever flow;
All for sin could not atone; Thou must save, and
thou alone

3. Nothing in my hands I bring
Simply to thy Cross I cling; Naked come to thee
for dress, Helpless look to thee for grace,
Foul, I to the fountain fly; Wash me, Saviour, or I
die.

22. ABU IJI KPOCHIBE ILI:ABU 239

1. Nagafe dika kpakpando ututu.
NK'ihe ha furu mgb'anyanwu wara;
Otu a k'ayi gesi si ol'uwa nka la;
Nani n'olu ayi k'ageji chet'ayi.

*Koros: Nani n'olu ayi, nani n'olu ayi,
nani n'olu ayi k'ageji chet'ayi,
Otu a k'ayi gesi si ol'uwa nka la;
Nani n'olu ayi k'ageji chet'ayi.*

2. Agacho ayi ma nd'ozo ganochi ayi
Naghoru nkpuru n'ubi ayi kuru,
E, ma ndi naku nkpuru gagwu n'olu,
Ihe ncheta- ha gabu olu-ha.

3. Nani ezi-okwu ayi kwuru mgb'ayi di ndu,
Nani nkpuru ayi kuru n'uwa nka,
Ndi a gadigide mgb'echefusiri ayi,
Nkpuru-owuwe-ubi n'olu ayi.

4. Mgbe Jisos g'aguko ndi nke ya onu,
Mgb'ayi g'ekpu okpu-eze nk'ok'onu,
Mgb'ahu k'agecheta ezi nd'oru-ya,
Ha nile site n'olu ha luru. Amen.

ABU 34

1. Nkume mgbe ebigh-ebi,
Kwe ka m'soro nime Gi;
Ka miri na obara; Nke si n'akuku-I puta,
Buru ih'isacha njom,
Nzopotam n'ike nke-ya.

2. Obugh olu nke akam
Gemezu iwu nke-Gi;
M'jisiwod'ike mgbe dum, Nakwa
kw'akwa mgbe nile, H'apughi iwepu
nmehiem: Nani Gi gazopotam.

3. Agbam aka biakute I,
Amakurum obe-Gi;
Agbam oto nim'obim;
Nyem uwe, yerem aka;
Abiam n'is'iyi n'inyi;
Onye-nzopotam, sacham.



4. While I draw this fleeting breath,
When my eyelids close in death,
When I soar through tracts unknown
See thee on thy judgment throne;
Rock of ages, cleft for me,
Let me hide myself in thee. Amen.

SS & S 745

1. When upon life's billows you are tempest
tossed, When you are discouraged, thinking all is
lost, Count your many blessings; name them one
by one, And it will surprise you what the Lord has
done.

*Chorus: Count your blessings; name them one
by one; Count your blessings, see what God
has done, Count your many blessings; name
them one by one, And it will surprise you what
the Lord has done.*

2. Are you ever burden with a load of care?
Does the cross seem heavy you are called to bear?
Count your many blessings, every doubt will fly
And you will keep singing as the days go by.

3. When you look at others with their lands
and gold, Think that Christ has promised you His
wealth untold; Count your many blessings; wealth
can never buy, Your reward in heaven, nor your
home on high.

4. So, amid the conflict, whether great or
small, Do not be disheartened, God is over all,
Count your many blessings, angels will attend,
Help and comfort give you to your journey's end.
Amen.

SS & S 561

1. Give to the winds
thy fears; Hope, and be
undismayed: God hears thy
sighs, and count thy tears;
God shall lift up thy head.

2. Through waves,
and clouds and storms, He
gently clears thy way;
Wait thou His time, so shall
thy night, Soon end in
joyous day.

4. Ebe m'nek'ume ndu nka,
Mgbe m'mechiri anyam n'onwu,
Mgbe m'gala n'uwa ozo,
Hu Gi n'oche-ikpe-Gi,
Nkume nke ebighe-ebi,
Kwe ka m'zoro n'ime Gi. Amen.

ABU 218

1. Mgb'ebili-miri nke ndu namaghari;
Mgb'l neche n'ihe nile emebiwo,
Guk'otutu ngozi gi n'otu n'otu,
Olu Chineke luru geju l anya.

*Kolos: Guko ngozi gi n'otu n'otu,
Goko, k'I hu olu Chineke!
Guko ngozi-l, kpo ha ot'otu,
Olu Chineke luru geju l anya.*

2. O di mgbe ibu obi nanyigbu gi?
Ob'enyerere I k'l buru, O di aro?
Guk'otutu ngozi-l, ich'uche gala,
I ganabu abu ka ubochi ra!

3. Mgbe I huru aku n'ala ndi ozo,
Cheta n'ekwere I aku nk'igwe na nkwa;
Guko ngozi-l, ego apugh izuta,
Ugw'olu gi n'ulo gi nke di n'igwe.

4. Otu a 'etiti ogu nke uwa nke a,
Ike agwula gi, Chineke bu eze!
Guk'otutu ngozi-l, ndi M'ozu no nso,
Ha g'enyerere I aka rue ngb'ije I gagwu.
Amen.

ABU 188

1. Gi atula egwu
Nel'anya Chineke,
O nuwo is'ude-l n'akwa-l
O gebul'isi gi.

2. Nime nsogbu nk'uwa
O nakwara-l uzo;
Chere mgbe-Ya, abali nke a
Gebi n'ubochi onu.

3. He everywhere has sway,
And all things serve His might, His every act pure
blessing is, His path unsullied light.

4. When he makes bare His hands'
When shall His work withstand? When He His
peoples' cause defends, Who then shall stay His
hands.

5. Leave to His sovering sway,
To choose and to command, With wonder filled
thou then shall own, How wise, how strong His
hands.

6. Thou comprehend'st Him not,
Yet earth and heaven tell, God sits as Sorvering on
His throne, He ruleth all things well.

7. Thou seest our weakness, Lord,
Our hearts are known to Thee: Oh! Lift Thou up
the sinking hand, Comfirm the feeble knee.

8. Let us, in life and death,
Thy steadfast truth declares; And publish with
our latest breath, Thy love and guardian care.
Amen.

SS & S 8941.

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 has promised good to me, His
word my hope secures; He will my shield and
portion be As long as life endures.

4. Through many dangers, toils and snares I
have already come; 'Tis grace hath brought me
safe thus far, And grace will lead me home.

5. 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'd first begun.
Amen.

3. O nachi ihe dum,
Ha nanu olu Ya, Olu-Ya nile bu ngozi,
Uzo-Ya bu ihe.

4. Osetia aka-ya,
Gini gegbochi Ya?
Mgb'O galuru ndi ya ogu,
Onye gemegide?

5. Wer'ihe dum nye Eze,
K'O naroputara I!
O geju anya, I gasi,
K'ike aka-Ya ra!

6. I gahu n'izu-Ya
Kariri uche Gi, Mgb'O luzuru olu ahu
Nk'l turu egwu ya.

7. Gi mara obi anyi,
Hur'adigh-ike anyi; Newelite aka nkuda,
Gba ikpere ume!

8. Kwe k'anyi na ndu n'onwu,
Kwusa eziokwu Gi, Nagbasa ihu n'anya Gi,
Na nchebe Gi nile. Amen.

SS & S 8941.

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 has promised good to
me, His word my hope secures; He will
my shield and portion be As long as life
endures.

4. Through many dangers, toils and
snares I have already come; 'Tis grace
hath brought me safe thus far, And
grace will lead me home.

5. 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'd first begun.
Amen.



SS & S 3191.
What a Friend we have in Jesus

1 All our sins and griefs to bear! What a privilege to carry Everything to God in prayer! O what peace we often forfeit, O what needless pain we bear, All because we do not carry Everything to God in prayer!

2. Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere? We should never be discouraged, Take it to the Lord in prayer. Can we find a friend so faithful? Who will all our sorrows share? Jesus knows our every weakness, Take it to the Lord in prayer.

3. Are we weak and heavy-laden, Cumbered with a load of care? Precious Savior, still our refuge—Take it to the Lord in prayer. Do thy friends despise, forsake thee? Take it to the Lord in prayer; In His arms He'll take and shield thee, Thou wilt find a solace there. Amen.

HYMN: A&M 489

1. God be with you till we meet again,
By His counsels' guide, uphold you,
With His Sheep securely fold you:
God be with you till we meet again.

*Chorus: Till we meet again, till we meet again,
Till we meet at Jesus feet, Till we meet again,
till we meet again, God be with you till we meet again.*

2. God be with you till we meet again,
'Neath His wings protecting
hide you, Daily manna still
provide you: God be with you
till we meet again.
3. God be with you till
we meet again, When life's
perils thick confound you,
Put His arm unfailing round
you: God be with you till we
meet again.
4. God be with you till
we meet again, Keeps love's
banner floating o'er you,
Smite death's threatening
wave before you:
God be with you till we
meet again.



ABU 249

1. Jisos bu ezi enyi-anyi,
Nebu njo n'ahuhu anyi! Igwa Chineke ihe dum
N'ekpere bu ok'uru! Anyi netu'udo nke uku,
Nebu ihe mgbu n'efu, N'ihhi n'anyi agwagh Chineke
Ihe nile n'ekpere.

2. Anyi nwere nsogbu n'onwunwa?
Ihe nwuta di nso anyi? K'obi anyi ghar'ilo miri,
Gwa Chineke n'ekpere! Anyi gahu Enyi dika nke a,
Nke nebu ihe mgbu anyi? Jisos mar'adigh-ike anyi,
Gwa Chineke n'ekpere!

3. Anyi bu madu nenwegh ike,
Ndi ok'ibu nanyigbu? Jisos bu ebe mgbaba-anyi
Gwa Chineke n'ekpere! Nd'enyi gi arapuwo gi?
Gwa Chineke n'ekpere! O gekuru gi n'aka Ya,
I genwe nkasi obi! Amen.

ABU 333

1. Chukwu nonyere I k'anyi zuk'ozo,
Wer'izuzu-Ya nedu gi,
Chebe I n'ulo aturu Ya:
Chukwu nonyere I k'anyi zuk'ozo.

*Kolos: K'anyi we zu! K'anyi we zu!
K'anyi we zuko n'ukwu Jisos!
K'anyi we zu! K'anyi we zu!
Chukwu nonyere I k'anyi zuk'ozo!*

2. Chukwu nonyere I k'anyi zuk'ozo,
Zo gi n'okpuru ndo nku-Ya,
Nenye I nri ubochi nile:
Chukwu nonyere I k'anyi zuk'ozo.

3. Chukwu nonyere I k'anyi zuk'ozo,
Mgbe ih'egwu ndu natu gi,
Makua gi n'ihu n'anya-Ya:
Chukwu nonyere I k'anyi zuk'ozo.

4. Chukwu nonyere I k'anyi zuk'ozo,
Wer'ota-Ya nekpuchi gi,
Chughachi onwu di n'uzo-l:
Chukwu nonyere I k'anyi zuk'ozo.

23. NUNC DIMMITIS

1. Lord, now lettest thou thy servant de-/-
part in-/peace; ac-cording-/to thy-/word.

2. For mine-/eyes have-/seen-/Thy-/Sal-/va-
/tion; which thou-/has pre-/pared; before the-/face
of-/all-/people.

3. To be a light to-/lighten the-/Gentiles: and
to be glory-/of thy people-/Israel.

Glory be to the Father-/and-/to the-/Son; and-/to
the-/Holy Ghost.

As it was in the beginning, is now and- /ever-/shall
be: world without-/end.
A-/men.

24. BENEDICTION

May the God of peace, who brought again from the
dead our Lord Jesus Christ, the Great Shepherd of
the sheep, through the blood of the eternal
covenant, equip you with everything good that you
may do His will, and plant in you that which is
pleasing in His sight.
And blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son
and the Holy Spirit be with you now and
forevermore. Amen.

23. NUNC DIMITTIS

1. Onye-nwem, ugbu a ka I narapu oru Gi ka
o-/la n'u-/do; dika-/okwu-/Gi si di.

2. N'ihhi na anyam-/ahu-/wo: Nzo-/puta-/gi
Nke i-/dozi-/iri n'i-/ru ndi-/ni-le:

3. ihe agekpughere Mba ni-/le o-/zo, Na ebu-
/be Ndi-/Gi, bu-/Israel.

Otuto diri Nna, -/na okpa-/ra: Na-/Mmo-Nso.

Otu odiri na mbu, o di ugbua, o ga digi-/de o-/tu a;
we rue n'uwa-/ebighi-e-/bi. A-/men.

24. EKPERE NMECHI

Chineke udo, onye mere ka Jisos Kraist si n'onwu
bilie, Onye nnukwu Ozuzu aturu, site n'obara
ogbugba ndu ohuu, me ka unu zue oke, n'ezi olu nile
nime uche Ya, ma wukwa n'ime unu ihe di ezi nma
n'anya Ya.
Ka ngozi nke Chineke nke puru ime ihe nile, bu Nna,
na Okpara, na Mmuo Nso dinyere unu ugbu a na
mgbe nile. Amen.

Tribute

*Tribute to a Jolly Good
Brother-in-law (Sir Row)
. Yes indeed! Sir Row was a
jolly good in-law (ogo) who
cherished outings and
festivities, where he joyfully
entertained his guests. The
shocking news of his death
reached me soon after
church service on that cold
Sunday (less than 24 hours
that he spoke to me
warmly.*

-Nnenna Offia

*The great Iroko has
falling your death was a big
shock to me and my family,
A time we never expected it when
I heard the news of your death I
was very dumb founded with shock.
My mouth is filled with words is only
God that knows what transpired
against you. Ezi Nwanne, peace
maker, humble, gentle man, An
achiever a great believer of our
lord Jesus Christ. Laa na udo man
of peace may your soul rest in
bosom of the lord Amen*

Mrs Monica Ogbonnaya
And Family



SIR ROWLAND JOINS THE SAINTS TRIUMPHANT

Sir Row, I usually call you. I am not here for my usual visit to your place or normal interactions which on each occasion of meeting, you always proved to be the head, leader, counselor etc by hosting lavishly. Instead, I am here to pay my respect and bid you, my worthy Elder Brother and Friend a final good-bye. I am here to pay my respect to a distinguished and exemplary family man, who was a shining light in a world that has been enveloped by darkness. Much as I am doing a duty I owe you, I cannot help asking why this sudden eclipse in the noonday?

The death of a loved and cherished one always brings with it a blow and a shock that is not easy to comprehend or control. So it was with me, when your son Kelechi informed me that your wife needed my presence urgently at the hospital. The thought of your death was least in my mind. On arrival, I saw you, covered with hospital cloth with two nurses and your wife around you. I needed not to be told of what has happened. This was shattering, because it was unexpected. It came as a rude shock and I received it with utter disbelief. A cloud of overwhelming pain and grief descended on me. We had agreed on sat 18th June 2011 at about 9:30pm when I was leaving, that I should start my investiture as Father of the Year 2011 in my Church the next day from the hospital with all the members of my family, mostly the children. For sure that meeting did not have any ominous connotation. But now that I have come to terms with the realities of your death, I have accepted it as an irreversible loss and have braced up to accept the inevitable with a Christian faith. Being a Christian I have decided not to drown myself in sorrow, since sorrow looks back, worry looks around but faith looks up. Great faith is often built during great trials. No burden is too heavy for God's Almighty arms.

Even though your sudden departure to the great beyond has brought immense grief and vacuum to me, my family, your family and large clan of colleagues and friends, I am happy and proud, that during your sixty-six years sojourn on earth, you left remarkable imprints. No one can be left in doubt Sir Row, that in this race of life, you ran a good race and you departed when the Lord called.

Fine gentleman, perfectionist, indefatigable and result-oriented technocrat, experienced and dedicated administrator, courageous leader. You served your God and humanity with humility and sincerity. You believed in fairness, equity and justice. In all these lofty achievements, you were never one to seek undue attention to yourself or to cultivate the media, in order to remain relevant in the public eye. Having made your mark, you were deeply appreciated and often called upon to serve by the society, the church, your clubs, choir, family and many organizations you belonged; and in each occasion, you gave the best measure of yourself. No wonder, people proudly mouth- Sir Row; My Brother, My Towns Man, My Old Boy, My Club Member, My Church Member, My fellow brother knight etc. But most of all, the 1st son of late Mazi Dennis Okoronkwo.

Your efforts and achievements did not pass without recognitions by appreciative public and individuals. Of all the recognitions you were feted, the one you cherish most and identify with sincerely is the distinguished order of knight of Saint Augustine's bestowed on you by the Anglican Church- St Michaels Aba in 1994 for your exemplary Christian life and contributions to the work of the church in different places.

You prepared yourself for all that you accomplished through your home



upbringing and the schools you attended. Your years at St Michaels Primary School Aba and 5yrs at Govt. College Afikpo, gave you a sound religious and intellectual foundation. Your military training as a cadet officer and engagements during the civil war solidified the mortar with which your lofty achievements and unshakable character were built.

Your leadership role in- St Michaels Choir (English section), Aro-okeigbo social club, Distinguished order of knighthood (Aba and Arochukwu councils) etc, cannot easily be forgotten. Throughout your tenure as secretary, council of knight Arochukwu, you made your residence available as the secretariat for the council both at Arochukwu and Aba and regularly attended the council meetings.

Your death cannot be erased from our memories or your achievements blotted from records of posterity. You were a source of Joy, Love, and Pride to me. I am grateful to God for your life of dedication to God, Country, Community and Family. You sowed selflessly and watered with pure thoughts and kind deeds. You will be missed by your amiable and doting wife lady MEG (1st lady) and your two precious and loving children – Kelechi and Ezinne. Your wife and children have lost a caring husband, a loving father, an adviser, a confidant, a provider and a motivator. The Anglican Communion particularly Arochukwu/Ohafia diocese and Aba diocese have lost a committed Christian and somebody who did not equivocate or procrastinate in accepting that Christ is the Lord. Arochukwu community have lost a genuine patriot and a tireless community Leader. The old boys Govt College Afikpo have lost a committed old boy who loved his alma-mater and fellow old boys with passion. Late Elder Edward Ezumah Family will miss your warmth, your friendship and your calm stability.

In spite of the gravity of my loss by your death, my consolation lies in the fact that you lived a fulfilled life on earth and in dying, you were right with God through the acceptance of His son's death and resurrection. We Christians know and believe that death is not the end, but just the last chapter of time and the first chapter of eternity. Instead of being sorrowful, I should be happy that you are safe and happy in the bosom of the Almighty.

Adieu Sir Row. May your gentle soul rest in perfect peace and may light perpetual shine on you.

Signed:
Egonu .O. Ezumah
Your Friend and Brother



ROW, MY BROTHER AND FRIEND, " ADIEU "

When on that fateful Sunday morning the news of the passing on of my good brother and long standing friend, Sir Rowland Okoronkwo was relayed to me, I kept wondering what could have gone wrong since he never showed any sign of ill health prior to the painful development. It was later on, as I pondered over the whole episode with his younger brother, Emmanuel, that I was told that 'Row' was actually down in health for a couple of weeks earlier but had virtually gotten over the illness before suddenly relapsing. No matter what happened, Row's exit at this point in time is a very painful loss not just to his nucleus family, siblings and numerous relations, but also to all who have been privileged to encounter this warm and amiable personality.

Row and I have been very close since 1960 when we began our secondary school education. Row was such a pleasant and accommodating person that I would depart my family home at Kafanchan a couple of days before my college reopened in order to spend some time with Row at Aba before both of us would depart for our respective colleges. Row made me so comfortable and acceptable in his Father's family home that I literally became a member of the family. Infact, I remember those memorable days with nostalgia.

"All through this period of acquaintance, Row remained consistently loving, pleasant, gentle, and humane. Humility was his hallmark"

After our secondary school education, as if destiny has paired us for a life-long association, both of us, interestingly, found ourselves employed by and working for the same organisation Internal Revenue Division of Ministry of Finance in the old Eastern Region of Nigeria which later metamorphosed into the Board of Internal Revenue. Although all through our lives, we never lived in the same station -- Row lived predominantly at Aba while I was all through at Enugu-- we nevertheless kept very much in touch with incessant visits to each other. All through this period of acquaintance, Row remained consistently loving, pleasant, gentle, and humane. Humility was his hallmark.

It was not, therefore, difficult for me to go for Row as my best man during my wedding. At this time of anguish and sorrow, my family's thoughts and sympathy go to Meg. and the children, to our beloved brother, Emma and his other siblings --Benson, Stella, Ikodia, Igwe, uche, to the myriad of close relations-- Mazi Gab, Mazi Ogbonnaya (Michelin), etc. and to the household of God where Row was such a utility vessel that his exit will surely be felt for a long time to come.

One secular musician in USA who was mourning the departure of his colleague and bosom friend has left an indelible impression in me with his inspired Elegy when he comforted himself with the following lines : " I' ll see you when we get there ; But will you ever get there ; See you when we get there." Row, with your commitment to the things of God that earned you remarkable recognition by your local Parish at Aba and beyond, I pray and ask for the Mercy of our loving God upon your gentle soul so that it gets " there ". If that be the case, then I' ll see you when we get " there ". But for now, Adieu my brother and my friend, Row.

Elder John Ogbonnaya Okoronkwo



ADIEU ROWLAND! YOU WILL ALWAYS BE REMEMBERED!!!

I have lost a worthy classmate and a very good and trusted friend. Since it was his to give and not to receive, to serve and not to be served, to labour and not to seek for rest, The Lord has said Rowland enough is enough. Rowland you have run the race of life as it ought to be run. You have fought the good fight with all your might and strength. Now it is time for you to have eternal rest in the bosom of the Almighty. Rowland served The Anglican Church with all his might and proved himself a shining example worthy of emulation. Little would anyone notice his frail health condition in the later stages of his life. He stretched himself beyond imaginable limits in the service of Old Boys, the Church and his Community. He was ever present at meetings and gatherings of Old Boys whether for joy, sorrow or pain.

"You have fought the good fight with all your might and strength. Now it is time for you to have eternal rest in the bosom of the Almighty"

Personally, he was my encyclopedia on the location of Old Boys and the events surrounding their progress and achievement. We have lost an illustrious son and the vacuum created by his death cannot be filled. He courted trouble where there were injustice, oppression and cheating, and he never feared for what adverse consequences the rebound effect might have on him. He was always willing to help the helpless and defend the defenseless. He ran errands for people where no one else volunteered to do. Rowland and I were classmates at The Government Secondary School, Afikpo. From Sept 1970-Nov 1982 we became separated by oceans and continents only to be reunited in late 1982. At Afikpo, we his classmates called him 'Tall Trouble' because he always stood and fought for justice, truth and fair play. Life is like a decent play spoiled by a lousy Third Act.

Nnadozie Nkemdirim Nkpa.

GOODNIGHT, SIR ROW, GOODNIGHT

Tragedy struck on Sunday the 19th of June, 2011. My neighbor, a mighty Oak tree, Sir Rowland Okoronkwo passed on unexpectedly. A pillar of hope not only in his immediate and extended family but also amongst his friends and associates is gone.

A sociable personality, you can find him in all facets of life – in the church, he is a towering performer. In the community he is a laudable speaker. He is ever present in sad and joyful occasions. On the domestic scene, he is a warm entertainer. Kola and other refreshments are inexhaustible in his house and he ensures any visitor partakes of his refreshment. Perhaps his greatest asset is his conflict resolution strategy. Vexed issues are resolved by his cautious but weighty argument which in the end leaves everybody convinced and satisfied.

An amiable and committed Christian is no more. We commit your family whom you prematurely left behind into the care and protection of Almighty God and urge you to move triumphantly to your external rest where the Choristers of Heaven are chanting jubilantly to welcome you.

Goodnight, Sir Row, Goodnight

Mazi D.O. Okereke



GOVERNMENT SECONDARY SCHOOL, AFIKPO
OLD BOYS' ASSOCIATION

Motto: FEAR GOD, HONOUR THE KING

TRIBUTE TO OUR DEPARTED COLLEAGUE AND FRIEND, SIR
ROWLAND

We in the Aba chapter and in deed, the National body of the Government Secondary School, Afikpo Old Boys' Association (GSSAOBA) are greatly pained by the untimely passing-on of one of us, Sir Rowland Okoronkwo (aka Sir Row). Sir Rowland was in the 1960 in-take of pupils in the school, dubbed the "Independence (Nigeria) Set", that was very exceptional in all facets of school life, including posting a W.A.S.C. result that for many years remained a bench mark in the school.

Sir Row was equally an exemplary person, kind-hearted, gentle and generous. Even at that tender age, his love for the church of God and for humanity was loud and visible. Ever volunteering good jokes and natural laughter, he could hardly hurt a fly. A great respecter of constituted authority, in consonance with the school motto of "Fear God, Honour the King", not even the nature of his vocation could taint his record of uprightness and boldness in condemning evil of every form. Any wonder why he had an unblemished and meritorious career in the Abia State Government Service. A humane Christian father and loving husband, he was ever ready to contribute to the happiness of all and sundry. In deed his kind of person in today's corrupt and permissive society are not many.

We commiserate with his pretty wife, Lady Meg, the children and his numerous relations. The GSSAOBA and indeed every one that met Sir Row will miss him dearly. But we are consoled that the Almighty God whom he strived so much to serve will not miss him.

Fare thee well, Sir Row.

FOR & ON BEHALF OF GSSAOBA, ABA BRANCH

Sir (Dr) G.C. Nwaogu

Sir (Dr) Nkemjika E. Nwachuku



A brother, intimate friend and compatriote
By Mazi Isdora K. Ezumah on behalf of Mazi John Nnanna
and Catherine Nwocha Ezumah family of blessed memories

An educational venture to Oron (Methodist Boys' High School) Alkwa Ibom State via Aba in the late 1950s exposed me to late Dede Dennis Okoronkwo's family, a family that proved most valuable to us because of the stopping gap role it played in the harmonious relationship that took centre stage since then. That knowing brought Rowland and his siblings very closely knit with us in various levels, as amiable cousins, dependable friends and confidants of varying degrees. I in particular had a wonderful bliss of relationship with Sir Row - a name he earned with since his investiture some two decades ago of Knight hood of the Anglican Church. You can then imagine the quantum of devastation and depression I was thrown into on that fateful Sunday 19th June 2011, when Engr Emma's broke the unpalatable news to me, what a coincidence, remember that day was the Anglican Church (protestant churches) Father's Day.

"He was a very compassionate and understanding person, a peace lover and wonderful mediator. A husband and a family man. He related with every person in a special way and devoted time and concern for any duty/call that came his way"

Sir, Row was my co-traveler in many ways. He lived the oldest surviving son of late Mazi Dennis Okoronkwo. He was a very compassionate and understanding person, a peace lover and wonderful mediator. A husband and a family man. He related with every person in a special way and devoted time and concern for any duty/call that came his way. His sojourn as a civil servant was meritoriously concluded. He extended the same zeal in the propagation of Anglican evangelism in Arochukwu which largely resulted in the establishment of the present Missionary Diocese of Ohafia/Arochukwu. He was a dependable and reliable son of Okoronkwo Mpi/Okoro avigbo stock of Amuvi village, Aro-chukwu. A well bred Aroman, his articulate and wise counsels during family meetings shall be missed greatly. He was a stock, whom one was proud of any day.

As a family man, he lived and nurtured Lady Meg and children with exquisite love. He was quintessentially a complete man. To write about Sir Row would consume volumes. The fact that he lived an active and devoted Christian life before his demise is not in doubt.

When you hear of the death of a compatriot, it is like the fact of living and dying which stirs you on the face and you tell your self that all hulla-bulla of living is vain glory except you have planted your mark in the sands of time. Row did, I am encouraged by his works and accompanying fate, no wonder I learnt that he had a blissful transition to eternity.

Ride on brother as the heavenly Angels bear you up. Fondly remembered ever until Devine call comes my way.

ISDORAH K. EZUMAH



The Diocese of Arochukwu/Ohafia (Anglican Communion) Council of Knights at the Funeral Ceremony of Sir Rowland Okoronkwo
Sympathizers, Friends, Brothers and Sisters,

I ask for a few seconds' permission to forget my own sorrows and tears and say a few words on this occasion; for this is the day the Lord has made and we shall rejoice and be glad in deed.

We are gathered here today to pay our last respect to Sir Rowland Okoronkwo a man who has been at the center stage for the formation of the Diocese of Arochukwu/Ohafia Council of Knights, a man who ensured that this Diocese got registered with the Joint Council of Knights (JCK) at the 14th delegates Conference at Warri, a man whose love for music knows no bounds and a gentle man per excellence. A man of fine physique with pleasant personality, kind minded and altogether a man of unusual promise, who by dint of hard work achieved monumental heights in his profession and retired honourably after he has attained the pinnacle of his chosen endeavour. This gesture today is a well deserved honour. However, we must not fall to apologise for any inadequacies of today, we implore you to bear with us. We have been planning under stress situations. The suddenness of the event, the finality of the event, at least in realms of existentialism impacted so massively on us.

I therefore, stand before you as a brother with a heart as heavy as yours and eyes no less brimful of tears. Yet even if the weight of my heart could crush tombs of iron open, or could the tears in my eyes come up to form a River, there is one fact that we cannot alter. The fact is that our departed Brother and Friend cannot return to us now, the law that brought him into this world, fed, clothed and sustained him day and night while he lived, that same law, ageless and changeless has called him home, his duty here on earth is done.

To be sure that man is not yet born who has no faults or commits no errors, and whose record is one unbroken string of success, Sir Row was a man in the loftiest sense of that word. As a man he has his failings and errors, but I do firmly believe that what must occupy us now and for a long time to come is not his failings and errors but his incredibly great achievements in this Diocese, in the Diocese of Aba, in Aba Provincial Ministry of Praise and his doggedness as the Pioneer Secretary of this Council. I have no doubt in my mind that in their heart of hearts even the worst critics of Sir Row do know that he belonged to the category of history's giants; in every sense legendary and unmistakably larger than life.

He was sociable and mixed freely with the privileged and the non-privileged. He was frank, reliable and did not know how to bend or paint words. Men of his stuff who exude palpable confidence are in high demand but regrettably in short supply. Sir Row a vibrant person with intellectual sagacity, academic vagrancy and inexhaustible layer of ideas and profundity of solomonic wit. An icon of universal admiration, he preaches peace when conflict and confrontation are in the offing. When there is evidence of hate and rancour he advocates good neighbourliness and when there is desperation and despondency, he radiates hope.

Sir Row's towering credentials notwithstanding, he exudes an image of extreme humility and very respectful. He comes from a background and family which cannot be faulted as exclusive and well to do. Yet, he never cuts the nauseating image of pomp and extravagance for which many of lesser means are known today.

His concern for education goes hand-in-hand with his perception of the intellectual and his consistent struggle against petty-bourgeois intellectual opportunism. His contribution in this regard were enriched by his active involvement in popular democratic struggles, he left remarkable inspiring records of resoluteness, principle and consistency, all of them crucial yardsticks of a genuine patriotic Christian Soldier.

All who are gathered here today will have their individual points on which to cherish the everlasting memory of our Brother and Friend Sir Row. Some will, long,



long after today, remember him for his outstanding integrity, some for his compassionate nature, yet others for his love for music and things of God. But I will cherish his everlasting memory for his patience, his understanding, his dedication to Knighthood and as far as he is concerned failure has no brother and indeed failure is an orphan. Sympathizers, Friends and Well wishers let it be known to you that before Sir Row yielded his last breath, he fought death with a stoicism that was very inspiring to behold, he never once been known to have groaned, even when the climax came, when the compact of association with the living is being dissolved, that moment when hopes were waning, Sir Row gently with a simile in his face bid us good-bye and stepped across the thin line that divides the living from the dead. Therefore, Worthy Knights and Ladies, Brothers and Sisters, rejoice in the assurance that our tears were wiped prior to our loss. He only sleeps; he shall wake again after his present journey to our All-Merciful Father is completed. Till that journey is done, let us not awaken him with weeping and wailings. Instead let us pave his path with sweet flowers of joyful songs and make his journey fast and smooth by chanting this dirge:

I AM FREE

I could not stay / another / day,
To laugh, / to love, / to work or / play
Task left undone, / must stay that / way,
I have found that place / at the / close of / day.
If my parting / has left a / void,
Then fill it / with reme / mbered / joy
A love shared, / a laugh, a / kiss
Ah! Yes / these things / I too will / miss

Be not burdened with / times of / sorrow
I wish you / the sunshine / of / morrow
My life's been full / I've savoured / much
Good friend / good times / a loved one's / touch

Perhaps my times / seemed all too / brief
Don't lengthen it / now with / undue / grief
Do not stand by / my grave and / weep
I am not here. / I / do / sleep.

Do not stand at / my grave and / cry
I am not there; / I did / not / die
Lift up your heart / and share with / me
God wanted me now; / He hath / set me / free

Don't grieve for me, / friends and / family
Don't grieve for me; / for / now I am / free!
Glory A-men

The Bishop of Diocese of Arochukwu/Ohafia, The Rt. Rev. Johnson, C. Onuoha, the Council of Knights and all the parishioners of this Diocese can now boast of Sir Row's life as stated in Shakespeare's Julius Caesar "His life was gentle and all the elements so mixed in Him

That nature might stand up and say to the entire world"
"THIS WAS A MAN"

Sir Otumchere Oti (Engr.)
President

Sir Solomon Iheonunekwu
Secretary General

Goodbye Row Boy

When I called your mobile phone on Sunday morning, June 19, I did not know that we were speaking to each other for the last time. Some minutes earlier, I had talked with my elder sister, Mrs. Esther Oji, who informed me that you were on hospital admission. I decided immediately to call and we talked. When therefore later in the day, Mazi Chidi (Young) Ogbonnia called to tell me about you, he did not believe that I spoke with you earlier that day. Equally, I had difficulty believing his story of your passing on because you sounded quite normal when we talked. Sadly, my sister confirmed this unexpected development when I called her again.

Row Boy, you always had such a pleasant disposition and demeanour as portrayed by this fine social name by which Mama (your mum) used to call you. As a student at Ibo National High School Aba in the early 1960s, 33 School, was also my family home at Aba. Each time we met, you made our interactions cheerful no matter how sad and dreary the occasion was. This was a testimony to your friendly personality.

*"each time we met,
you made our interactions
cheerful no matter how sad
and dreary the occasion was.
This was a testimony to
your friendly personality"*

You not only accepted every relation as a family member, but you also demonstrated this brotherly love by your actions. Indeed, your affections were not limited to relations but also were shown to any and every person around you because you were so sociable that everyone felt welcome and relaxed in your company.

As the cold hands of death have snatched you away from us, and as we weep and mourn your loss, we wish to thank the Lord for your life. We thank God for the joy you brought to people around you. We thank the Lord for you were a family member who wished other family members well. This is perhaps one of the legacies of your relatively short life; the message that we should live and love ourselves as brothers and family members even when we are alive.

Thank you Sir Row, Goodbye Row Boy, until we meet to part no more at the feet of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, Amen.

Dr. Okoro Chima Okereke,
Hereford, United Kingdom.



Sir Row was a gentle man. He was my senior at Government Secondary School, Afikpo. Once he realized that I was from Aro he protected and showed me brotherly love.

It is sad indeed to learn of his loss. May Almighty God grant his gentle soul eternal rest in perfect peace. My heart goes out to those he left behind. Let us pray that God will give them much needed comfort and solace as well as the fortitude to bear this irreplaceable loss. Amen.

Nnanna Okereke, Boston, USA

THE GREATEST MAN IN THE WORLD.

On the month of June 19th 2011 we lost a legend, the most wonderful man in the world. You have been a humble, good and faithful man, you have always been so kind to me. I wonder why death snatched you away from us all.

It is a very painful thing to hear that you are gone for ever. Death it self is a very wicked thing to take you out of the world.

Daddy you are the man who knew when to give an advice, crack of jokes and use the rod. though you have been our dad for while you have made an impact to last a life time.

Rest in peace daddy i will really miss you.

Daughter,
Amaka Anyiwo.

LETTER TO UNCLE ROW.

I am writing this letter to you dear uncle because I didn't get a chance to talk to you before you left us. Dear Uncle Rowland Okereke Okoronkwo, its Obinna writing you this letter from my heart, I honestly didn't see this coming, for such a good hearted person always wishing everyone well. But I guess we cannot understand why you had to leave us so soon, even though I am very sure you are up there with God. I guess death takes us by surprise. I remember when my Dad told me you were sick and I should call you, I never in my wildest dreams thought it will take your life. When we were growing up, me and my brothers, we always loved to visit you in Aba because you always took us to the sports club and with the little you had you made sure we had anything we wanted. You were always there for me and Nnanna who schooled in the east closer to you. My first day in the university, it was you who took me to school yourself, same as Nnanna.

*"you took care of me
like I was your own child.
I can keep going on and on
remembering how much of a
good hearted person you were.
I never thought"*

Uncle I remember when I fell sick while I was in the university and I came to your house, you took care of me like I was your own child. I can keep going on and on remembering how much of a good hearted person you were. I never thought I would be writing a tribute to you on this sad occasion. Even though I am far away I feel the pain for Aunty Meg, Kelechi and Ezinne. But I know that God is with them and anyone who has the Almighty God has everything. So do not worry they are in safe hands.

I miss you dear uncle I know I will definitely see you again. You live in my heart forever. It's so hard for me to say good bye uncle but I just have to man up even though I am broken down at this point. It was nice having you as my uncle. If I had an opportunity to choose anyone in the world as my uncle, I would choose you over and over again.

I miss you

Obinna Okoronkwo



WORTHY/ DEAREST BROTHER

Oh! How are the mighty fallen Sir ROW Alias "man of all" What a sudden departure as of now without your normal brotherly advise and caution whenever we seat together, this reminds me of your question why I was crying over your problem in health and your assurance to stop that nothing is happening to you, but later you simply left silently.

But since it is the wish of God that you should be called to glory. We bid you happy Journey back home with million tears of your early departure. Sir ROW you have gone physically but your spirit lives in the midst of loved ones all over.

We pray God to reward your humble soul with eternal peace and happiness till we meet to part no more Amen!!!!

rest in peace and goodbye.

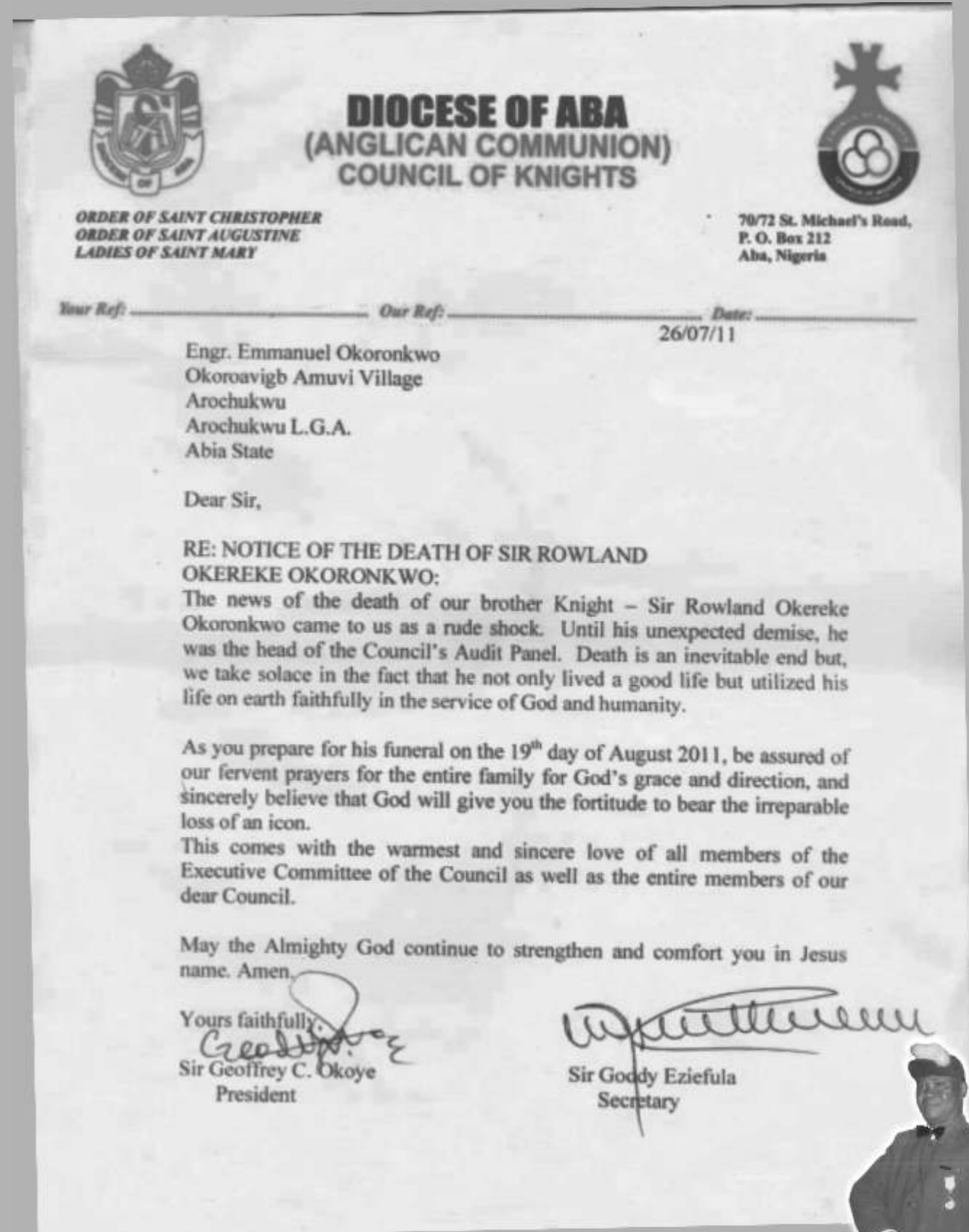
From Gab And entire Family

OUR DAD'S BEST FRIEND JOINS HIM

It was with great shock and tears that we received the news of your sudden exit. The pain is so sharp like when we lost our dad, late Mr. Richard Akandu Nosiri ten years ago. You were the closest to our family. My heart is so bitter because you are gone forever. You didn't live to eat the fruit of your hard labour especially after civil service. We shall see you no more. You made it a point of duty to visit me weekly in my office to know how my mum and siblings were faring. Infact I am speechless. If tears could raise the dead, your family especially your twins sacrificed enough, if the dead could see, maybe you would have seen the agony in our hearts. You were a brave man, so kind and free with all who knew you. Your vacuum may never be filled. Bye bye.

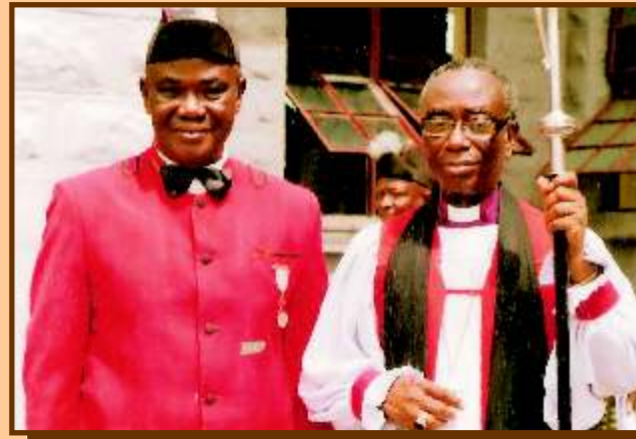
SLEEP ON DEE ROWLAND, ADIEU SIR ROW.
TILL WE MEET YOU AND OUR DAD AGAIN TO PART NO MORE.

Mrs Chiawuotu Ihuoma Oporum (nee NOSIRI)
On behalf of
Late Akandu Richard Nosiri Family.





Sir Row with Lady Meg and Late Sir Law Maduka



Sir Row with Bishop Ezeuko



Sir Row with Lady Meg at a ceremony



Sir Row with Egeonu Ezumah



Ceremony of knights of the Church



Sir Row with Late Sir Law Maduka



Sir Row with Nelson Oji



Sir Row smiling at a Party



Sir Row suited for a ceremony



Sir Row with other knights after investiture



Sir Row as a Cadet Govt College, Afikpo



Sir Row as Choir Master/Organist



Sir Row relaxing with Family



Horcky Team, Govt College, Abkpo



Sir Row with Parents, Cousin, Aunts (Family)



Sir Row with Friends



Sir Row, lady Meg with Twins (Ezinne & Kelechi)



Sir Row as a Christian Solider (Knighthood)



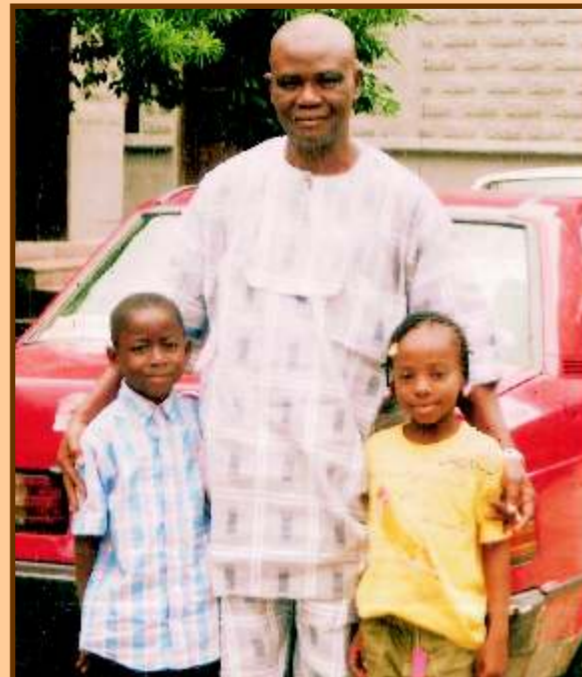
Sir Row with Lady Meg



Sir Row with Lady Meg during Wedding Ceremony



The Twins (Kelechi and Ezinne)



Sir Row with the Twins



Amuvi Day with Eze Aro as 2nd vice AWU



Sir Row poses with mum at Wedding Reception



Row with Lady Meg and Mother




Sir Row as a Biafran Army during the Civil war



Sir Row and Family at Nnanna's Matriculation



Sir Row during a ceremony of knights



ARO OKEIGBO SOCIAL CLUB OF NIGERIA

ABA BRANCH

Secretariat
C/o Mr. A. O. Amanambu
 11B Nwagba Avenue
 Aba.

Our Ref: _____
 Your Ref: _____

A TRIBUTE TO LATE SIR ROWLAND .O. OKORONKWO

Today I stand on behalf of Aro Okeigbo Social Club of Nigeria, Aba branch to read out what the club members have in mind for Sir Row. We never thought it will be read on his burial day rather we thought it will be read on any of his happy celebrations such as his survival/birthday parties.

All the members of Arososon knew Sir Row as an administrator, a great son of Arochukwu, a patriot, a portrait of faithfulness, uprightness, peacefulness and truthfulness. We the club members were proud of him and go places with his good name.

Sir Row as he was fondly called by his admirers was indeed a large star. How are the mighty fallen!

The true test of civilization is not the census, nor the size of cities, nor the crops..... but the kind of men the communities turn out. Sir Row is the kind of man the community should be proud of. His qualities are worthy of emulation. He died as a peaceful and truthful man.

When in 1992 he joined the club following his expertise in administration he was appointed secretary of the famous Arososon cultural group management committee where he single handedly came out with a report that has last the test of time. He also was the secretary of membership development sub committee where he introduced innovations befitting for admissions in a matured club like Arososon.

In 1993 he became the secretary of the club and his tenure came out with beauties yet to be equaled. Afterwards he served in different committees and sub committees on advisory capacity. He was appointed the adviser on administrative matters due to his expertise on administration in 2003, a position he held till his death.

Motto: Unity and Progress


With the death of Sir Row, Aro Okeigbo Social Club of Nigeria and Aba branch in particular has lost a great administrator, socialist, philanthropist etc etc etc. We are in deep tears because people of his type do not come to this world often and when any community is lucky to have one and he passes away it takes along time to have another.

The gap created in our everyday life by his painful transition will be very difficult to fill but our consolation is that death can annihilate life but death cannot obliterate history, the history of good people and their good work.

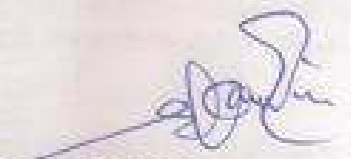
Remember the family of Sir Row in your prayers.

May God Almighty grant his gentle soul eternal repose... Amen.

Signed



ALVAN .O. AMANAMBU
Chairman
 Arososon-Aba branch



IKOKWU .S. OKORO
Secretary
 Arososon-Aba branch

A BELOVED BROTHER

What a terrible shock on hearing the sad news of your departure. At any moment death can claim anyone; the only thing that matters is the work that one has accomplished.


My brother lived a simple life. He was highly loved by those who had love for good things. He was humble, truthful and a good adviser. My brother was friendly, approachable, accommodating and always ready to assist anyone in need of his help. He was an embodiment of peace among his brothers, sisters-in-law, relations and even those who had anything to do with him in one way or the other.

Although my brother died when everybody needed him, we can't question God. All I am saying is may his gentle soul rest in perfect peace.

Adiu, laa na udo. We love you but God loves you most. Bye till we meet to part no more.

Your sister
 Stella Okechukwu (Nee Okoronkwo)





FEDERATED AROCHUKWU YOUTHS ASSOCIATION

ABA BRANCH

Our Ref: _____
Your Ref: _____

Secretariat
C/o Mr. A. O. Amanambu
11B Nwagba Avenue
Aba.

Lady Meg Okoronkwo
(FAYA Patroness)
5 Nweke Street
Umungasi Aba.

TRIBUTE TO A WORTHY PATRIOT

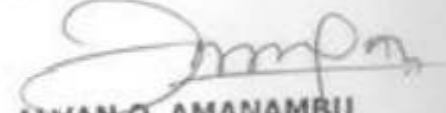
THE PASSING OF A GREATMAN. The news of the sudden death of your husband Sir Rowland .O. Okoronkwo came to us as a terrible shock. His death has created a very big vacuum in the social and religious arena of the Aros very difficult to fill.

Here is a man of honour who was so transparent, humble, peaceful, upright, and courageous, who never relents until he achieved his goal. He always distinguished himself in any spot he passed through.

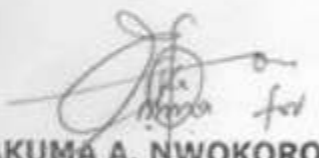
We have lost an indomitable lover of the Aros and the youths in particular. To you his dear wife we say take heart as well as to his children, brothers, sisters, cousins etc. though we love him, yet God loves him most.

May the Almighty God grant his eternal rest- Amen.

Signed



ALVAN O. AMANAMBU
Chairman
FAYA-Aba branch



AKUMA A. NWOKORO
Secretary
FAYA-Aba branch

Motto: Peace, Unity and Tolerance



GOODNIGHT

Uncle Row, the news of your death was heart shattering and unbelievable to me, a very sad news indeed. We have lost the main pillar holding "OUR SAVIOUR ANGLICAN CHURCH" Amuvi, Arochukwu. A great mobilizer and coordinator of abroad members of the church. I spoke with you not long, you said you were sick but on drugs and getting better, I did wish you quick recovery that day without knowing the seriousness of your condition. Yet from your sick bed, you gave me all the information I needed to know about Arochukwu/Ohafia diocese of Anglican Communion, as well as the directives that enabled me collect letter of introduction from our home parish. Unfortunately, you did not wait to get a feedback from me concerning that trip to Aro before passing on to glory.

We cannot question God, so we request that the Good lord who loved you more than us grant your gentle soul eternal repose till that day when we shall meet to part no more.

ADIEU !!!
Mazi OJI EMMA. OKORONKWO (OJI RED)

TRIBUTE TO SIR ROWLAND O. OKORONKWO (NWOKEOHA)

To my greatest shock and to the glory of God, I came back from the Church Service on June, 12, 2011 to receive the news of your passage to the great beyond.

Death beckoned when we least expected it. Yes you were down a few days before your passage but nothing in your voice the few times I spoke with you on phone suggested you were leaving us. You sounded so confident that you will be fine in a few days and I believed you totally given this wrong impression of mine that at your age, there was still more time left. You were my first contact and it was through you, I entered Okoronkwo's family to seek your kid sister's hand in marriage. I call you "Nwokeoha" because you were actually a man of the people. There are very people who don't know you in Aro. There are even fewer people who don't know you in Aba where you lived till the end. You touched many lives by your legendary kindness. You derived a lot of joy in giving and felt good that people are happy even if you had to suffer a lot of inconvenience thereafter. The general saying that good things don't last is aptly manifested by your sudden and untimely departure.

*"I feel terrible, I feel sad,
I feel devastated. Nwokeoha!
Ogom Ukwu! Good night.
To live in the hearts of those who love
you is not to die.
May your gentle and kind soul find a place
in the bosom of the Lord"*

I feel terrible, I feel sad, I feel devastated. Nwokeoha! Ogom Ukwu! Good night.
To live in the hearts of those who love you is not to die.
May your gentle and kind soul find a place in the bosom of the Lord.

FROM
Ogbonnaya Obah & family

DEPARTURE OF A FRIEND & A BROTHER
SIR ROWLAND OKORONKWO

Row, news of your demise filtered to me and my wife as a rude shock that weekend of 5th June, 2011.

Row, as we fondly call you, we swam naked in the waterside of Aba streams (Ogbor Hill, Hospital Road, Market Road etc) oblivious of the water spirits and mammy waters in those areas. In the primary school, St. Michaels Anglican School Market Road; it was study, football and few pranks played by teenagers. At the weekends we attended the Church programmes, on Sundays to enjoy the praise and worship of our God. It was in this church arena that Row began to imbibe and have a vision of his future life in a righteous setting.

THE DREAM

Row, you loved the church St. Michaels Anglican Church and you had a dream of the church as a place of respite. We all attended the church programs meant for the public: harvest and bazaar, open air revival meetings, normal Sunday church services. It was fun and quite enjoyable. Your heroes and role models became the church functionaries. Your dream world centred around the church in those early formative years.

This early life Rooted in the church in the 1950s – 1960s gave rise to the dream world of transformation of life in Jesus Christ as your Lord and Saviour.

Sir Row, you lived and remained a believer of our Lord Jesus Christ. You loved to play the church organ and even owned one. You became a chorister as an adult in your Alma mater church - St. Michaels. You displayed humility by this act. The church found you worthy to be knighted in this millennium in 10th April 1994, as **SIR ROWLAND**. In moments of distress and challenges, Sir Rowland looked up to God for guidance and strength and prayed quite often.



Row, you had your own share of challenges but your faith in God did not waiver. You were in deed a soldier of Christ who fought to the end till the inevitable death came. May we who are mourning you today do the same and find solace and strength in the Lord Jesus Christ to the glory of God.

His wife, **Meg, was with him through thick and thin and the love was mutually shared.** This is another legacy Row left behind for those of us alive. No matter the twists and turns in the marital course we must keep it moving ahead, full steam a head. Whenever, I visited Row or phoned from Warri, it is **Meg, this and Meg that must be mentioned and punctuated in an affectionate matter not in any sarcastic way.** This is worthy of emulation by all husbands and all men **no matter how old the marriage may be.**

May God grant your wife Meg and the children, Relatives, friends the fortitude to bear the loss and the vacuum you left behind.

Alas, we must pause and say:

Thank God for an early vision and Dream!

Thank God for a good life!

Thank God for a glorious exit from this mother earth!

Yours Sincerely,

Sir, Victor C. Ezeji
 08033888160

Email: emmaokabuja@yahoo.com

AN UNFORGETTABLE BROTHER SIR ROWLAND OKORONKWO

Brother, I can remember the last day I spoke with you on Friday 10th of June 2011 and the words you gave me but I did not know that you were going to leave me at this time, we needed you most. I do remember the things you did when you were alive. You were a loving brother to me and my children, a peace maker who bore other people's problems as if they were yours.

Brother, if I can call you back to us, I will do it, but I can't, I strongly believe that God knows everything that happened to you more than us and I believe that on the last day we shall meet in heaven.

May your soul rest in perfect peace. Amen.

Mrs. Grace Obah (Nee Okoronkwo)



UNCLE ROW

My earliest memories of life would be incomplete without memories of Row (Sir Row as my brother, Hyacinth called him) and Number 33 School Road, Aba. This period spanned from 1963 to the time of my high school years in Ogbor hill through post-civil war years. The family closeness that started with the two cousins; my late mother, Mma Alaezi and his father, Dede Dennis transferred to my siblings and me as well as to Rowland and his siblings.

I am aware he had some health challenges, which he conscientiously managed very well. The last time I saw him, he was his usual bubbling self. Hence, it was a great shock that early Sunday morning when my daughter, Chioma, called to break the news of his demise. I quickly called Emma, who unfortunately confirmed the news. My husband and I were, and are still totally devastated.

Incidentally, Rowland and my husband, Afam knew themselves way before we got married. They had served together in the Biafran army during the Civil war and developed a friendship that lasted till my dear cousin's death.

Describing Rowland in a few words would be incomplete without mentioning his loving nature, patience, humility, wisdom and encouragement. He cherished family ties and stood for harmonious relationship within family. In this area, he played a significant role in my life for which on looking back, I remain forever grateful.

Row, for your goodness, kindness and counsel to me and my siblings through the years, we love you. For your devotion to God and genuine concern for people, we cherish you.

Sir Row, your race was well run. Rest In Peace

I have some consolation about your departure because I know that you are now forever in the presence of our Lord, whom you loved so much and served so devotedly. Our heavenly Father will give Margaret and the kids you left behind, the fortitude to bear the loss.

Adieu Sir Rowland
Your Cousin, Victoria Nwagboso

MY DEAREST ROW

According to the scriptures, there is time to be born, and a time to die. Thus death is inevitable for all. But one thing is important, how did you spend your life for you will be remembered only by what you have done. 'Sir Row' was how I use to call you.

You have left a vacuum in my life and in the lives of my children. I will miss everything about you especially how you took care of everything during my late son's sickness, Ogbonna, when he was hospitalized before he died.

You are the one who consoled me in the face of many situations that challenged me. How come death has taken away my sweet cousin at a time like this? I love you but God loves you more, sir Row. I saw you in your robe singing joyously as a chorister amongst heavenly choir! Good Night sir Row and sleep well in the bosom of your Maker.

Your niece, Mercy U. Oji



A TRIBUTE TO MY BELOVED COUSIN & FRIEND

There are a few of my relatives whom I admired as much as sir Row. His behaviors to me, his out-look on life and his many competences endeared him to me. Of course, sir Row loved me as much as I loved him. He always called me, "bro Joe." Though some others call me by the same appellation, yet none can do so with the same passion and emphasis. Each time he returned to the village, he came around to share pleasantries with me. He was a true brother and friend. I was always at ease in his presence. He neither flattered nor rebuked, and I never seriously weighed my thoughts or actions before him; always very courteous. He was a tremendous compensation for my lack of friends. If I had need of him, he abandoned his own pleasure or business to attend to me. I was surprised he could not honor my invitation for a discussion at the burial of his cousin Mazi Isaac Okoronkwo. Little did I know he was rushed to Umuye hospital to receive medical help.

Sir Row was a very simple man. He abhorred ostentation. His personality was not on the outward but in the inward endowment of character. He lived according to the Latin dictum; "cuculus fecit non monachum" - "the hood does not make a monk". And yet sir Row was accomplished in many areas: a student cadet officer, astute hockey player, organist, orator and un-certificated journalist. He would have become a household name in the media industry had he pursued his original interest, journalism.

Sir Row lived a moderate life. He distanced himself from the endemic corruption in the public service. While even his juniors enriched themselves with public money, he was content with his legitimate emolument. He did not envy what others have nor fret over what he lacked. He was indeed a Christian missionary to the public service, particularly, to the Board of internal Revenue where he served as a career civil servant.

Sir Row was a good public relations man both in the church and in the society; he was a mobilizer and a good protocols man. He believed in the power of positive thinking and logical debate. He never believed in abuses or mud-slinging. He never was swayed from any course which he felt was right. Sir Row did not only get along well with adults and the youth, like as a veterinary doctor understood his animal patients, so did Sir Row understand and communicate with little children. He understood their language and songs and enjoyed fun with them.

Though gone, Sir Row, the remembrance of your life remains. I shall always see you in my spirit's eye. May the good Lord in whose fear you lived, how best you knew, keep you till we see face to face again, Amen.

By Mazi Joshua Ogbonna

A EULOGY TO DEE ROW

I had the rudest shock of my life when on the 19th of June, 2011 during a church service I was called on the phone just to inform me that you have passed on. It sounded out of the world and unrealistic to me because it was not up to a week I left you at Aba, there was nothing to suggest that such a thing was in the offing.

I remember vividly that you did demand that I should stay on with you but I explained that my job will not permit me since I was not on vacation or leave. Dee Row, why did you leave us in this manner when we are in the twilight of harvesting the fruits that you helped to nurture?

Amaka has been inconsolable over your demise and has been reminiscing the fantastic fatherly care you gave to her all through. Dee Row have you forgotten your piano, choir of St. Michael church, Nkenji and the entire family are at a loss about what life can ever be without you. Dee Row we love you but God Loves you more like you always admonish us we should always give thanks to God for everything that happens, weather or not it is favorable. May God give you peace and accept you in His bosom Amen.

Adieu, Adieu Achieu
Ezinwa B. anyiwo (in-law)



GONE TOO SOON

When I received the text message from Kelechi, your 10 yrs son that I should come immediately, my dad has passed on; I was confused. The message was very devastating; it was a rude shock for me. What crossed my mind was last year; I lost my better half Sir, Mazi Green Oji on 13th June 2010, Sir Law Maduka same June 2007 and now sir Row June 2011 as well, why this very month called June.

My heart was saddened because we've lost an honest, great, illustrious son of Amuvi, Arochukwu, Okoro-Avigbo stock again. A fine gentle man, very accommodating and always willing to help, Row, as I used to call him, was a man who loved things of the Lord, he made very positive and tremendous impact on people's lives. A kind hearted person, always ready to help and he carried people along. He showed commitment in whatever organization he belonged; always cheerful, loving and above all, he never joked with his church activities at Aro or Aba.

Row lived well, enjoyed himself and had a good time with friends, relations and church members; a good family man, his friends will attest to this. Who will call me Nne Beke? From time to time he will call or visit me to know how I am doing? Death is a reality. He played a very significantly role in our Anglican Church at Ugwuavo Arochukwu and as a choir man/organist at St. Michael Cathedral, Aba. I am comforted today that you've gone to your maker having finished your race successfully on earth. Good night Row.

Yours Nne Beke,
Lady Doris Green-Oji
On behalf of Sir Green Oji's Family

A BELOVED BROTHER AND FRIEND

Devastating" that is the word I choose to describe the news of the sudden demise of my own person - Sir Rowland Okoronkwo after about 48hrs we said goodbye to each other at the Teaching Hospital Aba where I had visited him. Row, I wouldn't know how else to describe our physical separation from this earthly world of which every thing about it is vanity. We have kept this relationship for over 40yrs so intact that nothing could stand in between us. It was so blissful. I miss you.

In Gen. 12:1, God told Abraham to leave his country, his relatives and his father's house to a new place he will show him, Abraham departed as the Lord had instructed him. So when God called you on that Sunday morning, 19th June 2011 to that city of God as described in Rev. 21:3-4, 11 you obeyed Him, "I heard a loud shout from the throne, saying" look, the love of God is now among his people! He will live with them, and they will be his people. God himself will be with them". V4 and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes, and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow nor crying, neither shall there be anymore pain, for the former things are passed away" my joy is that you are there in that city of God.

Sir Row, you left a very big shoe in the family of Oriri, Okereke Ocha, Okoronkwo Mpi, Okoro-Avigbo families so much that I wonder whose feet can fit in there. Taking account of how much I have known you and your good nature I believe you are simply irreplaceable. I can not question the authority of God over your life, I can only thank God that he has decided to take you to His own city-may His will be done. I know that some day at the sound of trumpet call of God, we shall all meet the Lord in the air to be with Him to part no more (1 Thess. 4:16-17)

Adieu my beloved person
Mazi Sam okoro-Ngwu



A BELOVED BROTHER SIR ROWLAND

The news of your untimely departure from the mortal earth gave pain and shock and grief to many who love and cherish your life style. One basic thing with man is that no man has the wisdom of knowing, when, how and where, one will end the earthly life journey.

Today late Sir Rowland has paid the painful price of death and the next question now is the next to follow? In fact no one can say but only the Almighty God. Today the death of sir Rowland has created a big vacuum in the great families of Ndi Okoro-Avigbo, Ndi Okoronkwo Mpi and the immediate family of Late Mazi Dede D.I. Okoronkwo. The aforementioned families will ever remember this great icon, for his leadership qualities, his role model, a gentle man per excellent, who had lived and gone forever. It is very clear in my mind the noble role this great son played in our usual family meetings, when I was the president -general of our family union. He always made intelligent, constructive contributions for the growth of the family and for the preservation of our family image; he was a builder not a destroyer.

The history of the family ultra modern hall of Ndi Okoroavigbo will not be complete without given a space for sir Rowland and his younger brother Engr. Emma Okoronkwo for the enviable role they played in order to see the take off of the memorable hall.

As a knight of the Anglican Communion, Sir Rowland preached Christ and lived it. He had a Christ oriented spirit, he was humble, meek; he was patient to criticize and condemn. He always stood on the path of truth, honor, and dignity. He was everywhere to share with many people in their period of grief and joy. In fact that is the man we are mourning today. May I humbly apply to all who mourn for the departure of this great son of Ndi Okoro-Avigbo to take solace knowing fully well that the glorious departure of this icon is a divine program of God, which no mortal can challenge but to accept it with calm spirit.

Finally, I fervently pray that Almighty God of mercy, grace and peace will protect you, load you, and provide for all your spiritual and physical needs to all that he is leaving behind. Thus lady Meg, Emma, Benson, sister Stella and sister Iko etc.

Adieu great son, Adieu great icon, until we meet to part no more.

Elder Rt. Hon. Jonathan Nwagba Oji
Former President-General, Ndi Okoroavigbo

MY BIG DADDY

Death you never come with anything good, you are heartless, why have you taken my beloved daddy? It is true that death is a disease. You come and take people away anytime. You should allow men to enjoy the fruit of their labor. What is your gain in pulling this Iroko tree at a time when his services are needed most? Daddy you always lived by your words, when you say, you hated indiscipline and disorderly lives. You have not died but you are only sleeping in God's hands. I miss your daily packages and many more. I love you, be comfortable wherever you are, till we meet again. Rest in peace in the bosom of the Lord Amen. Adieu Big Daddy, Adieu Daddy.

Blessing Victoria Amadi

A MAN WITH GOLDEN HEART

No word can tell, the loss is great while the pain is very deep. Only God can replace the loss and heal the pains. Till memories fail and life departed, you will continue to live forever in my heart. May your soul continue to rest in perfect peace. Ossy Ogbonnia



MY DARLING

My darling Rowland is a different person to different people. To me his wife he was peaceful, gentle, caring, loving. A man of integrity, whose principles impacted deeply on my life. He was my mentor, my hero and all. He was simple and plain to me and will always stand for the truth. He was a leader and a motivator, a strong fighter, no wonder he survived the civil war as a Biafran soldier. He was an ardent and devout Christian, a chorister and a knight of the Anglican Communion. He was a planner, an organizer, an orator and an adviser. He was kind and ever ready to surrender his convenience to others. You are irreplaceable in my life.

"I find it so difficult to convince myself that you are no longer around me"

You acquired no stupendous wealth, yet your generosity surpassed. You always tell me to deliver money the same way it was given and in the same denomination. May God bless you my teacher. You fought your final battle on the morning of 19/6/2011 being Sunday, and at 8.20am, it was over. Though effort was futile to keep you alive, you won the war in this life for you rest in the Lord whom I believe will judge you kindly. It was the darkest night of my life. I find it so difficult to convince myself that you are no longer around me even though it all happened in my presence; it was like a nightmare. I felt paralyzed. Fear overwhelmed me. How could I go on without your loving authority, how could I take over the many decisions that had been yours? How would I raise the children alone? I have been struggling to come to terms with your loss for the house feel empty without you. I am only taking solace in the fact that you are in the bosom of the Lord singing with the choristers in heaven.

Adieu my beloved
Adieu Rowboy as mama used to call you
Adieu De Row
Your wife
Meg Okoronkwo



TRIBUTE TO MY ELDER BROTHER

When Jesus saw Nathanael approaching, He said of him, Behold an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile. John 1:47". The above passage best describes my elder brother who passed on to eternity on 19th June, 2011 at 8.20a.m. He was a true son of his parents who also exemplified the above quotation and inculcated in us their children that noble virtue. He loved and gave of himself unreservedly without discrimination as to sex, age, tribe or religion. I will surely miss him. I am however consoled that even though he passed on prematurely, he sleeps in the bosom of my Lord Jesus Christ whom he loved with all his heart, all his soul and all his strength. I therefore refuse to mourn as those who have no hope, confident that on the resurrection day we will meet never to part again.

Adieu my elder brother.

Emma Okoronkwo

NDI AKUMA MOUNS THE EXIT OF A SON

With the untimely exit of Sir Rowland Okoronkwo, Ndi Akuma has lost a rare gem. At first we found it difficult to understand why this early, but we took solace in the fact that God allows events to occur on purpose. Again, we are consoled by the fact that greatness is not a function of age as evidences of your great strides on earth show. One, you loved and served God wholeheartedly. Two, it was evident from the life you lived that you drew a line between your needs and matters that smack of vain gloriousness and greed. We saw these traits clearly in the lives of our daughter/ your mother, Mary Ogonnie and our great in-law/your father, Mazi Dennis; all of blessed memory. Your modesty was disarming and your comportment impeccable. So since eternity has beckoned, we take consolation in the love of God that does not change.

Dear Rowland, not looking at time with our earthly understanding, we are certain that you completely paid your dues and left golden footprints on sands of time. We thank God for His love and blessings in your life, for your devotion to Him and the quality time you shared with humanity. Your legacies of service, humility and love of God and mankind remain beacons of hope to the living. May He grant your soul eternal repose; console your family, relations and friends. We shall remember you till eternity. Adieu.

Mazi Ignatius Okoronkwo Akuma
For, Ndi Akuma family



FAREWELL BRO ROW

Bro Row, the shocking and unbelievable news of your death came to me on Father's Day here in US, a day Fathers and Husbands are celebrated for the love and protective role they play in their families. It is unimaginable that my friend Meg, your wife will hence forth live with the reality of your untimely departure, having known the bond of closeness that held both of you together. A rare gem, a humble and loving husband to Meg, a caring and understanding father to your children- Kelechi and Ezinne. You were amiable, jovial, and always ready to offer assistance to those who desire it.

Bro Row, your death is a misery and a monumental loss to all who love you, the Piano/Organ will ever long for your soft touch. The Anglican Communion will no longer hear those back-up tone from you. The Arochukwu community will miss your valuable and inspiring contributions, your friends will continue to mourn you. Bro Row the Lord knows why He took you at this time; surely, you have a greater role to play in Heaven. I weep with my friend your wife and ask her to bear the vacuum with greater hope for the resurrection day.

May the Lord Keep you safe in His Bosom till we meet again
Ngozi Ezeibe, Houston, Texas

MAZI ROWLAND OKORONKWO

Your death was received with great shock. It is difficult to understand such an early departure and I found it hard to believe initially. It was less than a week before the news of your demise that I told Benson that I had not heard from you and need to have your phone number reconfirmed so that I could reach you. I didn't know that the call was never to be. Row boy, Row boy, why the rush to go home? You kept on with your late father's legacy of being friendly and caring for relations. You have always come to visit me in Aba every week, even when I couldn't return your visits, you never minded and always explained that you will never forget how we lived like a family with so much love when you were very young.

Row my brother and friend, you will be missed greatly. Will I ever forget periods when I go to Internal Revenue to renew my license or vehicle papers that I always received 'express attention' because you were there? People make a lot of money in Internal Revenue but you failed to make illegal money because you had many friends and didn't take money from them. You were very jovial and humble and even as a Knight of the Anglican Church, you still remained in the church choir you joined from your primary school. You were always involved in our family decisions and exhibited so much interest. With tears in our eyes we say go in peace for God loves you more. I pray that the Almighty God will grant you eternal rest in his bosom. Rest in Peace

Elder Mazi Humphrey O. Ezuma

REST IN PERFECT PEACE SIR ROW

Words cannot express the trauma we had that Sunday morning (Fathers Day) when the news of your death came while we were in service. You did not wait for the test results which you encouraged us with to come out on Monday. We cannot question God. We are pained that you did not stay long enough to enjoy all that "The Boys" planned for you for being there for them. We thank God for the boldness and courage he gave you even in the face of death. Rest in peace until we meet to part no more

Ada Emma Okoronkwo



TRIBUTE TO SIR ROW OKORONKWO

Sir Row's exit was shocking, painful and unexpected. More so, after the long chat with him on Thursday preceding his death on Sunday. We talked about his medical condition and the doctor's plan to restore him to good health. Sounding quite optimistic and somewhat relaxed, nothing suggested to me we were having our last conversation. For someone I have maintained a very close and cordial relationship with in the last fifty years the news was indeed shattering.

This devout Anglican, worthy knight and true friend walked the straight and narrow path preferring to keep an honorable distance from unwholesome practices throughout his working life. In the process, he earned the trust, confidence and respect of many who came in contact with him. It is to God's eternal glory that he tapped into this reserve of goodwill in the short lived post-retirement consultancy practice he engaged in. His deep knowledge of Church (Anglican) administration, readiness to make sacrifices and leadership by example contributed in no small measure to the modest growth so far recorded by Our Saviors Church, Amuvi. It is hoped that his death would challenge the rest of us to make greater contributions towards her future development.

A very good version of an ORIGINAL ABA BOY, Sir Row knew the town inside out with useful contacts everywhere as I discovered during my frequent visits in the last four years. He always appeared to have a Church member, a chorister, a former colleague, a neighbor who came in handy at critical moments. Humane, kind, humble and amiable, he had a rich bank of anecdotes which was released with amazing ease and proper timing both to entertain and douse tension as the occasion demanded. That Sir Row lived for his extended family and friends is an understatement. His many trips outside Aba and many assignments within Aba itself which he undertook for the extended family even at great personal inconvenience bear eloquent testimony to his character. Interestingly, the nuclear family appreciated, thanks to an ever cheerful and understanding wife.

No doubt his death has created a big vacuum in his young family. Our prayer is that Emma and his siblings would by God's grace accept the challenge and rise to the occasion. Rest in Peace Sir Row. Goodbye Sir Row!

MAZI CHIMA UME

For the family of late Mazi Emmanuel Ogonnaya Ume

A GREAT FRIEND-SIR ROWLAND OKORONKWO

Death is inevitable, it does not consider age, wealth, fame etc, neither does it consider the feeling of sorrow the living might suffer. Life and Death belongs to the ALMIGHTY who created us. GOD GIVES AND GOD TAKES. SIR Row, you were a great friend.

An epitome of PEACE, a GENTLE MAN, an unassuming man, a kind and generous person, a man who shared the people's problems, a GOOD Christian who served GOD as a Chorister and Organist. You lived a fulfilled life. But as you are gone to sleep, we miss you very much. My family is in agony for your passage. The twins, BUCHI and KACHI (Hawk and Warrior) as you called them miss their Uncle Row. They are in tears and remember how you play with them, how you carry them to school and bringing them back in their early age. They miss you. We as a family miss your company and there is nothing we can do GOD knows why he called you at this time and age.

SIR ROW go in peace to the bosom of the LORD, and MAY YOUR GENTLE SOUL REST IN PERFECT PEACE. TO GOD BE THE GLORY FOR THE LIFE YOU LIVED

Chief Tony Okezie & Family (AGUBATA)



THE GOODNESS OF LIFE - A TRIBUTE TO SIR ROW

Greatness is not found in possessions, power, position, or prestige. It is discovered in goodness, humility, service, and character. Every joy I've experienced with my brother, even years and years ago, is still with me. Few things provide as much satisfaction as being needed. Several years ago, exactly in 1978, my cousin Mazi Simon (OGB) Okoroji secured admission for Bro Row to further his education in Canada, school fees paid, bags packed and ready for him to come. The journey was not to happen; Bro Row in the goodness of his heart gave up the opportunity of a life time to me under a quiet act of love, kindness and compassion. Even the most seemingly insignificant challenges can be truly life enhancing. For me few things provide as much satisfaction as being needed. Ogb Canada, may God richly bless you for that unselfish act of love towards Bro Row. Bro Row stood for family unity. Though life's goodness can at times be overshadowed, it is never outweighed. There is goodness to life that cannot be denied and even the most seemingly insignificant challenges can be truly life enhancing. Death makes life precious. Sir Row believed in making a difference by providing others with the opportunity to make a difference, too. In every direction, in all situations during the civil war, at Nkpor sector and beyond as you contemplated your life and that of your brother Engr. Emma Okoronkwo, you concluded that life has meaning, that always there was the opportunity for fulfillment, that rather than curse the darkness, there was need to appreciate the light that it makes possible. You gave the order to have your brother moved to the rear. There is no limit to the goodness of life. It grows more abundant with each encounter. The more it is experienced and appreciated, the more there is to be lived. Though the problems constantly scream for attention and the conflicts appear to rage even stronger, the goodness of your life grows stronger still, quietly, peacefully, with more purpose and meaning than ever before.

You stood for family unity and the facts speak for themselves. There is one thing for which you should be thankful - only you and God have all the facts about yourself. It goes beyond the ingratitude of dissenting cousins or their validation of your good deeds, for there is nothing consistent about their behavior except its tendency to drift toward evil. Evil thoughts and deeds, like fire, can be hidden for a short time -- but the smoke can't. It may be true that to err is human, but to remain in error is plain stupidity, and it goes for friends and foes, cousins and significant others. The concept of divide and rule which dominates the thinking of this new breed of cousins and trouble makers is nothing but an exaggerated sense of self worth. Our present generation is so smart it can form an opinion without consulting any of the facts. Every man has a right to his opinion, but no man has a right to be wrong on the facts. Bro Row was a good son by all standards, very accommodating with Mom and Dad in their living years. A fanatic is one who can't change his opinions and won't change the subject. It is reckless to form an opinion when you have only a few of the facts. I am telling it like it is without fear or favor for it is discouraging to contemplate that tomorrow's history about Okoronkwo's family will consist of today's current events. However, the judgment of a man on a subject on which he is prejudiced isn't really worth much. You took care of your stepmother (Mrs. Nnennaya Okoronkwo) and she lived with you until your departure. Phillipians 4:13; "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" A slanderer differs from the assassin only in that he murders the reputation instead of the body. You have shamed all those who, like the rooster thought the sun rose every morning just to hear him crow.

Your death is not a period but comma in the story of your life. The memory of your living years makes the time together with you more special. My consolation is this - no one is dead as long as he is remembered by someone. God never imposes a duty without giving time and strength to perform it.

Thank you for being my brother.
 Adieu, Adieu, Adieu,
 Mazi Benson Ezuma Okoronkwo
 Your everlasting brother, USA



GOOD NIGHT SIR ROW (OMEREOHA)

I find it very difficult even to this very moment to come to terms with the fact that the very first of my cousins who I knew as a growing child has passed on.

Just like the first relative of my late father I came to know as a child was Mama Rowland and I asked who is "Rowland" and I was introduced to brother Rowland for the first time.

How can I reconcile the fact that this big brother whose was the first place I went for holidays in 1986 from Aro is gone. How do I brace up to the reality that the man whose house was my transit place to Lagos in 1998 has passed on to glory?

How can I imagine that this big brother who has touched many lives in very different ways is no more?

The reality of the fact that our family eastern flank is now wide open as the man who will go out of his way to attend to every issue concerning any member of the family has exited.

His love, kindness, generosity, gentleness and disciplinary disposition shall be greatly missed.

Brother, its goodbye till we meet to part no more. Good nite. Adieu!

TRIBUTE IN HONOUR OF SIR ROW OKEREKE OKORONKWO (KSA)

I received with rude shock and total bewilderment the sad news of the untimely passage to eternal glory of our beloved uncle Sir Row during the Father's day celebration. On Saturday 18th of June preceding the Father's day Sunday 19th. we spoke on phone on the need to join Princ Egeonu Ezumah, who was to be honoured by his church as Father of the day.

You advised that I should stay back with my family, following the unwarranted bombing in Abuja and see Prince Egeonu whenever am around on official assignment to the East. The news was shattering, unexpected and totally devastating for someone whom I was told made phone call to Uncle Dr. Okoro Chima Okoreke that very Sunday morning and properly wished him happy Father's day celebration. I will find it extremely difficult to shake off your impact on my mother - your senior sister. Your sudden death left a huge vacuum in her life. We must learn from the death of Sir Row that the world is a stage and we like actors and actresses on stage, must take our exist when the time is due.

Uncle Row was a good conversationist With him there was never a dull moment even on Easter Monday when we rushed him to the Catholic Hospital Umuye Ihiechiowa, on his hospital bed, he was constantly reminding Oga Ukwu (Emma) that nothing will happen to him (not minding that uncle Emma has already placed hundreds of his prayer warriors on alert.) sir Row was particularly worried that Uncle Emma might miss his flight from Enugu to Abuja. Your participatory management style was a lifetime experience, which I have emulated, incorporated in my civil service career.

Oga Ukwu, Laddy Meggi, Kelechi and Ezinne, and Arochukwu Council of Knights, please accept our heart felt condolences and may his gentle soul rest in peace.

Nelson Orji, Esq.,
 Legal Adviser/Counsel General
 Nzuko Arochukwu (Worldwide)



SIR ROWLAND OKORONKWO

This is one of those tasks I wish I did not have to undertake. The pain this has caused me is so excruciating that since the terrible news reached me, I have not been able to put my thoughts together. Sir Row was my confidant, friend, brother in-law and my class mate at Government College Afikpo. To cap it all we came from the same town, Arochukwu. Modern friendship is riddled with ups and downs, quarrel today, reconcile tomorrow. Ever since I met Rowland, we never quarreled or seriously disagreed on any issue. He had such a large heart that he forgave even those who stepped on his toes. From where do I start my tale? It was Government College Afikpo that first brought us together. We used to board the train from Aba station to Afikpo road station from where we joined the lorry that plied one of the worst maintained roads in the former Eastern Region. The most popular of those buses were "Udu aghirigha" and "In God we trust"

At Afikpo our bond began to wax stronger and stronger as we found ourselves in similar School societies. While he was in Charles Low house, I was in Afikpo house. He was specially gifted in School debates and had special interest in the Movies society. Both of us were introduced to such games that were exported to the Government Colleges from our colonial masters. Such games were cricket, tennis, field hockey and soccer. Though he did not make it to the School teams, he flexed his muscles in our various house to house competitions. Perhaps I should mention here that the Lenten terms were not our favorites...this was usually the athletic season when we were obliged to compete in the field and track events. Both Rowland and I could not jump higher than four feet, and not to mention the pole vault. As for the 100 meters dash and the other long distance races, our performances were at best below average. But you can trust Row; he always persevered in every competition, no matter what. Rowland loved the military.

It was no surprise therefore when the cadet unit was introduced to Afikpo Government College, Rowland did not hesitate to join this unit which was in every sphere military. No wonder then that Sir Row was in the fore front of the war to liberate Biafra. After the civil war and its toll on us all, when I met him, I chided him by saying, "thank you brother, for fighting us into slavery..." After our Afikpo days, we parted ways temporarily but always to unite during the holidays at Aba. His family home at 33 School road became my second home. No matter the harsh economic situation, Rowland would always sacrifice everything to entertain me and we often dined out. He never at any point in time lost touch with other old Afikpo boys living in the Eastern part of the country. He was not lacking in the School jokes which kept us laughing whenever we were together. He had such sharp memory that he memorized passages from our literature books from where he drew unending jokes. His spoken and written English were so vivid to the point that here in Canada, my friends always were eager to read his letters. But unfortunately, he did not write very often because he was a man of the people, a great mind whom everyone rallied to in time of advice and functions. One of those who discovered his special talent in writing was the late Dr. Nwachukwu, who lived in Ontario, Canada and always looked forward to reading from him. Luckily I reserved some of Rowland's letters to me. His vivid memory was unique. He memorized most quotations from our literature books, and recited them at will up to his last moments. He knew everyone on first name basis, not only our class mates at Afikpo, but also all our senior boys. His magnanimous and forgiving heart is yet to be equaled. When I visited home in 2006 from Canada, I was in Lagos when Rowland lost his dad. This was an occasion I said would not miss to show my solidarity with Row. But at the time of the funeral, I was just recovering from the malarial bout I had when Typhoid fever struck me.

If the earlier malarial bout was terrible, this one of typhoid was killing. I was too weak to travel and sadly enough, I could not make it for the funeral. After the



funeral I phoned him to explain the issues, as usual, he forgave me even before I asked for pardon. Most friends would not have taken this so lightly. My inability to attend that funeral has always haunted me to this day. He understood not to keep malice and he practiced it to the very core.

A few months ago I was speaking with him over the phone, when he expressed concern about the fake medications that were not in short supply at Aba. I tried sending him sample medication from my abode to see if that would help improve his health. At that time he also complained of the poor water and over all sanitation at Aba. We were aware of the numerous obstacles one faced in Nigeria. It was the time that kidnapers were in the prowl. It reached a situation where, if malaria did not attack you, typhoid would from the poor water supply. There was the problem of fake drugs also, staring you in the face. Assuming you escaped all these, then you faced the ordeal with kidnapers and robbers. There seemed to be no safe haven anywhere. I sent the first medication sample from here and procured more to send. You can imagine my anguish when I opened my drawer last month and saw these medication clearly labeled, Rowland. It was like locking the stable after the horses had escaped. I have lost a friend, a class mate and in-law with whom I relaxed any time I visited Aba. Having lost him, the excitement of Aba visits no longer exist. This is indeed sad considering that I grew up in Aba, and memories abound. Rowland, your voice is silenced forever and we shall never again meet in physical form as we know it on earth. That brotherly tone that welcomed me to your house is gone also. Your special talent in written English has vanished, and your role as a father will be terribly missed by your two young children and your dear wife, Meg.

But as the good Lord gives us life, I shall keep these people who are closest to you in my radar screen. I am sure that we shall continue our relationship when the time comes as we were promised in the holy writ. You are gone out of this world but you still exist in spirit, and resting in a place where there is no suffering. You must have happily united with dad, mum and your auntie, late Enith whom also I miss very dearly. I will miss those times we stayed together in the evenings, listened to radio Santa Isabel, dishing out the latest in Congo tunes. You have joined those of our class mates who have gone prematurely; the likes of Chijioke Nwachukwu, former principal of Eziama High School, Aba; Dr. HincO Ohiaeri of Ohiaeri medical foundations and Umezurike. You had promised me that you would hang in there until my return, but now the hope is all dashed. How do I pick up the pieces?

Rowland was in tune with his God and climbed to the elevated height of knighthood in his church. He was actively involved with this group till the very end. It is not how long one lives that is impressive, but the quality of that life, and how many people you are able to touch. You achieved all these before your call home. O death! Where is thy sting? You can never rob Row of his popularity and his closeness to all our hearts. These images will forever linger in me so long as I live.

If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt,
 Lord, who would survive?
 But with you is found forgiveness;
 For this we revere you
 Psalm 130:2

Eternal rest grant unto him O Lord, and may your perpetual light shine upon him.
 "Rowland, ezi enyi, ezi nwanne, ezi ogo, laa n' udo"

From: Emmanuel C. Ukwu
 Ottawa, Ontario, Canada.



SIR ROWLAND OKORONKWO (KSA) 'OUR ROLE MODEL'

To state that we, the entire family of late Mazi P.M. Igboko received the news of the death of Sir Rowland Okoronkwo on Sunday morning, June 19, 2011 with rude shock and sadness is to emphasize the obvious. This is because, Sir Row, as we fondly called him, was very dear to us in particular and understandably so, in many and interesting ways.

Besides the fact that his late father, Dede Dennis Okoronkwo, whom we knew and referred to as 'Nwanne Nnenne Anyi' (ie our paternal grandmother's relation) was very fond of our late father (his own cousin), Sir Row was in fact, our role model. He effectively played the roles of big brother, good friend, confidant and counselor. Equally, he upheld the relationship between his family, ours and various others in Amuvi and Nzerem.

His quiet, unassuming and amiable disposition was highly commendable not only because he radiated internal peace and calm to all around and within him, he was also gentle, kind, soft spoken and an epitome of humility albeit with impeccable mien and candour.

For instance, Sir Row became particularly endeared to us many years ago when he attended the traditional wine-carrying ceremony of our sister Ogo without receiving his own formal invitation card. It happened that, somehow, his card got lost in transit. He disregarded that fact of the matter and joined us joyfully in the celebration.

Some years later, Gabe's wife, Obioma, while receiving Sir Row in the house at Amuvi had the kindest of words one would ever imagine. She described him as a rare gem and very honest civil servant. Sir Row was responsible for the issuance of both her Learner's Permit and subsequently Driver's Licence in Aba without her having to go through a middle man or paying a kobo more than the official government stipulated fee, without knowing who she was or where she came from, which was quite rare and uncustomary. Not long after that, Obioma was most pleasantly surprised to learn (a few years later) that this same Sir Row was indeed related to her husband to be. And needless to state that the feeling was mutual as well with Sir Row when, DR. E.O. Nwankwo, Obioma's father hinted him, Sir Row (a former co-worker at the Local Government) in the course of his enquiries about Amuvi and our family in particular.

In Sir Row's characteristic, he often shelved personal matters to attend to those of relations, both young and old. At such gatherings or functions, he rendered selfless and impressive services while readily available to give candid advice. Cases in point were during the wedding ceremony of Dr. Nkemakolam and Nkiru Okoronkwo in August 2009 where Sir Row shelved his return to Aba that day (Saturday) in order to attend (fully) the event. He thus participated very actively in the discussions and activities that took place after the wedding at the couple's residence. In the course of the ceremonies, which he subtly moderated, he stressed on how the young should be polite to elders, how members of a family should always remain one and further espoused on how Amuvi village should remain an indivisible entity.

On the 20th of November 2010, Sir Row's visible and palpable joy knew no bound in his appreciation of Gabe's role as Chairman on the occasion of the wedding and wine-carrying ceremonies of Ngozi Owunna (one of the twin girls of Ezinna Mazi Joe and Lady Julie Owunna). So long as Sir Row was concerned and from the joy he expressed, one would think that Gabe was Engr. Emma or Benson (his direct biological younger brothers). That was Sir Row for you.

Then on the 3rd of January 2011, at the traditional wine-carrying ceremony of Mazi Jude Nwosu's (Crunchies) sister, Sir Row was at his best in his display of humility and selfless service. Other distinguished personalities with him in Mazi Jude's inner parlour, downstairs, included Mazi (Sir) Chima and Lady Philo Ume, Mazi Sam Okoro, Ada Ukwu Aro Charity Achinivu, Sir Row's wife, Meg and other important dignitaries from Aba, including, of course our dear Lady Dorris Orji. On observing Jude personally taking orders from guests and serving them, Sir



Row sprang up and immediately volunteered and began to assist Mazi Jude and Lady Dorris. They provided more seats as the need arose and offered everyone his/her first choice as regards food and drinks.

Having the privilege to sit close to him, he told Prof. Nnenna Kanno a bit of Jude's hardworking nature. He told her inter alia how Jude's presence (domain) in Amuvi was an additional blessing to the village. He also gave her an insight on how Jude was a model to those around and within him. He concluded by telling her that taking good care of people was in Jude's character.

The point of emphasis here is that it takes a good character to appreciate another. It is therefore needless to indicate that Mazi Chima Ume, Mazi Jude Nwosu and all the other people with Sir Row in Jude's house on that very day will be greatly saddened by the demise of Sir Row.

Our dear brothers, Mazi (Engr.) Emma, Benson (Mama's son in the U.S.) and the Okoronkwo family, please take heart and remain strong at this huge and irreplaceable loss. Suffice it to note that Amuvi village has once again lost one of her best sons. Sir Row, our ROLE MODEL, the entire family of late Mazi P.M. Igboko simply say to you; fare thee well, adieu, requiescat en pace.

Emma! 'kaa-wo, Onyenw'anyi gbaagi ume'.

By: Prof. T.N. Kanno, fcon, mnae, Jp & Barr. Gabe Igboko & family.

TRIBUTE IN HONOUR OF
SIR ROWLAND OKEREKE OKORONKWO (KSA)

On behalf of the entire Nzuko Aro worldwide, I wish to place on record that words cannot express our sense of loss of this man of conscience, love, charm and truth. Your brother's temperate social lifestyle contributed to his harmonious marital relationship and the peace he enjoyed while on earth,

Row's greatest asset on earth was his ability to convert desperate anxious moments into simple assurance, however bad it seemed, even on his hospital bed. He would always take one through the positive side of things with his popular saying "Nothing is impossible before God" a reality indeed! Sir Row meant so much to Aro Kingdom and we will never have a replacement for him.

With heavy heart, Sir Rowland rest in peace, Ezi nwanne madu!!!

Elder Engr. Nnamdi Udo (Ugwu Aro)
President General
Nzuko Aro Worldwide

TRIBUTE TO MY DEAR ROW

Ezibo Nwanne m la na udo. I never thought it will be this way but Almighty God knows the best.

I am sad and bitter about your passing on but I take comfort in knowing that you that you have lived a life worthy of emulation and that we will meet at the feet of Jesus Christ where we will spend everlasting life together. I have committed your family into God's hand; my prayer is that God will be a husband to your wife and a father to your children.

Your aunt

Mrs. Jane Igwe

AMUVI WELFARE UNION AROCHUKWU

CONDOLENCE MESSAGE TO THE FAMILY OF SIR ROW OKORONKWO

It was with great shock and deep sense of loss that we the members of A.W.U. received the news of the death of our member Sir Rowland Okoronkwo. You were a former National Vice President and you served meritoriously.

While on earth Sir Row was God fearing and accommodating. The good legacies he left in will not be easily forgotten. We pray that God will give the family and A.W.U. the fortitude to bear this irreplaceable loss.

May God Almighty whom he served till death grant him eternal rest in his bosom.

Adieu Sir Row!!!!!!!!!!!!

Mazi Joe Nwokoro
National President

Nwa Mazi Emma O. Onu

"while on earth you were God fearing and accommodating. The good legacies he left in will not be easily forgotten. We pray that God will give the family and A.W.U. the fortitude to bear this irreplaceable loss"

A GENTLE GIANT (BRO ROWLAND OKORONKWO)

It was Shakespeare who said that "when beggars die no comet is seen; heavens themselves blaze forth the death of a prince."

No wonder, the news of your death shook the earth all the way to the United States and indeed the whole world. Even though you are a prince of the Okoro Avigbo Kindred, yet you conducted your life as a model of humility and piety.

You were a brother to all but a mentor to me because of your loyalty to your family and friends even the younger ones.

Your death therefore cannot pass unsung. This piece is to give thanks to God for a life fulfilled, a life of discipline, a life of diligence and a life of love and kindness. We will miss you greatly my PEACE MAKER. Who else can occupy the space you left, who else will be making peace in the family.

Anyway, it is not how long we live but how fine and well. You have lived fine and well. Farewell, Bro Row, an epitome of humility, peace, love and courage. Go in peace my Officer and Gentleman. May our God grant you eternal rest in His bosom.

EMMANUEL OKORO EGBUKWU



A UNIQUE PERSON-BROTHER ROW

Brother Row, when I spoke to you on June 18, 2011 on your hospital bed, neither you nor I knew that would be our last conversation. We both understood each other but from your voice, I observed you were a little weak. I had encouraged you to keep hope and spirit alive and that you would be okay. Brother Row, your reply was 'odinma'

Nobody would guess right the different emotions I experienced when the next morning I got a call from Brother Emmanuel Okoronkwo that brother Row had passed on. My heart is broken. I guess in my naiveté, I never for one second thought you would go young and could not imagine you not living to ripe old age. You are one of a kind-intelligent, honest, kind, generous and always ready to render helpful hands without waiting to be asked.

Indeed, August 18 & 19 are very sad days for us who know and are related to you. We have lost a unique and an interesting person. Brother Row may have meant something to each and every one of us, personally, you were my special senior brother, a mentor, adviser, confidant etc. During my secondary school years, each time I wrote you, your replies would include pocket money, you would pay surprise visit during our visiting days and would bring lots of goodies. You had invited me to spend my long vacation with you at Aba and had showered me with gifts when it was time to go back. Each time my family visited you when we were at Port- Harcourt, you would entertain and make us feel special and at home. Brother Row, you and Egeonu Ezuma had waited for my family till early morning at the Young Shall Grow bus station in 1999 when my entire family travelled from Canada to visit home despite a short notice.

Not only did you wait for us, you hired a taxi to carry our baggage and served us with delicious hot meal in your house. You made us feel comfortable and accepted. When I related the news of your passing to my children, they could not recognize your face but vividly remembered your kind gesture and remained thankful. Thank you so much.

As a senior brother to a whole lot of younger ones, you were like a tall tree with strong branches that form a shade for all of us. You have not been found wanting identifying your duties and executing them with profound diligence and vigor. Thanks for the valuable advice, suggestions and help during mama Nnukwu's burial. You visited Umuahia a few times to make sure everything went according to plan and your planning skills contributed to the smooth running of the befitting burial accorded to mama Nnukwu.

Our hearts are aching but only God knows why you have been snatched away from us when we most needed you. Heart Warrior Chos once said, "In the darkest hour the soul is replenished and given strength to continue and endure." I pray that God in his infinite mercy will touch his consoling hands on all of us to get through this period of unimaginable grief and sadness. It is with shattered heart and enormous pain that I say good bye. I pray that the living God will accept your soul in his bosom where there is no sickness or pain but only joy and laughter. May your kind soul rest in perfect peace. Brother Row, La n'udo

Mrs Nkechi Ukwu (Ottawa, Canada)

"As a senior brother to a whole lot of younger ones, you were like a tall tree with strong branches that form a shade for all of us. You have not been found wanting identifying your duties and executing them with profound diligence and vigor"



A LENGEND: SIR ROW OKORONKWO

An indispensable personality has been lost at a critical stage when there is high clamor of his importance. It is a pity regrettable that the entire community plus innumerable friends and well wishers are missing you in the social, economic, religious and cultural activities in the society.

A great uncle, you were created with divergent potentials which you used to influence people positively and there is no amount of literature that can adequately contain or narrate your humanitarian characteristics. You have an exclusive quality of sharing, no matter how scanty and always to give advice even contribute human, material and financial resources to ensure efficiency and effectiveness of the goal.

Sir Row, you have an innate potentials and talent by being a custodian of culture, religious leader, soloist/chorister, philanthropist, a great advocator and activist. Who will be advocating for us as you passed on.

We were all aware of your brief ill-health but supplicating with optimism for your speedy recovery but not knowing that God's plan has been concluded. Well, we all should take solace and try to mimic your footstep in our dealings so that we will be remembered for our good works.

May your Gentle Soul rest in peace as you remain evergreen in our memories. Adieu!

ONYI OKORONKWO

