

*Celebrating the Life of*



*Mrs. Mabel Omowunmi Odesanya*

*(November 7th 1940 - January 31st 2025)*

*Friday 21st February, 2025*

*St Cedd's Becontree @ 1.30 pm*







**Entrance hymn:** My hope is built on nothing less

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.  
On Christ the solid Rock I stand,  
All other ground is sinking sand;  
All other ground is sinking sand.

When darkness veils His lovely face,  
I rest on His unchanging grace.  
In every high and stormy gale,  
My anchor holds within the veil.  
On Christ the solid Rock I stand,  
All other ground is sinking sand;  
All other ground is sinking sand.

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.  
On Christ the solid Rock I stand,  
All other ground is sinking sand;  
All other ground is sinking sand.

When He shall come with trumpet sound,  
Oh may I then in Him be found.  
Dressed in His righteousness alone,  
Faultless to stand before the throne.  
On Christ the solid Rock I stand,  
All other ground is sinking sand;  
All other ground is sinking sand.



## Introduction and Welcome

### Opening Scriptures and minister's opening words

Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.  
Matthew 5:4

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. John 3:16

### Prayers and words of comfort

**Eulogy:** Ayo Odesanya (*Mabel's Eldest Son*)

### Tributes

- Tayo Odesanya (*Mabel's Grand-daughter*)
- Church Member
- Femi (Eeema) Odesanya (*Mabel's Youngest Son*)

**First Reading:** Psalm 34

Dupé Oburoh (*Mabel's Daughter*)

1 I will bless the LORD at all times: his  
praise *shall* continually *be* in my mouth.

2 My soul shall make her boast in the LORD: the humble shall  
hear *thereof*; and be glad.

3 O magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt his name  
together.

4 I sought the LORD, and he heard me, and delivered me from all my fears.

5 They looked unto him, and were lightened: and their faces were not ashamed.

6 This poor man cried, and the LORD heard *him*, and saved him out of all his troubles.

7 The angel of the LORD encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them.

8 O taste and see that the LORD *is* good: blessed *is* the man *that* trusteth in him.

9 O fear the LORD, ye his saints: for *there is* no want to them that fear him.

10 The young lions do lack, and suffer hunger: but they that seek the LORD shall not want any good *thing*.

11 Come, ye children, hearken unto me: I will teach you the fear of the LORD.

12 What man *is he that* desireth life, *and* loveth *many* days, that he may see good?

13 Keep thy tongue from evil, and thy lips from speaking guile.

14 Depart from evil, and do good; seek peace, and pursue it.

15 The eyes of the LORD *are* upon the righteous, and his ears *are open* unto their cry.

16 The face of the LORD *is* against them that do evil, to cut off the remembrance of them from the earth.

17 *The righteous* cry, and the LORD heareth, and delivereth them out of all their troubles.

18 The LORD *is* nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit.

19 Many *are* the afflictions of the righteous: but the LORD delivereth him out of them all.

20 He keepeth all his bones: not one of them is broken.

21 Evil shall slay the wicked: and they that hate the righteous shall be desolate.

22 The LORD redeemeth the soul of his servants: and none of them that trust in him shall be desolate.

**2nd Hymn:** And can it be that I should gain

And can it be that I should gain  
An interest in the Savior's blood?  
Died He for me, who caused His pain  
For me, who Him to death pursued?  
Amazing love! How can it be,  
That Thou, my God, shouldst die for me?  
Amazing love! How can it be,  
That Thou, my God, shouldst die for me?

'Tis mystery all: th'Immortal dies:  
Who can explore His strange design?  
In vain the firstborn seraph tries  
To sound the depths of love divine.  
'Tis mercy all! Let earth adore,  
Let angel minds inquire no more.  
'Tis mercy all! Let earth adore,  
Let angel minds inquire no more.

No condemnation now I dread;  
Jesus, and all in Him, is mine;  
Alive in Him, my living Head,  
And clothe in righteousness divine,  
Bold I approach th'eternal throne,  
And claim the crown, through Christ my own  
Bold I approach th'eternal throne  
And claim the crown, through Christ my own



**Second Reading: John 14:1-9**

Tokunbo & Dayo Odesanya (Mabel's Sons)

Jesus Comforts His Disciples

14 “Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. 2 My Father’s house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. 4 You know the way to the place where I am going.”

Jesus the Way to the Father

5 Thomas said to him, “Lord, we don’t know where you are going, so how can we know the way?” 6 Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. 7 If you really know me, you will know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him.” 8 Philip said, “Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us.” 9 Jesus answered: “Don’t you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’?”

**Sermon by Revd Unesu Audrey Chindabata**

**3rd Song: 'Olòrun t'oda awọn oke ìgbaani'**  
Minister Wole Awolola





## Prayers for the bereaved family

### The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come;  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation;  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
the power and the glory,  
for ever and ever.  
Amen.

### Commendation and Farewell

Blessed Assurance Jesus is mine  
Praise & Worship Team only







**Final Hymn:** Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!

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.  
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.

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

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.  
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.





**At the graveside**

Rev Unesu & Revd Shade Barnes

**The Committal**

**Reading from 1 Thessalonians 4.13-18 Read by Revd Unesu**

The Coming of the Lord

13 But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. 14 For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. 15 For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. 16 For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever. 18 Therefore encourage one another with these words.

**Blessing of the grave and burial**

**Song:** Nigerian Praise Medley

**The Dismissal**

**Acknowledgements:**

(Invite to refreshments back at St. Cedd's)

**Cemetery:** Rippleside Cemetery, Ripple Road, Barking, UK



## TRIBUTES FROM FAMILY AND FRIENDS



### A special tribute to my dearly departed younger sister:

My beloved Sister Omowunmi “Ye’romo”. I will so miss her! Words alone are never enough to convey all the things we want to say at these sad times and especially for a life like hers, a long life, well lived and very fulfilled.

I called her Ye’romo because she was always so good with children, mentoring them, guiding them. Always so knowledgeable, full of wisdom and wise counsel, caring and

nurturing children from near and far. A nickname that reflects your Earth mother status, and in recognition of the countless children, mine included, that you have tended and brought up over the years. To them all, you are simply their beloved Auntie Mabel or Mummy. I also call her by her pet Ijebu name, “**Lado Oyewosile, Oyekosita**” (La-do, the bringer of money into the home, the remover of stones to the outside). She called me simply “**Sis-ta**”. She was my confidant, my bestie. I will miss her so dearly...

I’ve known Mabel for 84 years. That is since I was 3 years old, when she was born at Mercy Street Hospital Lagos. We lived at Number 54 Ofin, now Oke Arin, in Lagos with our mum, the late Mrs Emily Runsewe Ladejobi.

I remember our home, a Methodist Church Vicarage in Lagos. I vividly remember one of my aunties taking me by the hand to Mercy Street Hospital to meet my new baby sister. I remember that day like yesterday, it’s still fresh in my memory, seeing her as a baby for the first time. The year was 1940, during the 2nd World War. We grew up together, we moved together, we lived together, we had children together, we did everything together. In fact, I often wondered why we were not twins. I will also add that Mabel is a warrior, maybe because the year she was born our

Dad was in absentia as he was deployed to the **2nd World War as a Methodist Clergy Padre in the Royal West African Army.**

Whenever she greeted me she would always kneel on the ground in accordance with our tradition when greeting someone older. And I would always say no no no Ye'romo, please get up, get up, we are living in the modern age, so no more kneeling please. But that's how deeply respectful she was. We argued, we had our differences, but the love was always greater and it covereth all. We always soon came back together again, laughing and joking and sharing all our happy memories, and our childhood, like how when we went to school, barefooted, carrying our wooden boxes on our heads, there were no backpacks back then!

Mabel had many challenges in life, not least her health later in adult life, but with her customary fortitude and strength of character, and her deep Christian faith, she tackled everything with grace, perseverance, positivity and good humour. In recent years when beginning to tidy up my estate, to put my own affairs in order, I had nominated her to distribute all my 'junk' gathered over the years, all the mundane earthly things of this world, all the things that are not so important. We bring nothing to this world, and we take nothing with us. I had nominated Mabel to be the one to take care of some of my belongings and help distribute them to people who would make good use of them. I never expected that she was going to pass on into God's glory before me. May God forgive us for being so naïve. Even though we read it in the Bible, we still do not take heed that all this materialism is not important. Our late mum, Emily, used to say we gather all these things but we don't know who is going to take them after we are gone. I also call Mabel "Iya Ikenne" because she's a replica of my late grandmother, my father's mum. Because, like our grandmother, Mabel too was an Ikenne agent. A devoted proud Ikenne girl. I could just go on and on with all her memories. But above all, what I'm saying is, Lord, we thank you for her life and all her legacy. To God be the glory for her good memories, her good legacy, her mentoring, her accommodating

spirit into her home with her husband, late Engr Opeoluwa Odesanya. We will never forget her and we give thanks to God for her life.

May her legacy live on for eternity. I know she has fought a good fight of faith, and there is a crown of righteousness waiting for her because she did her best, she put in her best, she taught her best, even up to her last days. All I can say is that God will now give her eternal rest, in Jesus name I pray, Amen!

Thank you Jesus for her life and her legacy embodied in her children and grandchildren, thank you Lord. She will always be remembered by all those who knew her, all those who called her mummy, all who she nurtured, both young and old, and her legacy, I'm sure, will continue to live in our hearts.

I will miss you beyond words but I take comfort knowing you are finally at peace. And we are not like them that have no hope because we have the hope of resurrection and eternal life as Christians, as believers in Jesus. Death is not the end, we live on. The Bible tells us and the word cannot be broken, it guides us, it is our compass, its our manual, it is the word of God, and God cannot lie, Amen

Rest well eternally as you rejoin your loving husband, together in God's presence. "E ne jo o" until we meet again.

Margaret Omalara Jinadu, your ever-loving 'Sista'

*Mrs Margaret Omolara Jinadu aka "Sista", London U.K.*



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**To a special sister, "Sisi-mi."**

My Sister had high integrity. She was my confidant and a counsellor, full of love, kindness, generosity and self-denial. Those special memories of you will always bring a smile. If only I could have you back for just a while, then we could sit and talk again just as we use to do, You always meant so very much and always will too. The fact that you are no more here will always cause me pain which I have already, hmmmm!

But you are forever in my heart until we meet again. O daaaro ooo, A o pade lese Jesu, nibiti a ko ni ya ara wa, A o ri ara wa, A o yo mo rawa, Jesu ni yio se

alaga wa, e sun re sisi mi, Amin! *Mrs Oluyemi Talabi, Lagos, Nigeria*



## TRIBUTE TO MY SENIOR SISTER

" Give thanks in all circumstances "  
1Thessalonians 5 : 18

“**Sisi mi**”, as I fondly called her lived a fulfilled life. She was generous & kind to people and always ready to assist where necessary.

A caring mother to many children.

An eloquent teacher and a good listener.

She believed only in what she was convinced of.

She could endure in any situation she finds herself.

During her lifetime, she would reach out to friends & relatives no matter the distance both home and abroad. She spent most of her time learning new things. She loved adventure and she was very accommodating and always wanting people around her.

The family would be comforted that she lived to a ripe old age.

We pray that God will forgive her mistakes and grant her gentle soul eternal rest.

*Mrs. Sola Obitayo, Lagos, Nigeria.*



The Sweet Sisters

## COUSINS



*Pastor Abby Olufeyinmi*



*Tunde Jinadu*

On behalf of **the Jinadu family**, it is with a very heavy heart that we write these words to honour our dear Aunty Mabel. You were a constant presence in our lives from the very start, the Yang to our Mum's Ying. Your warm chuckle, your firm yet fair nature, and your unwavering, loving spirit will forever be remembered.

You always demanded the best from us, yet your love was gentle and sweet, guiding us with care and kindness. We will deeply miss your voice and the wise, comforting tone of your advice.

The African proverb says it takes a village to raise a child. You epitomised the best type of village - bountiful, welcoming, full of love and fun, blessed with wisdom. A nurturing village, always there to offer advice, to support and guide and mixed with the occasional and appropriate amount of discipline when required...as only a teacher can! You were a force of nature, full of life, full of energy, always busying about, up to some "corny-corny" or other and always with that mischievous heartwarming smile that only you could muster. You even had a secret code when it was time to collect pocket money dues from us all - "o ya o, e je ki'n ri 'envelope' o".

O how we laughed, and duly paid up! The very least we could do!!

Thank you for everything—for always being there, for the love you shared, and for the support you gave. For the laughter and the shoulder to cry on, our 2<sup>nd</sup> mum. You have become a part of our dreams and will remain forever embedded in our hearts. Wishing you a peaceful journey home. Your Jinadu Niece & Nephews:

*Abby (Pastor), Tunde (TJ), Fola (Officer), Tunji (Bobo) & Tola - UK, Spain,  
USA*



*Toyin Erinle*

*Fola Talabi*

.....  
**Mama Yeromo - Mummy** is my mum, she makes sure we know the meaning of a mother in our lives.

You came, saw, fought and conquered triumphantly— blessed be the name of the Lord.

You are dedicated, dutiful, a family cord and a cheerful giver. You left to be with the Lord Jesus because God has divine arrangements upon your life.

Glory be to the Lord, may your soul rest in peace— sleep on Mama Yeromo.

*Fola Talabi, Lagos, Nigeria*



**My Auntie Omowunmi**

Words would fail me to actually describe how I feel but, I take solace in the fact that you have gone to a better place where there's no sorrow, pain and tears. You are indeed a kind- hearted person with myriad of good works seeking to putting a smile on the faces of those who crossed your path. I am inspired by your virtuous legacies.

Adieu Mama Mabel Omowunmi Odesanya till we meet to part no more on the Resurrection morning.

*Funke & Emmanuel Onokpasa, Lagos Nigeria*



*Bisi Solaja Okeleye. Minnesota, U.S.A.*

I am a **Niece** to Daddy Ope Odesanya.

This time, I don't even know what to write 'cos my favorite Uncle and Auntie are gone to sleep in the bosom of our Lord Jesus Christ where there is no more sorrow or pain. Mummy, it is unfortunate that I didn't get to talk to you after you came back from Nigeria. Those Long Talks and Advices!

This statement resonates with me anytime I talk or think about you **"Ife ki se Owo nikan, bi ko se Ajo."** Love is not about Money only but how Caring a person is which supersede all the Money in the world. IT IS TRUE. Love you Mummy. Miss you. E SUN RE O. On behalf of my Family and Siblings.



The news of the demise of our **Auntie**, hit us like a thunderbolt. Our dear indefatigable, energetic, unassuming, committed, loving, caring and highly supportive Wife, Mother and Aunt will always be remembered for her great achievements in the area of **prudent management of resources** and true love in **preserving family heritage**. She started by joining hand with her Senior Sister, Mrs Molara Jinadu in rebuilding their Grandmother's house at Itun Godo, Ikenne. At the time her husband was in Britain for Medical attention, she came home to

rebuild, renovate and refurbished family properties in Nigeria. She was doing all these to encourage her various relations, children and grandchildren to always identify with their **ROOTS**. She was a highly accommodating wife to our family because many of

her husband's nephews and nieces lived with her family at various times in Lagos and Abeokuta with great love. She was very generous to all and sundry. She was the initiator and founder of "The Old People Gathering Centre" in Ikenne sustaining the organization till date. She supported her husband's Ministry by donating generously to the development of **All Saints Anglican Church, Ikenne** where he was the Vicar for ten years. She will always be at the top of my heart for many, many years for her generosity and show of love to me and my family right from the time of my Secondary and Higher Education days. She always bought shirts and wristwatches for me and also assisted me financially. She singlehandedly bought and sewed the curtain blinds for my flat in Ketu in 1978. She fully supported her husband in taking full responsibility for my wedding. She supported me for my children's wedding. My amiable dearest Auntie, you have finished well the race, you have kept the faith undiluted; occupy your throne, wear your crown of Glory and rest in peace with your Saviour, Jesus Christ.

*Sir Jide Odesanya, KJW*

*For: Odesanya Dynasty of Jomu, Idotun, Ikenne Remo, Nigeria.*



**Tribute: Mrs Omowumi Odesanya**

To the world she was known by her name but to me, she was known as "Iya mi," my teacher and senior. You were an embodiment of humility, devotion, hard work, and unwavering principles. Today with a heavy heart, I pay tribute to the woman who shaped my married life. I am full with gratitude for every moment we shared, every lesson she imparted and every memory we created together. I remember the day I had to turn Amala (yam flour) for 25 guests who came for a Church meeting, it was not easy. She came in from England unexpectedly, went to the kitchen, finished the job and helped with the serving. To me, it was mind

blowing and an uncommon gesture/favor in the Yoruba tradition for the Senior to serve the junior. You thought me management and how to improvise. **Iyalemi, esegan ma.** I cannot thank you enough for all I learnt from that relationship. You are an everlasting treasure in my heart. I loved you but Jesus loves you more. E sun re o, sun re o in the bosom of Jesus Christ.

*Lady Bolanle Odesanya, Lagos, Nigeria.*

## FAMILY & FRIENDS



Wow! It still feels like a dream, that **Mum** is no longer with us, but we know God is faithful. I met my wonderful Mum around six years ago but we quickly took to each other, knowing Mum she had a very open and sincere heart to everyone and before long it felt I had known her all my life. Mum had an amazing sense of humour, every time I visited her she'll tell me stories and I will ask questions and each time she always left me in stitches. I always looked forward to visiting her and often came over unannounced but she always had an open welcoming heart.

Mum was witty, savvy and an entrepreneur, she embraced life and lived to the fullness in serving God and people. Our Mum had such an appreciative heart and was so loved, which was so true because she sowed love into people and indeed she reaped love. I am so grateful to God for being a part of Mum's life learning from her love, sincerity, generosity and strength. Mum, thank you for all you did, Yes, we miss you dearly but we know that you're resting in the bosom of our Lord Jesus and Saviour, goodnight till we meet to part no more. ***Olabomi Ogunkunle, London, U.K.***



I met **Mama and Daddy** when they moved to our Seniors Building in Dagenham. One woman that we talked together introduced her to me. All of us are Nigerians and since then, we were just like sisters. Mama will come to visit me in my apartment and I will go to visit them in their apartment, we were all so close. She called me "**Mama Pupa**" and some people didn't even know my real name. When I told her about the knitting Clubs I go to, she followed me there and she liked it. All the people in the Clubs love her because she always makes them happy and she is funny. They always miss her when she travels abroad or not around. The same thing with my family, they will keep asking me where she is. Mama was kind and she was chosen as one of the

executives in our Building. She always makes people happy and helps to settle any misunderstandings. I miss her. May her soul rest in peace. Mama, Sun re o. From your friend "Mama pupa" ***Mrs Eunice Adegboyega (Mama Pupa), London, U.K.***



**Grandma Mabel, Mummy**, was one of the strongest, smartest, kindest, and most selfless woman that I know to have graced this Earth. She came into my life more than 20 years ago when I became a struggling mother with 2 very young children, and from the onset, we developed an everlasting and unbreakable bond. She became that constant, strong pillar in helping me to raise my children. She instilled love and discipline in me and my children and helped us develop a greater connection with God. She was also a mother and grandmother to many others in Dagenham. She several times took in single parents with children when they became homeless, even though she was only residing in a one-bedroom apartment. I admired her love for family, strong will, and, above all, her faith in God, which was strong to the end. She was a very **dedicated Evangelist** who was not afraid to tell you off for missing church on Sundays.

Grandma Mabel, as you were popularly known within your Sierra Leonean, Ghanaian, and Cameroonian families, etc. You were very much loved, just like you loved us. Your passing has left a void in our lives that will be hard to fill. I am grateful to God for the opportunity that He gave me and my children to have crossed paths with you.

I will always love you and miss you dearly, Mummy.  
May God grant you eternal rest till we meet again! Loads of love  
*Hawa Oweh, London U.K.*

### Barnmead Knitting Club, Dagenham, U.K.





**Tribute to my Mother-in-Law.**

It is hard to imagine that you are truly gone. So sudden! All that is left are memories of the times we shared with you. Memories of not only time, but of the things you had done for me - the knitted scarf, vest, and the little blanket that is my daily headrest while watching television. When I think of the time invested in doing this, it shows a symbol of your love, care and giving nature. I remember the little things you say like "Jonjolo" (malt drink)

you always offer me when I visit with you. You have always fascinated me with your can-do attitude, always willing to learn and to evolve with the times and technology around you. I remember the pet name you have for Ama, you call her "Guess what??" I am still trying to figure out where that came from.

I remember you coming all by yourself to my niece, Toju's wedding. You are so selfless in giving of yourself. Your love and appreciation for family and what it represents traditionally is there to be seen - Family first. Even the extended family is family for you. I remember your loving care that you invested in ensuring the house in Ikenne was kept well. I was amazed when I discovered you had Solar light installed outside the building. Mummy, ever current with the times. You are an inspiration to all of us. Age was never an excuse for you accomplishing your goals. It's been a life learning experience knowing you and sharing family time with you.

You have run the race, you have fought the good fight, you have finished the race, you have kept the faith. Now there is in store for you the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to you. Eternity will be kind to you.

So, this is not goodbye, it is "till we meet again".

*Jolome Oburoh, Switzerland; Ruth Oburoh, UK; Amaju Oburoh, UK*



.....  
**My Mother-in-Law**

Thank you Mum for the love you shared, the care you gave, and the family you nurtured.

Your legacy continues on in us. We miss you.

*JungHee Lee Odesanya,  
Toronto, Canada*  
.....



## GRAND-CHILDREN



할머니, 사랑해요! I Love you, grandma!  
*Tobi Lee Odesanya, Toronto, Canada.*

*Tayo & Deji Odesanya, London, U.K.*

“If you know **Our grandma** then you know she was never shy to speak her mind. In fact, she would **see it, say it and sort it**, long before the times of TFL. For as long as I have known her she has spoken her mind and stood for what she believed in. Grandma was a strong woman sustained by the **grace of God**. It was her resilience and strength that made her cancer-conqueror for over 4 decades.

She was a studious woman and had so much wisdom to share. I loved learning about our heritage, language and history from her. She was a teacher by profession and when I recently told her that I also became a teacher she was very proud and happy that I had stopped galavanting as a freelancer. Grandma too was a galavanter of sorts. Grandma never sat idly. She never missed an opportunity to go to Nigeria, nor would she miss an opportunity to **extended her stay... and then extend her extended stay**. I had looked forward to the opportunity for us to create new memories, but our time together was cut short. I think it can be easy to forget about the prospect of death when it comes to our loved ones. Especially loved ones who are known to be consistent overcomers like Grandma. For us, this serves as a reminder that **tomorrow is not promised and to cherish and love each other while we have breath**. Grandma has taken a trip to her final resting place, a better resting place. For that, let us all be happy as her soul now rests in eternal peace.” *Tayo Odesanya, London, U.K.*

**Grandma Mabel**, Your impact on people deserves more than words and it's hard to visualise you without the huge smile you always had on your face. Your strength through great times and difficult times displayed your independence. Old age knew you but you didn't know old age as you were filled with youth. I'll miss your presence but you'll always remain in our hearts. Love you dearly. *Ruth Oburoh, London, U.K.*

**Grandma**, Thinking of you inspires me to embrace people with open arms just as they are. You're a nurturing soul ready to care for others by showing up and leaving them with smiles on their faces. Though you are no longer with us, you still left people with a smile despite their tears and memories of you shine through the sadness and grief. No more **"Grandma guess what?"** but we will have the biggest of **"Guess what's?"** as I sit by your feet just as I did before and we can talk the eternity away. So, this is not a goodbye but a **"See you later"**. *Amaju Oburoh, London, U.K.*

## THE CHILDREN

### A Tribute to Mum

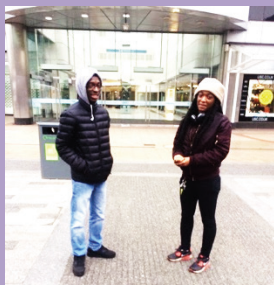
Mum, you were the heart of our family—the one who held us together with your kindness, wisdom, and unwavering love. You gave so much of yourself, always putting others first, always making sure we felt safe, supported, and cherished.

To me, you were not just my mother but **my guide, my comfort, and my greatest teacher**. Your strength and warmth shaped me into the person I am today, and I will forever be grateful for the love you poured into our lives.

To your grandchildren, you were more than a Grandma, you became their biggest cheerleader, their storyteller, and their safe place. You filled their lives with laughter, hugs, and countless special moments they will carry with them always.

We miss you beyond words, but your love will never leave us. It lives on in our hearts, in the lessons you taught us, and in the kindness we share with others—just as you always did. Rest in peace Mum.

*Ayo Odesanya, London, U.K.*





I went numb when I was notified of your passing as I was halfway to Geneva airport to catch my flight to visit you. It suddenly dawned on me that I will not get to see you again on this side of the world. My heart grieves at the loss of you but I know you fought for us. Also, God did allow you to make it to Friday as I had prayed for, and as you nodded in expectation of me. So, for that, I remain grateful and comforted.

Mum, you demonstrated **unconditional love** for me through thick and thin, thank you! I will miss all your witty jokes, smart rebuttals, calling me **“Ropopo, e rora jeun oh!”** (**Fatty-pants, eat less**) and endless prayers of encouragement and hope for me and my future. I will miss our little gossips that I start with **“Don’t tell anyone”** and you reply **“Off course not, I don’t want to sabotage getting more jist from you”** but I always knew you immediately downloaded it to your **bestie** older **“Sista”** (Aunty Jinadu) and then swear her to secrecy

We look alike yet we’re very different in personality but we found our own unique ways to get along wonderfully in **Love, Joy & Peace, Glory to God**. I was always in awe of how you would think, strategize, plan projects and maintain your contacts, medical appointments and financial accuracies written on endless little pieces of paper or envelopes and scattered all around you in an **“Organized Mess!”** You never gave up and you never stopped trying. You were a strong woman of faith, discipline, hope, strength, selflessness and resilience, fighting every challenge that came your way until the very end. And your famous response to everything... **“Oluwa lo se”**. (God did it.)

Thank you for taking care of our Dad, I have learnt so much from both of you that I will treasure for life. You were not just a believer in Christ Jesus, but you also had the fear of God which governed your choices in order to please Him. Now you have been ushered in to eternity, you’ve gone to **Glorify the Name of the Lord forever**.

Much love Mum. You were truly a **“Mother”**  
Rest in peace until we meet again at the resurrection!

**Modupe (Dupé) Oburoh, Switzerland.**





MY TRIBUTE

Mom, you're a Mother whose love knew no end,  
With a heart that would always extend.  
You worked day and night to make everything right,  
Your kindness and strength will ever transcend.  
Your hands held us close, so full of grace, Your smile lit up our every dark place.  
You gave without measure, A life full of treasure,  
Your love we'll forever embrace. Amen!  
*Tokunbo (Teekay) Odesanya, London U.K.*





"Life does not come with a manual...  
And so, we are grateful for Mothers.  
Thank you Mum  
For making me who I am today"

Rest in peace.  
*Dayo Odesanya, Toronto, Canada.*





*Femi (Eeema) Odesanya, Cabo, Mexico.*

**\*\*Message from Eeema\*\***

Mum, you are a true inspiration.

As your **lastborn**, I have witnessed your kindness and love firsthand, raising other children as if they were your own.

I will deeply miss our long conversations about music and politics.

Thank you for raising me with so much love.

I will always be the “**baby of the family**”.

Rest well, Mum.

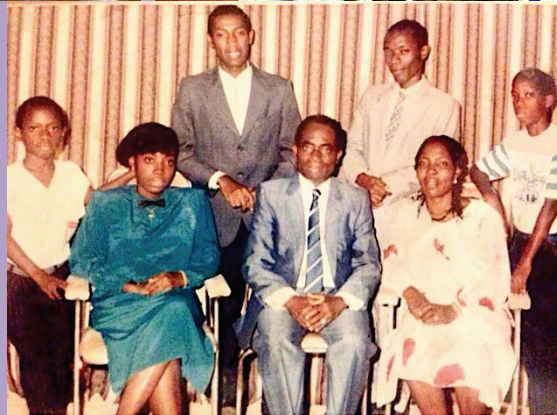
Now, that’s my **Mum** in her truest self...

Unbothered, Easy, Down-to-earth,

Chilling and enjoying a **cool can of water**

in her home in Ikenne, Nigeria.





## EULOGY

Born on November 7th, 1940 Mabel Omowunmi (Oluwole) Odesanya was the 2nd daughter of Late Rev. Mathew Oluwole Runsewe of Olowogbowo Methodist Church, Lagos and Late Emily Abimbola Awofodu a Domestic Science Teacher from Ilishan, Remo, Ogun State.

Mabel's family lived in a manse (Vicarage) in Lagos and she was born while her Dad served in World War II and her older Sister, Mrs. Margret Jinadu was 3-yrs old.

Mabel attended Ereko Methodist School, Lagos and Shagamu Girls College for her Primary, Secondary and Teachers Training Education. For continued education, she attended Nottingham University as well as Westminster College in the United Kingdom.

Growing up, Mabel had a very good sense of humour and she could also talk your ear off! In recent years, her Sister would pretend to switch off the phone but Mabel would still be talking away.

Mabel was very intelligent and loved to read, she believed in continuous learning. She was also a risk-taker, with a sense of adventure. She loved to visit Ikenne where she ended up meeting and eventually married her Late husband Engr. Emmanuel Opeoluwa Odesanya. They relocated to the U.K. shortly after and had 5 children over the years (4 Boys and 1 daughter).

Mabel was an old school home girl, very rugged, hardworking and persistent that sometimes her mother wondered if she should have been born a boy; she just never gave up on anything she sets her heart to do.

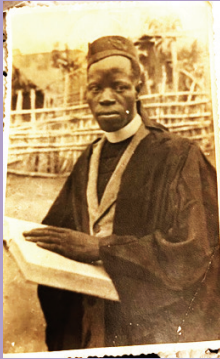
Mabel was a loving matriarch whose warmth, wisdom, and kindness touched the lives of all who knew her, mostly children. She dedicated her life to her family, serving as a nurturing and devoted mother and grandmother, always putting her loved ones first. Mabel lived a life marked by love, generosity, and an unerring zest for life. Mabel was a silent fighter and a hero to many households.

Mabel instilled the Christian belief and an outstanding outlook on life in her children and in the many lives she touched. She will be profoundly missed, but her memory will prevail within the hearts of all those whose lives she touched.

**We thank God for Mabel's life, may she Rest in Peace.**







Grand-Pa



Granny



Mum



Dad & Mum

## To God be the Glory

*The entire Odesanya family and extended families would like to thank you all for being here to celebrate and honour the wonderful life of*

***Mrs. Mabel Omowunmi Odesanya (Nee: Runsewe)***

*God bless you all for your love, kindness, prayers, well-wishes and support. The sympathy that you have shown us during this time is very much appreciated.*

*May her gentle soul rest in perfect peace, Amen!*

*You are warmly invited to join us for a Celebration of Life reception  
from 4:00pm at*

***St. Cedd's Becontree, Dagenham.***