



George Etsenamhe Onekhena

July 31, 1956 - January 4, 2022

George Etsenamhe Onekhena, 65, passed away on Tuesday January 4, 2022 at home. He was born in Zaria, Nigeria to the late Peter and Theresa Onekhena.

Mr. Onekhena was passionate about the accounting and insurance industries, and corporate strategy. He served 30+ years pushing for development, innovation and integrity in the financial services sector. After serving in multiple leading roles in the industry he retired as the Deputy Commissioner of Finance and Administration of the National Insurance Commission (NAICOM).

He was well known and loved by friends, family, and colleagues for his humor, diligence, generosity, courage, wisdom and integrity. His true passion and life mission as he told it was people. He believed in meeting people where they were irregardless of circumstance, creed or background and helping provide them the tools for success in all fields of human endeavor.

Above all he was a loving husband, father, son, brother, friend and mentor to many.

He is survived by his wife, son, daughter, four sisters, two brothers as well as so many unofficially adopted children.

The family asks that you join them in celebration of the light he shown and the hearts he touched.

Services will be held at 10:00 am on Saturday, February 5, 2022 at Cavin-Cook Funeral Home, 494 E. Plaza Drive, Mooresville, the service will also be available via live stream.

For those who are unable to attend the service, you may go to the following link for the live stream <https://view.oneroomstreaming.com/authorise.php?k=1643168846162368>

In respect for the family and CDC protocols, we ask that all in attendance wear mask or face coverings.

Cemetery Details

Cavin-Cook FH & Crematory

494 E. Plaza Drive
Mooresville, NC 28115

Previous Events

Memorial Service

FEB 5. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Cavin-Cook Funeral Home
494 E. Plaza Drive
Mooresville, NC 28115

Tribute Wall



“ *Cavin-Cook Funeral Home & Crematory created a Webcast in memory of George Etsenamhe Onekhena*



Cavin-Cook Funeral Home & Crematory - January 25, 2022 at 05:48 PM

“ Tribute To A Great Man of Valour : Late MR. George Onekhena

It is with deep sorrow that I write this tribute on one of amiable, peaceful and great man that ever lived, George Emekhena, who recently passed unto the great beyond!

The painful demise of Mr. George has actually left me very confused, but i have the sublime faith that God Knows best why he had to be recalled home at the prime of his life!

George feared and loved God and man with passion. While alive, he inspired me with his unparalleled faith in God trusting Him, even when it appeared all hope was lost concerning his health status before the Lord showed up in due season and compensated him with healing, to the shame of the devil!

He was a great man of humility and a professional to the core, always impacting others; virtues that made him to be well respected and esteemed among Superiors, team members and subordinates alike! A great man, full of respect for constituted authority and love for all, and by extension to all around him. He was also a blessing to many souls he crossed paths with, ever showing overwhelming love, thus fulfilling the golden rule of God.

What else can I then say than to pray for divine comfort for the wife, children and the entire family and friends he left behind. The grace to bear the irreparable loss, God Will grants us all!

George left us with memories that can never be erased ! Rest on in the bosom of your maker!

Surely, JESUS loves you best, George

Courtesy: Dr. Mrs Olubunmi Siyanbola

“ Ever since I heard of Uncle George's death and rushing to call him just one more time, I seemed to have lived in the illusion that it was some fiction until this moment. Painfully, it turned out to be true and now all we have left in my family of him are pleasant and beautiful memories.

A Father to my family, mentor, coach and everything that represented love, care, concern and support, such he was to us. When I take a 360 degree look at my life and family his impact encircles us. Way more painful was breaking the news to Gift and Praise. Up until last December they would get back from school requesting I call Uncle George on whatsapp video call so they could show him the paintings they made at school or perhaps even report me to him while excusing Esohe (My wife). Even from a distance he would take them on a virtual tour either to a shopping mall or Disney land and these were invaluable moments for them.

To Uncle George, non was too small or too big to extend a hand of care for, and indeed he was all too ever willing to help in any way that could support ones growth in every positive respect.

Over the years I have known him, and having the privilege of being so close to his Family, many of the values I cherish and hold so true and dearly today, were as a result of his impact in my life and Family. Result based Christianity, Faith in action, Hard work, sacrifice, integrity, humanity, Charity, frugality, quest for knowledge, sensitivity to others, giving where it mattered most, ensuring that material items with potential benefits to others weren't lying idle, welfare beyond words, he epitomized these ideals and many more. Today, I find myself mirroring my steps and actions in life guided by these values unconsciously, because of his influence on me and my family.

Uncle George was a living expression of a blessing in motion, ever smiling, always happy and always desirous of spreading this joy and good vibes to as many that crossed his path and even to those he crossed their path. Even more surprising were many people in my network he impacted who never met him in person. Many times he would give me things be it books or valuable items and admonish me not to Keep them if I didn't need them, but rather look for people within my circles who needed such items and give to them. For Uncle George, value was in usage and meeting needs where it really mattered.

In the depth of this painful loss, I am strengthened by my faith in Christ Jesus, and I dwell in the assurance that God loves him more and even his transition to greater glory is for God's glory.

Remain eternally blessed and
rest In perfect peace Uncle George,
Amen

FI

“ Mercy and the Onekhena family, please accept our deepest condolences. May God comfort you and may the soul of the departed rest in perfect peace.

Felix & Adeola Ijigade

Felix Ijigade - February 05, 2022 at 12:46 PM

MR

“ Please accept our deepest condolences for the Onekhena family at this time. Our prayers are with you and may God grant you peace and comfort.

Joseph & Temi Alexander

michael roberts - February 05, 2022 at 12:04 PM

MR

“ There are few Presidents and Army Generals that had lived and positively affected the lives of some of their citizens as much and as widely as you effectively and positively affected the lives of EVERYONE you lived with, came across in your life.

George would actively seek you out to help you in areas you never thought you needed help, until he offered it to you.

Good night, George.

SaniGarba 🇳🇮

SGC

Sani Garba Consultin

michael roberts - February 05, 2022 at 12:04 PM

“ Adieu my Mentor, big brother and friend, Mr. Onekhena.

I left this so late because I did not want to foreclose on our relationship so early but now I must as your remains signs off this mortal side of eternity today.

So much have been said about your Selflessness, passion, integrity, tirelessness in pushing others to succeed and most importantly your faith in The Lord Jesus Christ that I can't put it better.

I started the journey with you from your days in Lion of Africa Insurance just a stone throw from my office then UAIB at Knight Frank Building. Since then you maintained an unbroken connection with my organisations UAIB and currently JGIB, my family, my church and myself. You took upon yourself to make sure I succeeded. You provided books, strategy materials, free webinars for my staff and I, adopted anyone that I was related to and you got to know. Took my fledging organisation as your project. Pledged to always get my financials right pro bono. Promised to get my auditing process up to international standards. Whenever you called, yes you called me out all the time to check on my deliverables.

However, the curtains were drawn for you on that fateful day with many assignments to help me steady the boat of my organisation including the Strategy Retreat left undone. But they will be done. Eventhough we did not have the promised call, I will hold your last prayer for me and my family on 03/01/22 close to my heart.

Mr Onekhena, my family, organisation and myself will miss all you were and all you represent, but I am comforted that you are taking the well deserved rest which you just refused to indulge in on this side of eternity. Please rest in the bossom of our Lord Jesus who propelled all your actions till the resurrection morning.

May The Lord comfort and keep your family. May your works continue to testify of you and may you continue to live in the hearts of those who love you.

Adieu sir

EnoAbasi Unogu (Mrs)

MR

“ Adieu my Mentor, big brother and friend, Mr. Onekhena.

I left this so late because I did not want to foreclose on our relationship so early but now I must as your remain signs off this mortal side of eternity.

So much have been said about your Selflessness, passion, integrity, tirelesness in pushing others to succeed and most importantly your faith in The Lord Jesus Christ that I can't put it better.

I started the journey with you from your days in Lion of Africa Insurance just a stone throw from my office then UAIB at Knight Frank Building. Since then you maintained a connection with my organisations UAIB and currently JGIB, my family, my church and myself. You took upon yourself to make sure I succeeded. You provided books, strategy materials, free webinars for my staff and I, adopted anyone that I was related to and you got to know. Took my fledging organisation as your project. Pledged to always get my financials right pro bono. Promised to get my auditing process up to international standards. Whenever you called, yes you called me out all the time to check on my deliverables.

However, the curtains were drawn for you on that fateful day with many assignments to help me steady the boat of my organisation including the Strategy Retreat left undone. But they will be done. Eventhough we did not have the promised call, I will hold your last prayer for me and my family on 03/01/22 close to my heart.

Mr Onekhena, my family, organisation and myself will miss all you were and all you represent, but I am comforted that you are taking the well deserved rest which you just refused to indulge in on this side of eternity. Please rest in the blossom of our Lord Jesus who propelled all your actions till the resurrection morning.

Adieu sir

michael roberts - February 05, 2022 at 12:02 PM

MR

“ I worked as Mr. George Onekhena's Secretary from February 2012 to February 2019 at National Insurance Commission (NAICOM). He taught us a lot of virtues such as diligence, integrity, commitment to duty, financial fitness, accountability, discipline and lots more. He was such a voracious reader, he groomed us to become readers as he kept telling us that readers are leaders. He gave us books and followed up to be sure we read them. All his fatherly advice were second to none. He made a lot of impact in our lives.

We're sad but we pray that God will grant his soul eternal repose, Amen

michael roberts - February 05, 2022 at 12:02 PM

NA

“ Thank you, Uncle Georgey for everything!
You were committed to the development and improvement of everyone you came in contact with.
You read an amazing book, you would recommend/buy as a gift (mine was Peaks & Valleys by Joel Osteen)
You read a great article, you would share,
You were kind, an exceptional leader and saw potential in us all.

You are gone but will not be forgotten.

Rest in peace, Uncle

- Nagbus



Nagbus - February 05, 2022 at 10:44 AM

FL

“ Funkey Laezoh lit a candle in memory of George Etsenamhe Onekhena



Funkey Laezoh - February 05, 2022 at 10:17 AM

OS

“ It's still surprising to learn Uncle George is no longer on this side of life. I still fondly remember how he addressed me, teased me about my initial fear of Yoggi and his kind words of counsel. I know his memory is blessed and God will comfort the entire family.

Osetemega - February 05, 2022 at 09:05 AM

MR

“ I received the news of George s passing with shock, having spoken to him a few days before!

My only consolation is that it was a peaceful transition.

George was brother to everyone, often checking in to make sure we were all doing fine. It was easy to relate to George as he was a very caring person and was always giving suggestions as to how to improve yourself. He was also Always willing to support any project that was for the good of youths. He will be sorely missed!

My love and condolences go to Mercy his wife and two children. Take solace in the fact that daddy ran a good race and he ran it well! Adieu George! We love you and will always miss you.

Barr(Chief) Grace Egbagbe

michael roberts - February 05, 2022 at 07:06 AM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of George Etsenamhe Onekhena.



February 04, 2022 at 04:17 PM

LH

“ Our deepest and sincerest condolences to Mercy and family! Our hearts are saddened by your loss. May George rarest in Peace!

Leny Hickman - February 04, 2022 at 11:37 AM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of George Etsenamhe Onekhena.



February 03, 2022 at 07:54 PM



“ *Comfort & Light 30" Sonnet was purchased for the family of George Etsenamhe Onekhena.*



February 03, 2022 at 04:01 PM

MR

“ *Brother George and I share a bond that will forever be cherished till the day I die. He nicknamed me Mowgli 😊 from the popular Disney cartoon JUNGLE BOOK because back then while I was much younger, I was so skinny 🤔. You groomed me and mentored me. I cried the day I received a call from another of my cousin telling me about your demise. Missing you is an understatement, you were one who loves family and always tries to see where he can help one way or the other. The one person who was constantly checking on me when I lost my mum who was his aunt and grew up with us back in Kano state, Nigeria. I could take the whole day saying about my brother, my cousin George and that still won't bring him back. I am sad but no one was made to stay in this world. It's a great loss to us and the entire family. Auntie Mercy, words fail me but I am just a call away. Sandra and Jessy I hope we will try and make up and continue what brother George started by bringing and knowing each other better. My condolences and pray the soul of George, my big brother, my cousin rests in peace. Amen*

michael roberts - February 03, 2022 at 12:58 PM

MR

“ *This is sad and unbelievable. Oga Geoge, great mentor, leader and knowledge sharing partner. You touched lives through your relevant advice and guidance. Your death has created a deep gap across sectors globally. May his soul rest in perfect peace. May the good lord comfort his family. Amen.*

Babatunde Olaonipekun

micahel roberts - February 03, 2022 at 09:37 AM

“ *TRIBUTE TO THE LATE MR. GEORGE ONEKHENA a.k.a. UNCLE GEORGE.*
By Mr. Mike Igbokwe, SAN.

The news of the death of Mr. George Onekhena also known as ‘Uncle George’ or ‘Uncle GEE’ on 4 January 2022, came to me as a shock mainly because few days before then, we chatted on some matters as usual, and I did not expect it. However, as a Christian, and since Uncle George gave his life to Jesus Christ when he was alive, I know he had gone to a better place, heaven, to be his Creator.

I met Uncle Gee in 1990 when I was dating my wife, who is his wife’s younger sister, and I was settling down in my law business that I had then just set up. We got along well since then. He meant different things to different people based on his interactions or relationship with them or how he touched their lives. However, one thing I knew him for was that he had a big heart and was always ready to make sacrifices and deprive himself to help others. When in 1990 our typist resigned without notice, he sent me his younger sister who helped immensely in typing our client’s papers. Whilst working with The Lion of Africa Insurance Company Limited, he facilitated our rendering legal services to the company thereby promoting our law practice.

He was a book lover, a book wonk, a book worm, and a book giver. Due to these, whenever he travelled abroad, he bought books from different books stores which he either resold or gave out for free. My wife, children and I were beneficiaries of free books from Uncle George. Any book he felt would help any of us to develop, he would give us.

He was a jovial and funny man. He was not fluent in Yoruba, but whenever he spoke it, his accent made one laugh. I remember one of his funny spoken Yoruba words, ‘oti da gangan nisin’, meaning ‘It is now very good’.

If there were things Uncle George hated and was unhappy about, they were corruption, dishonesty, laziness, idleness, and the state of our nation. He believed that with the enormous human resources Nigeria had, it could develop and do better than it was doing. When Mr. Charles Soludo won gubernatorial elections in Anambra State, he told me that with the result, there was hope that Nigeria would rise. He oversaw the finances of the organisations he worked in, but not once would you hear of corruption or dishonesty involving him. Whilst in the USA that is six hours behind Nigerian time, he would wake up very (sometimes 3am-5am) to attend and speak at meetings or webinars. As a workaholic, he worked till he passed.

He was an intellectual who did not hoard, and was not stingy with, the knowledge, understanding and wisdom he gathered from reading numerous books. He shared his knowledge, understanding and experience with others most of the times free of charge. Apart from sharing his wealth of knowledge and experience through speaking at seminars as a motivational speaker, he set up a platform called ‘1st Financial Fitness Cop’ with over 100 members. He mentored all, spread his knowledge and built capacities through the platform, sometimes whilst in the US waking up at odd hours to anchor some its programmes online. He had strategic sessions to support small medium practices to improve their strategic positioning and execution to enhance value delivery and achieve financial

sustainability. A major webinar he held in 2021 was titled, 'Creating Your Future In a World on Uncertainty'. In a flier of this topic he wrote, 'It is very important that we manage our lives strategically. In an age of uncertainty, anything can happen. Build scenarios for your family and begin to take precautionary steps now, if you are not already doing so.' No wonder he was nicknamed 'Apostle of Sustainable Financial Independence'.

He taught on different topics to impact life including 'Activity Based Christianity: ABC" and results-based Christianity. That was not surprising because since my wife and I invited him and his wife to our then church (Household of God Church, Ikeja), where he gave his life to Jesus Ch

michael roberts - February 03, 2022 at 08:45 AM

MR

“ Uncle G,

Hmmm. I am still in total shock. I am still waiting for someone to wake me up from a bad dream. I still cannot bring myself to accept the fact that you have really gone to be with the Lord.

You were not a Brother-in-law to me but a Brother. Uncle G you were a tremendous blessing to my family and I in so many ways. You always had an encouraging word to give. You were such a gentle soul. You will rather sacrifice your comfort for other people, always available to impart knowledge. Infact, 90 % of most of the management books I have, I got from you.

Always cracking jokes and making us laugh a lot.

Uncle G, I have a lot to say, but words have failed me.

Our consolation is that, you have gone to a better place where there is no sorrow or pain.

We miss you and love you, but God loves you more.

I draw strength from 1 Thessalonians 4:13–14 (13. Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death, so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope. 14. For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him.)

michael roberts - February 03, 2022 at 08:44 AM

MR

“ Mabel, Aghogho, Garen and Ejiro Adjekughele thank God for George's life. It came as a rude shock, but we cannot question God. He served God in his life time touched lives and gave back to humanity. May the lord grant him eternal rest and comfort the family he left behind. Adieu George. It is well.

michael roberts - February 01, 2022 at 09:49 AM

“ Thank you George. Truly, you were a trusted, reliable and dependable friend over these four decades.

The last time we met was 2020 and that was your last visit to Nigeria. If I had the slightest inkling that we were meeting for the last time, I would have caused us to relive on that fateful day, the sweet memories of our friendship which dated back to 1980 in Kano.

George and I met in Kano in our early adulthood. Then, he was a few months old as Audit Trainee with Peat, Marwick, Casselton Elliot & Co (Chartered Accountants) and I had just arrived from UK and posted to Kano for my NYSC program. Space would not permit full narrative of these years of our friendship and moreover, George is not around anymore to corroborate. But it was a relationship though started in Kano, it continued and blossomed in Lagos when George, having qualified as a Chartered Accountant, accepted and joined CFAO Structor Marina Lagos as the company's accountant.

As a selfless person that you were George, you impacted positively the lives of many (friends and non-friends alike) who came across you. As a thorough bred, true professional and a repository of knowledge that you were in your field George, someone learnt something anew each time he or she came across you, and this explains why the total disbelief of the news of your passing.

George, although you are no more physically with us, you will always be remembered as a very good and dependable friend who left us too soon. Rest in peace in the bosom of the Lord.

To his wife Mercy and the children, my heartfelt condolence. May the Good Lord grant you the strength to carry on.

Kerry Oyakhire

“ TRIBUTE FOR MR. GEORGE ONEKHENA

He was the Big Chief, I was the Medium Chief, & my son was the Little Chief. That was the compromise we reached following my protestation when he referred to me as big chief & my son as little chief. 'I cannot be a big Chief when you are here'. He good naturedly laughed & so in the years we lived as neighbors he was known as the Big Chief or Mr. Onekhena as he insisted the children call him. Mr. George Onekhena, my neighbor, my mentor, my friend! I cannot wrap my head around the news of his demise. A man in a league of his own in all parameters! Every encounter was a learning meet about practically every endeavor on earth. He saw everything from a strategic telescope and mindset. He was a storyteller per excellence; using his stories to drive home important points that stuck to the mind for a long, long time. His generosity was 2nd to none. He'd share his time, finances, intellectual resources in quality & quantity that is reminiscent of divine provisions.

May Jehovah comfort his family and friends – all of us, because the vacuum cannot be filled, we would just carry on in faith and await the promised time when Jesus will call and the Big Chief will rise into Paradise.

Kemka Weli

michael roberts - February 01, 2022 at 09:48 AM

MR

“ Uncle George! As I fondly called you. The news of your demise came to me as a rude shock!!! Very difficult to comprehend. But I submit to the will of the UNQUESTIONABLE GOD, the Knower of all things, who has deemed it fit to call you Home at this time.

Since I met you and your family in 1995 during my first church planting experience, with my husband, while assisting other pastors in starting RCCG King of Kings Parish, Agbara. Ogun State, Nigeria. You have become our big brother as we became part of your family immediately.

Your large heart, kind words, mentoring, encouragements and love for God were second to none! You always wanted everyone to excel in their chosen careers. Thank you for encouraging me to continue in my accounting profession at different times during my visits to you in Agbara and Abuja.

Little did I know that my conversation with you here in the U.S some weeks ago after several years, was going to be my last conversation with you. However, I am grateful to God for a life well spent. You lived a selfless life, and touched many lives for good and for God. And that is the most important! We love you, but Jesus loves you more.

I pray that your precious Soul Rest In Perfect Peace at the feet of your Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. May God's abiding love remain with your family.

Good night, Uncle George.

-Mrs Titi Olayinka, USA

michael roberts - January 30, 2022 at 06:56 PM

MR

“ Georgy, it is not how long but how well that we are judged by. You were brilliant, kind, and full of humour. A worthy brother and friend. Adieu George. May the Lord keep undertaking for the family.

Tony Egbeogu

michael roberts - January 29, 2022 at 06:18 PM

“ It is with Infinite sadness that I send this Tribute of my Dear friend, Brother n Associate.

We first in 1979 at Ashaka cement plc, as a youth corper n for over 4 decades we have shared a in common including family values.

Georgie Best, The GO as some us do fondly called him, was Aman of many parts, He was An ICON to the Accountancy Profession. A Guru in the Insurance sector n Expert in Strategic management. His legacies are profound n lives On.

We shared a lot of contemporary issues n concerns for the well being of our society n Mankind.

He was a Loved by many because of his modesty to persons that come his way. I had the privilege of meeting with some of his family members over the years.

God knows Best how he had to pass on in times like this.,

My heart goes to his Dear wife ,the children n loved ones.

May the Almighty God Grant him Eternal Rest.Amen

May the wife ,children, family n loved ones be comforted and strengthen.

All men are Flowers.

Adieu my Dear friend and Brother in Christ.

Tom Ekawu.



michael roberts - January 28, 2022 at 08:01 AM

“ TRIBUTE TO GEORGIE, MY FOREVER BROTHER AND FRIEND

With Georgie, it was not just serious, professional talk but discourse was most times marinated in humorous, witty examples and wisecracks. I therefore want to say "Pele o" to everyone of us going through the pains of bereavement and loss of our dearest brother in my best imitation of what George would say in empathy after he heard something from or about a dear one that he found quite concerning. I remember times when he would speak in his special Yoruba affectation, and how this will send me on raucous laughter. How I would tease him and declare that he spoke 'mischief' Yoruba. He may dig out another example of something that happened in his storied past and set us on another round of rib-cracking laughter. He was witty, cerebral, not given to hubris and personified integrity and humility in all he did. Pele o.

Words really fail me, even now... the shock and the pain that seared through my heart on hearing the news was almost unbearable. You had called me a few times in the New Year but I was travelling and bogged down with New Year things, what folly! So I called the night before just to have our usual nightcap but no pickup (lately the frequency of our dialogues had become about weekly, a drop from like 2-3 times daily at its peak). I wondered... Unbeknownst to me you had proceeded on that journey to the afterlife-- to the great beyond, one that everyone must take alone. How, how could I have missed the signs? How could I have been so shorn of insight? How could I have missed the clues you left, how could I have been so masterly lulled and sheepishly led away from even the faintest apprehension of your journey of no return...which would no doubt have led to me vigorously challenging you and attempting to dissuade you? Lately you would call me and pointedly ask after my health. You had even taken to being firm and insistent on my health...more than strategy and other topical issues. We would live to our very old age when perhaps our brains could no longer think or tick-- this was our unspoken promise. Your love for me was deeply personal. You went out of your way to favor me. You in turn were willing to be vulnerable to me. You credited and affirmed me for the littlest things. You treated me like your peer. Aah Oga George. I would at least have bade my best friend and blood brother a royal farewell for you are well worth it and much deserving. You left me with a legacy I pray for grace to uphold to my dying days. Till we meet again, sleep well my brother.

~ Ade Kelani



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of George Etsenamhe Onekhena.*



January 27, 2022 at 06:07 PM

MR

“ *Our heartfelt condolences to his family and loved ones. May his Soul rest in perfect peace. He will be missed. I never knew that the last time we were having conversation in 2017 during our niece’s wedding would be the last. May the Lord accept him in his Holy Kingdom, Amen.*

michael roberts - January 27, 2022 at 05:51 PM

MR

“ *Hello GO, for that's the way I normally address him, this is the most disturbing risk of life that the cold hand of death didn't permit you to say goodbye. We lived our lives as true brothers, reminiscent of David and Jonathan.*

George and I were on the same course of study at the University of Benin, Benin City, Nigeria. Our relationship became pretty close when we all registered for articleship to qualify as chartered accountants with different accounting firms. While I trained with PWC in Lagos, he was with Peat Marwick in Kano.

When he returned to Lagos, we stayed together under the same roof for a couple of years. We encouraged our selves to enroll for the MBA program. While he went into the insurance industry, I stayed with the bank. We both exited those industries at a time and then came together to form George Andrews + Partners. He went from there to become the Deputy Insurance Commissioner, Admin & Finance. After the completion of his tenors, his plan and arrangements to move to the United States of America and to set the training and consulting firm, we all worked out together.

It is extremely unbelievable but the stack reality of life, that GO is gone to be with the Lord. Oh Lord, let his kind and caring soul rest in perfect peace and comfort the family left behind. Be their shield and refuge, their all in all. Amen. Pst Andy OTIKE-OBARO.

michael roberts - January 27, 2022 at 11:46 AM

MR

“ *What an empty life we live in?*

O Allah, may your name be exalted! For it is only you that can do a thing like this to your creatures without questioning.

Since You have chosen this time to do this to us, we believe You have a better place for him.

Uncle George, may He who called you now avail you ALL the comfort, peace and tranquility of your new abode. Aameen.

To my dear sister (former Miss Justina Onakhena) in particular, the immediate family members, all of us on this platform and the entire North Ibie Community, it is my sincerest prayer that Almighty Allah will give us all the fortitude to bear this irreparable loss.

Aameen

michael roberts - January 27, 2022 at 11:46 AM

MR

“ *What an empty life we live in?*

O Allah, may your name be exalted! For it is only you that can do a thing like this to your creatures without questioning.

Since You have chosen this time to do this to us, we believe You have a better place for him.

Uncle George, may He who called you now avail you ALL the comfort, peace and tranquility of your new abode. Aameen.

To my dear sister (former Miss Justina Onakhena) in particular, the immediate family members, all of us on this platform and the entire North Ibie Community, it is my sincerest prayer that Almighty Allah will give us all the fortitude to bear this irreparable loss.

Aameen

michael roberts - January 27, 2022 at 11:45 AM

“*Georgie (as I used to call him) and I met as young kids growing up in Auchi, Edo State, Nigeria. He was two academic years ahead of me but his brilliance, intelligence, boyish charm and approachableness were strong magnets that attracted all - seniors, peers, juniors - indeed all of his contemporaries towards him. Our paths intersected so many times after Auchi - and providentially so in Kano, Lagos, recently in North America, and work too in his capacity as a regulator in my industry. Georgie's basic nature never changed as he remained jovial, and caring, while sharing, giving, helping, and generally loving.*

Georgie filled every space he was present in. He transcended all dividing lines. He was a bridge-builder and a master matchmaker who evolved to rare levels of spirituality. He grew even simpler with the years despite great personal and professional achievements. He was an open book.

Since his recent and well-earned regular 'retirement', followed by his relocation to join his wonderful family of silent-achievers in the US, we either spoke or texted for hours almost daily. It was a very odd day that we didn't communicate one-on-one, well, until a few weeks ago when Georgie, without a formal goodbye, passed on to glory.

Grief has turned into ruminations. It should be enough consolation that Georgie emptied himself dutifully in serving others as has been eloquently catalogued and expressed by mutual friends and acquaintances. Apart from the book he promised he would write, I doubt that there were many books, PDFs, videos, and words left that he didn't pour out ever so liberally even to occasionally reluctant audiences and recipients! It was his nature to give and keep giving.

But why didn't I see this coming? Georgie masked personal difficulties so well and wouldn't allow himself even well-deserved self-pity, nor your empathy. He would deftly shift the topic so he was again the comfort-giver and encourager. I truly believe now as he would often say (my poor paraphrase of him) ...If you have done the best you can do and all you can do is not enough, you have given all you had to give, then you can do no more; move on. Thanks Georgie, for leaving us with so much to share and digest.

We thank the Onekhena family for generously sharing Georgie with us - I often wondered how he managed to negotiate such long hours of family time to bless so many. May God reward his family as He comforts them. Amen.

Georgie, you are personally irreplaceable for me, and you didn't leave adjustments notes for the peculiar VUCA (acronym he was so fond of using) world you have thrust me into. Well, I'll have to feast on reels of chat exchanges as a poor proxy for your wisdom, voice and words in the meantime.

No, I can't say 'adieu', my friend. I'll probably never be able to say goodbye because you remain alive in so many hearts that love you so dearly. Promise that

you are resting now, though. Later then; rest in peace.

Kenneth Aigbinode

Friend, and member of the Director Strategy Group.

michael roberts - January 27, 2022 at 11:45 AM

MR

“ *Ohhh Nooo!*

Oh death!!

Unbelievable!!!

Lord, grant George eternal rest and also grant everyone connected to him and his immediate family the fortitude to bear this irreparable loss!!!!

Martins Obaze



Michael Roberts - January 26, 2022 at 02:24 PM

“ Adieu George

I had a shocking and depressing phone call this morning to announce the passing unto glory of our dear George. I couldn't believe it , so I placed a call to his phone without getting through. It then occurred to me that he might be sleeping as it would have been 2am in the USA. I immediately called Lady Ngozi, who was as surprised as myself on this sad news. She promised to place a call to the family to find out the true position. After a few minutes' trial and with no response, we agreed to try in another few hours with the hope that the bad news was false. But a few minutes later, it was sadly confirmed that George had transcended this world to a better place.

George was such a wonderful soul that was always eager to share his talent with whoever cared to listen. The rate at which he did it in the last one year plus was so much that it was difficult to comprehend what he was trying to achieve. To be honest, it felt irritating to some of us because before we could digest an earlier post, he would have sent another 20!!!!

With hind sight now, I realise that he was only trying to empty himself of his God-given talent. I know he succeeded because if we download what he shared with us, it will take years to go through them.

George emptied himself. He finished his course well. Like a righteous man, he was gathered peacefully to eternal life after emptying himself. What a victorious way to go!!!!

Our takeaway from the life of George is to share our talents and hide nothing. May we leave this world without taking anything to the grave where it will not be useful.

Death, where is thy sting? George came, saw, fought a good fight, finished his course, and won the war.

Sleep and rest well in the bosom of the Lord brother.

John Evbodaghe

MR

“ *Adieu my senior, my colleague and an inspiration. Our paths first crossed at Peat Marwick Ani Ogunde & Co. and later in the financial industry. I was working in the banking sector and your good self in the insurance sector. I ran to you then for deposit on several occasions and you warmly welcomed me and supported me in every way you could. Faith brought us together yet again as we both served on the Board of Financial Reporting Council (FRC) both of us representing our respective institutions. In all my encounters with you I find in you a man that is focused, hard working, very resourceful and ever willing to lend a hand. You will be greatly missed, my brother and friend. I pray that the Almighty God will cater for the family you left behind and comfort us all. Rest In Peace GO !*

Abiodun M. Aina

Michael Roberts - January 26, 2022 at 02:23 PM

MR

“ *Indeed we are strangers on transit!*

Hard to believe that Mr George Onekhena, former Deputy Commissioner (F&A), is dead... 🥹🥹🥹🥹🥹🥹🥹

You taught us.

You inspired us.

You mentored us.

You enlightened us on turbulent times.

You made us believe we can do it.

You gave back to society that which you were blessed with without let. You were indefatigable in learning and sharing.

But now you are gone forever.

May your soul rest in peace.

Best wishes!

Usman Jankara

Abuja, Nigeria

Michael Roberts - January 26, 2022 at 02:22 PM

MR

“ George "Malon" I still cannot bring myself to accept your sudden departure from mother earth. Flash back memories took me through our first day of resumption, specifically, 16th January 1970, when you were announced as best overall in the Entrance Examination to Ikpomaza Grammar School (then Anglican Mixed Grammar School) Okpella. You indeed led our set (the Pioneer set) throughout, from second term in form two till we graduated. You were a colossus. Time and space will not permit me to chronicle what and who you are. Thanks for coaching me to become one of the mathematians in our set. Rest on Malon. May your soul find favour in the sight of God. Festus (Yalayala) Orilade

Michael Roberts - January 26, 2022 at 02:21 PM

MR

“ May his soul rest in perfect peace.
May the Holy spirit our comforter comfort every one of us in Jesus mighty name amen.
Catherine George
United Kingdom

Michael Roberts - January 26, 2022 at 02:21 PM

MR

“ I am shocked beyond words, I was hoping to meet him physically one day. God knows best and May his soul Rest In Peace, amen 🙏

Regards

Titilayo Ojeifo - Strategy

Michael Roberts - January 26, 2022 at 02:20 PM

MR

“ It's been very painful to me coming to the reality that oga George is no more. He calls me most times just to know how am fairing in all front. I will greatly miss you sir. You impacted your life into many of us. You spoke constantly about our stay here as role players. You did yours wonderfully to the benefits of us all. May your gentle soul be in perfect peace.

Obinna S. Okafor
(FCA, CAMS, ACTI, MCSI, MPMI, MBA, M.Sc, B.Sc)
Managing Consultant/CEO
Vicosbin Consult LTD

Michael Roberts - January 26, 2022 at 02:19 PM

MR

“ This is tribute is to my uncle, Mr George Onekhena. The larger than life Father, Brother, Uncle and Friend. I could hardly believe it when I was told that he had died.

*I remember the times we spoke, the words of encouragement you gave at the times I needed it most. I remember when I was much younger coming over for holidays, you always made it fun. I used to go with you to work at Lion of Africa on weekends, it was a fun moment which I will always cherish.
I love you as a father, you showed me what to look for in a husband. I also am glad that you were married to my Aunt Mercy and have two wonderful children.*

You will always hold a special place in heart and in my family

*My condolences
From the Ogboduma's family*

Michael Roberts - January 26, 2022 at 02:18 PM

MR

“ 1 file added to the album



Nigeria and the insurance professional body. It was great joy to eventually seat with my teacher and mentor on the board of the highest organisation in the insurance industry, the insurance regulator (NAICOM). Even after my retirement, you followed on my progress and was always ready to lend a helping hand. You wanted to impact more, even though sometimes I was not readily available. Myself and wife always look forward to sending you a message in your

Michael Roberts - January 26, 2022 at 02:16 PM

MR

“ Dear Elder George,

It still like a dream that your have departed this sinful world.

However, your kindness and invaluable contributions to development of your colleagues cannot be easily forgotten.

This is a great part of your legacies and we are eternally grateful.

May your soul continue to Rest In Peace.

Regards :

Prince Saheed Lasisi FCA

Sent from my iPhone

Michael Roberts - January 26, 2022 at 02:14 PM

“ I came into contact with Mr. George Onekhena when the then Minister of Finance, Mrs. Kemi Adeosun, constituted a ten-man committee of experts to review the Insurance Consolidated Bill of 2014. He was then the Deputy Commissioner for Insurance (Finance & Administration) and a representative of NAICOM in the Committee.

Even though we had some disagreements on the limit of the power of NAICOM and some policy direction, with respect to ambit of the eventual reviewed and submitted Bill, which made him to write a minority report and his initial refusal to sign the final report,

I was able to persuade him to withdraw his minority report and to eventually sign the final report, at the last minute. This incident fortified our friendship and our relationship, post the national assignment.

Mr. Onekhena was so meticulous about his lifestyle and was very much convinced about his life trajectory. He had passion for academic and developmental studies hence he was able to put together like-minded people in strategy forum that he created, among others, so as continue his intellectual passion and for the improvement of human capacity and overall business environment in Nigeria, especially.

It was as if he had the premonition of his death as he kept hammering on the fact that he wanted to shut down the forum so as to move on to other projects of his. Alas, it never occurred to us that he was planning his transition to a higher plain beyond the remiss of mere mortal. Adieu Mr. George Onekena, a gentleman, par excellence and a consummate public servant. May God therefore give the fortitude to the family he left behind to bear this irreparable loss.

Kamar Raji, Esq.
Managing Partner
Delaw Chambers

MR

“ Your contributions to learning & thy incessant push on same has broaden my horizons of knowledge in many regards.

You my be gone but your legacy in me speak volumes & will continue to do so to generations unborn.

Thank you & good night DCF&A as we call you at NAICOM. Rest in serenity & in the bossom of the Lord till we meet again.

Basseyy Enyeneuno

Team Member, Learning & Development

Administration & Human Resources Directorate

National Insurance Commission

Michael Roberts - January 25, 2022 at 09:53 PM

MR

“ Oga George!

You were the Chairman of the FSRCC Sub Committee on IFRS when I was a member and the leadership you provided during that teething period of Nigerian adoption of IFRS cannot be quantified considering the sleepless nights just to ensure that things worked well.

As a senior professional colleague, you did all you could to raise at ensuring that members of ICAN within your sphere of influence were constantly updated with current tools so that they could favorably well with their counterparts anywhere in the world which actually led to your creating the Strategy Platform which has helped in no small way to train younger accountants and indeed older ones too to have a competitive advantage in this VUCA (Volatile, Uncertain, Complex & Ambiguous)world. So many of us learnt so much from you and we say a big thank you.

As a mentor and personal friend, you were someone I could call upon at anytime and you were always willing to provide solution no matter how inconveniencing it was to you

Personally, I have lost a friend, a teacher, a confidant and someone I could could a brother!!!

Adieu my Oga!!!

May your gentle soul continue to Rest In Peace

Patrick O. Sanni, FCA

(Nigeria Deposit Insurance Corporation)

Michael Roberts - January 25, 2022 at 09:53 PM

GA

“ It's so hard to accept you have left us. You were a man of integrity, who cares about people and love them. JC Maxwells says, "You can love people without leading them, but you cannot lead people without loving them". You love people, which makes you a natural leader. You have left us with a vacuum that cannot be filled. You took on so much burden, even after your retirement, doing everything without a charge. You never allowed financial gains to be a reason for not helping others. I observe how you willingly set up training programs for young accountants, you wanted to share what you have learnt in your years of experience and prepare those coming behind you for the future that you have previewed through wisdom. I was only getting happy that I have a friend, a mentor, and someone I can look up to, because of our shared ideals, and suddenly, death took you from me. I will not sorrow as others who have no hope, for I know you never held to anything on this earth, you have always lived your life with the understanding that it was temporary. The eastern adage says, "when you were born, everyone laughed, and you cried. Live your life such that when you die, every will cry, and you will laugh." I am sure you are laughing, because you are in a better place, but we are crying because we lost someone that has and is still impacting many. Sleep well George, till we meet at the feet of Jesus.

Goke Awodele - January 25, 2022 at 03:04 PM

“ With Oga George, it was not just serious, professional talk but discourse was most times marinated in humorous, witty examples and wisecracks. I therefore want to say "Pele o" to everyone of us going through the pains of bereavement and loss of our dearest brother in my best imitation of what George would say in empathy after he heard something from or about a dear one that he found quite concerning. I remember times when he would speak in his special Yoruba affectation, and how this will send me on raucous laughter. How I would tease him and declare that he spoke 'mischief' Yoruba. He may dig out another example of something that happened in his storied past and set us on another round of rib-cracking laughter. He was witty, cerebral, not given to hubris and personified integrity and humility in all he did. Pele o.

Words really fail me, even now... the shock and the pain that seared through my heart on hearing the news was almost unbearable. You had called me a few times in the New Year but I was travelling and bogged down with New Year things, what folly! So I called the night before just to have our usual nightcap but no pickup (lately the frequency of our dialogues had become about weekly, a drop from like 2-3 times daily at its peak). I wondered... Unbeknownst to me you had proceeded on that journey to the afterlife-- to the great beyond, one that everyone must take alone. How, how could I have missed the signs? How could I have been so shorn of insight? How could I have missed the clues you left, how could I have been so masterly lulled and sheepishly led away from even the faintest apprehension of your journey of no return...which would no doubt have led to me vigorously challenging you and attempting to dissuade you? Lately you would call me and pointedly ask after my health. You had even taken to being firm and insistent on my health...more than strategy and other topical issues. We would live to our very old age when perhaps our brains could no longer think or tick-- this was our unspoken promise. Your love for me was deeply personal. You went out of your way to favor me. You in turn were willing to be vulnerable to me. You credited and affirmed me for the littlest things. You treated me like your peer. Aah Oga George. I would at least have bade my best friend and blood brother a royal farewell for you are well worth it and much deserving. You left me with a legacy I pray for grace to uphold to my dying days. Till we meet again, sleep well my brother.

Ade Kelani - January 24, 2022 at 05:58 AM

RA

“ My darling brother George, I am still speechless at your sudden departure. It's like a personalization of Genesis 5:24. "...George walked with God: and he was not; for God took him". You came and you walked in the Grace that Christ bestowed upon you. You fought a good fight of Faith and Love. I am eternally grateful to God for gifting you to us for a Season. I will cherish the fellowship of love that we shared and your graciousness. Good night my brother. By the grace of Christ, we will meet in Heaven one day to part no more.



Rev. Ayo Abraham - January 23, 2022 at 06:34 PM

CS

“ Sir George, rest in perfect peace! Another tough life lesson to learn and relearn as the suddenness of your passing to higher glory taught: "Act now, live every day as if its the last for to remember, we are Accountable the the ONE Being who is the Source and Resource of every Skill, Ability, Gift & Talent we possess. Indeed, your light shone and you passed the torch on in many ways which touched brightly, many hearts in imparting Integrity,dedication, devotion, empowering knowledge with an ease and joy in your smile. Sandra, your children and the entire family will be divinely comforted!

Carolyn O. Solanke - January 23, 2022 at 06:43 AM