



Clara Taiwo Harriman
(Nee Edewor)

23rd December 1931 – 18th January 2021

FOREVER LOVED

THE LIFE
OF
CLARA TAIWO HARRIMAN
(NEE EDEWOR)

Clara Taiwo Edewor was born in Eku, Ethiope East local government, Delta state, western Nigeria on 23 December, 1931. Clara was a twin but lost her sister, Kehinde, at birth. Her father, Chief Clark Edewor was a civil servant from a prominent Urhobo Family from Eku. Her mother, Mama Clark was also from Eku. She was a deeply religious woman who led a simple and humble life and Godmother to Clara's niece Juliana Izegbu (nee Edewor).



She spent her early years in Warri and Eastern region of Nigeria where her father was a civil servant. Clara attended Holy Rosary Training College in Uwani, Enugu from January 1949 to December 1950, where she was described by the Principal as "cheerful, pleasant, popular and earnest". She qualified as a teacher in 1950 at the Aba Centre (Eastern Nigeria). It was during this time Clara learnt to speak fluent Igbo.

Clara met Leslie Oritseweyinmi Harriman in Warri when both of them were visiting family members. He was a handsome half English and half Itsekiri young man, who was studying at the Government College, Ibadan, University College (now University of Ibadan).



Leslie, Clara and Leslie's only brother Hope Harriman pictured above

After graduating, she returned to Warri as a teacher before leaving for Lagos to teach. Notwithstanding being from conflicting tribes, Clara and Leslie fell deeply in love and married in Lagos in 1955.



On 10 September, 1956 they welcomed their first son Christopher Oritseweyinmi Harriman.

In 1957, Leslie became Secretary of the Nigerian Commission in London and in 1958 he was appointed the counsellor to the British embassy in Spain by the colonial government. When they were in Spain Leslie encouraged Clara to enrol in a Chartered Secretarial Course in London, which she did for a term, obtaining her intermediate Corporate Secretaries qualification. However, Clara did not complete the course because she could not bear to be away from her husband.

Clara and Leslie moved to Ghana in 1960 as Leslie was appointed Counsellor and acting High Commissioner to Ghana.

On 10 January, 1961 they had their second son Michael. Mike, also known as “Chief Mike” or “Mighty Mike” was born with autism and was not able to speak or take care of himself as a result. Mama shouldered the challenges and demands of caring for a disabled child, from infancy to Mike reaching middle-age, right up until she was not able to do so herself due to her illness. She undertook this task with courage, compassion and with uncompromising love. This was due to her unshakeable faith in God and her acceptance of any challenge thrown before her.

On 6 February, 1963 their third son Anthony Tosan Harriman was born in Ghana. Shortly after, Leslie and Clara went to the UK for a short period, during which time Leslie went to Pembroke College, University of Oxford, England, Imperial Defence College, London and Clara attended Middlesex Higher Secretarial College attaining a First Class in English and Secretarial Duties, whilst taking care of the children.

1965 Leslie was appointed High Commissioner to Uganda and in 1966 the Deputy Permanent Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs, in Lagos, and (concurrently) to Kenya, which led to Clara resigning from her job at the Nigerian Industrial Development Bank and moving to Nairobi with Leslie in 1966.

In 1968 their daughter Josephine, Escoghene (meaning “Gift from God”), Alero Harriman was born.



Mama and her children, Chris, Tony, Mike and Jo

Clara then moved to Paris in 1970 -1975 where Leslie was appointed ambassador to France. Her niece Julianna Izegebu and sister Philo lived with her during her stay in Paris and were incredibly close to Clara and her children.

In 1975-79 Clara moved to New York where Leslie was appointed ambassador to United Nations and was the Chairman of the Anti-Apartheid Committee.

During their time in the diplomatic service, Clara met and entertained dignitaries from all over the world, including Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa who praised her entertainment and language skills because Clara spoke most of the major Nigerian languages. She also met and entertained Presidents Mr Kwame Nkuruma, Jomo Kenyatta, General Yakubu Gowon, General Olusegun Obasanjo, and Valery Giscard d'Estaing. In New York, She met Rosalynn Carter, Kofi Annan, Andrew Young, Mohammed Ali, Harry Belafonte and many more.



Clara and Leslie greeting General Gowon



Clara with Rosalynn Carter



Clara & Leslie with President Jomo Kenyatta

In 1979 Clara and Leslie moved back to Nigeria and settled to enjoy retirement in Apapa, Lagos. Leslie was given the National Honour and awarded the Officer of the Order of the Federal Republic (OFR).

Clara's love for her husband Leslie was infinite. She was with him till the end when he sadly passed away at the age of 65, on 23 August, 1995. She was so glad that he had accepted God as his Almighty Saviour and prayed for him relentlessly throughout his life

with her and thereafter. Her unquestionable faith in God, her endless love and support as a wife and her humble nature, is what enabled them to have such a fulfilled, happy and successful life. They are finally reunited in paradise.



When Leslie died, Clara continued living in Apapa with her beloved son Mike. She had a quiet life, spending time at the Apapa Boat Club, where Leslie and her often spent time with their family and friends. She was greatly respected at her parish The Sacred Heart Church in Apapa which she attended on a regular basis, and was a counsellor who supported many.

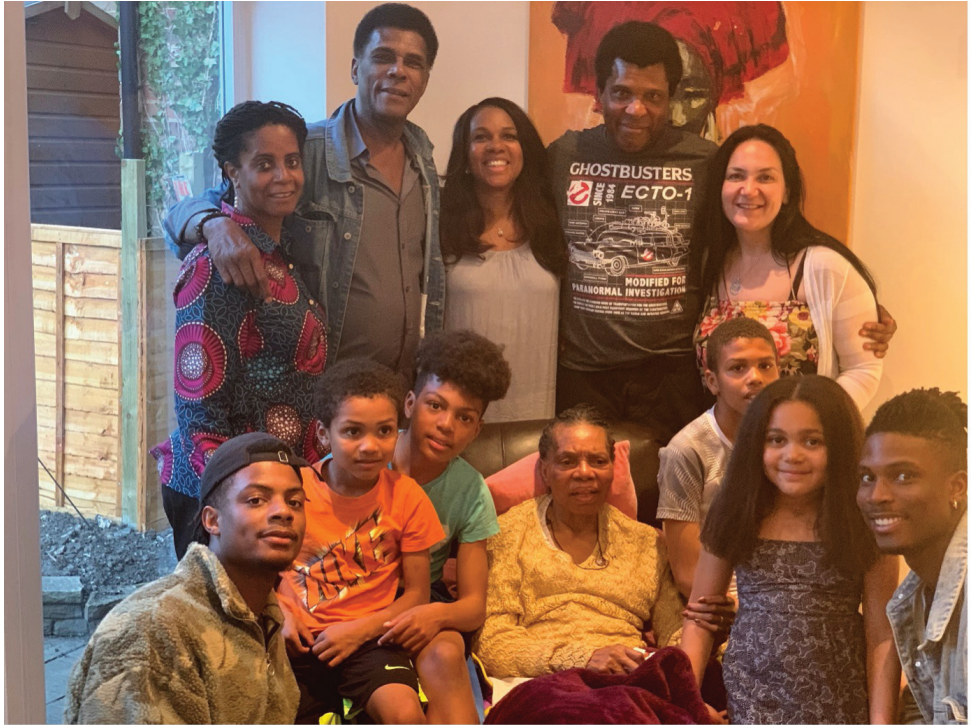
She was incredibly fond of her sister Felicia Mukoro (nee Edewor). They would visit and comfort each other regularly. Felicia tragically died in September 2010 and Clara was devastated. Clara also spent a great deal of time with her niece Julianna who also lived in Apapa and who regarded Clara as her mother and best friend.



Clara with Julianna Izegbu (nee Edewor)

Clara made regular trips to London to visit her daughter, Jo, and in 2013 Clara left Nigeria to live with Jo and her grandsons, Brandon and Andre in Mill Hill, north west London.

Clara spent her final years in London where she created invaluable memories with all her children and grandchildren, who were all privileged to have had such an amazing, loving grandmother.



Clara with her Children, daughters-in-Law and grandchildren

She regularly attended the Sacred Heart Church in Mill Hill, and when she could not attend, she would watch and listen to the mass on a daily basis on television and Father Ako from the Sacred Heart Church would come to the house to give Clara communion.

She was well respected in the community and truly loved by her family and friends, who visited her regularly, in particular: her niece/daughter Florence Itoje (nee Edewor) and her husband Efe Itoje and their children, her close friend Denrele Aubee whom she loved deeply, and of course her sister-in law, Irene Harriman. She welcomed so many into her heart and home, with love, generosity and compassion, which resulted in her being so loved and respected.



Mama with the Itoje family,



Mama with Denrele Aubee and Irene Harriman

Clara passed away peacefully at home with her family by her side, knowing how much she was loved and cherished. She was anointed by Father Ako as part of the last rites. She passed with her rosary in her hands and undoubtedly is now resting with the Lord.



We are blessed to have had her in our lives.
May her soul rest in perfect peace.

ORDER OF SERVICE

During the Entrance Procession

Hymn No. 1 Abide With Me

1. Abide with me, fast falls the eventide; the darkness deepens, Lord, with me abide! When other helpers fail, and comforts flee, help of the helpless, O abide with me.
2. Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day; earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass away; change and decay in all around I see; O thou who changest not, abide with me.
3. I need thy presence every passing hour; what but thy grace can foil the tempter's power? Who like thyself my guide and stay can be? Through cloud and sunshine, O abide with me.
4. Hold thou thy cross before my closing eyes; shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies; heaven's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee: in life, in death, O Lord, abide with me!

Welcome - Fr Ako

Eulogy

Tony Harriman (Son) and Julianna Edewor (Niece/Daughter)

First Reading - Florence Itoje - (Niece/Daughter)

A reading from the Book of Ecclesiastes (3: 1-11)

There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven: a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot, a time to kill and a time to heal, a time to tear down and a time to build, a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance, a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them, a time to embrace and a time to refrain, a time to search and a time to give up, a time to keep and a time to throw away, a time to tear and a time to mend, a time to be silent and a time to speak, a time to love and a time to hate, a time for war and a time for peace. What does the worker gain from his toil? I have seen the burden God has laid on men. He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the hearts of men; yet they cannot fathom what God has done from beginning to end.

Responsorial Psalm

no. 23, Read Version Response - Jeremy Itoje – Grand Nephew

Response: The Lord is my shepherd, there is nothing I shall want.

The Lord is my shepherd, there is nothing I shall want. The Lord's my shepherd, there is nothing I shall want Fresh and green are the pastures where he gives me repose. Near restful waters he leads me to revive my drooping spirit.

Response: The Lord is my shepherd, there is nothing I shall want.

He guides me along the right path; he is true to his name. If I should walk in the valley of darkness no evil would I fear. You are there with your crook and your staff; with these you give me comfort.

Response: The Lord is my shepherd, there is nothing I shall want.

You have prepared a banquet for me in the sight of my foes. My head you have anointed with oil, my cup is overflowing.

Response: The Lord is my shepherd, there is nothing I shall want.

Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me all the days of my life. In the Lord's own house shall I dwell for ever and ever.

Response: The Lord is my shepherd, there is nothing I shall want.

Hymn No 2

Morning Has Broken

1. Morning has broken like the first morning, blackbird has spoken like the first bird. Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning! Praise for them, springing fresh from the Word!
2. Sweet the rain's new fall sunlit from heaven, like the first dewfall on the first grass. Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden, sprung in completeness where his feet pass.

Second Reading

Isabell Itoje – Grandniece

A reading from St. Paul's Second letter to Timothy (4: 6 – 8)

As for me, my life is already being poured away as an offering, and the time has come for me to be gone. I have fought the good fight to the end; I have run the race to the finish; I have kept the faith; all there is to come now, is the crown of righteousness reserved for me, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give to me on that Day; and not only to me but to all those who have longed for his appearing.

Gospel

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John (14: 1–6)

Jesus said to his disciples: “Do not let your hearts be troubled; trust in God still, and trust in me. There are many rooms in my Father’s house. If there were not, I should have told you. I am going now to prepare a place for you, and after I have gone and prepared you a place, I shall return to take you with me; so that where I am you may be too. You know the way to where I am going”. Thomas said, “Lord we do not know where you are going, so how can we know the way?” Jesus said “I am the way the Truth and the Life, no-one can come to the Father except through me.”

Homily – Fr. Ako

Bidding Prayers

Jo Harriman - Daughter

Mama was an incredible woman, friend, aunt, sister, mother and grandmother.

She had a special, loving and caring way which she shared with us in life.

As we grieve her passing, may we remember her many accomplishments, the treasured memories we shared and how she always led by example.

We thank God for her long life and pray that she will continue to guide us in ours.

Lord hear us.

Offertory

Hymn No. 3

All That I Am

1. All that I am, all that I do, all that I'll ever have, I offer now to you. Take and sanctify these gifts for your honour, Lord. Knowing that I love and serve you is enough reward.
2. All that I am, all that I do, all that I'll ever have I offer now to you
3. All that I dream, all that I pray, all that I'll ever make, I give to you today.
4. All that I am, all that I do, all that I'll ever have I offer now to you.

The Eucharistic Prayer

During the distribution of Holy Communion

Hymn No. 4

Make Me A Channel of Your Peace

1. Make me a channel of your peace. Where there is hatred, let me bring your love. Where there is injury, your pardon, Lord. And where there's doubt true faith in you.
2. Make me a channel of your peace, Where there's despair in life, let me bring hope. Where there is darkness, only light, and where there's sadness ever joy.
3. Oh, Master, grant that I may never seek so much to be consoled as to console, to be understood as to understand, to be loved, as to love with all my soul.
4. Make me a channel of your peace, It is in pardoning that we are pardoned, in giving to all that we receive, and dying that we're born to eternal life.

Hymn No. 5

How Great Thou Art

1. O Lord, my God, when I in awesome wonder, consider all the worlds thy hand hast made, I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder, thy power throughout the universe displayed. Then sings my soul, my saviour God to thee, How great thou art, how great thou art (x2)
2. And when I think that God, his Son not sparing, sent him to die, I scarce can take it in that on the cross, my burden gladly bearing, he bled and died to take away my sin.
3. When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation and take me home, what joy shall fill my heart; then I shall bow in humble adoration, and there proclaim; my God how great thou art.

Final Prayer and Committal Liturgy

Hymn No. 6

Amazing Grace

(Before the procession begins)

1. Amazing grace how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me. I once was lost but now I'm 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 believe.

(During the procession)

3. 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. The Lord has promised good to me; his word my hope secures. He will my shield and portion be as long as life endures. 6. Yea, when this flesh and heart shall fail, And mortal life shall cease, I shall possess within the veil, a life of joy and peace.

From the Harriman & Edewor Family

We would like to thank you for attending today and all the kind messages of sympathy we received at this sad time.

Mama was an amazing woman, wife, mother, grandmother, auntie and friend. She loved and enjoyed life.

She was always smiling and her love for her family was infinite.

She taught us so many things, but most importantly the importance of faith in the Lord our God and the promise of eternal life in paradise.

We have no doubt that she is resting in peace and wish to share this poem:

Do not stand at my grave and weep

I am not there. I do not sleep.

I am a thousand winds that blow.

I am the diamond glints on snow.

I am the sunlight on ripened grain.

I am the gentle autumn rain.

When you awaken in the morning's hush

I am the swift uplifting rush

Of quiet birds in circled flight.

I am the soft stars that shine at night.

Do not stand at my grave and cry;

I am not there. I did not die.



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