



4039

Special Release

24 November, 2017

OBITUARY

PROFESSOR SAMUEL OYINLOYE KOLADE ABOGUNRIN

[24 MAY 1937 – 18 SEPTEMBER, 2017]

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Abel Idowu Olayinka, FAS, announces with deep regret, the transition of Reverend Professor Samuel Oyinloye Kolade Abogunrin, a retired staff of the Department of Religious Studies, Faculty of Arts. The sad event occurred on Monday, 18 September, 2017. He was aged 80 years.

Late Professor (Reverend) Samuel Abogunrin was born into the Areyin Ruling House of Oke Esa, Omu-Aran, Kwara State on 24 May 1937. He was appointed Lecturer II in the University of Ibadan, on July 1, 1974 and was later appointed Lecturer 1 in 1977, Senior Lecturer 1981 and promoted to the rank of Professor in 1986. He retired from the University services on 30 September, 2008, after 34 years and 3 months of dedicated service.

Baba Abogunrin as his students and associates fondly called him, attended Seventh Day Adventist Primary School, Omu-Aran 1947-1952 and obtained his Standard Six School Leaving Certificate. He then proceeded to Ilorin Trade Centre 1959-1960 where he obtained the Trade Centre Certificate before proceeding further to United Missionary Theological College, [UMTC], Ilorin from 1960-1962 where he obtained the College's Diploma in Theology. Upon graduation from the College, he served as Pastor in Evangelical Church of West Africa [ECWA] Church, Gboluoko (now Okeayo), 1962-1964 and Pastor, ECWA Church (then called Challenge Chapel), Mushin, Lagos, 1964-1969. It was during this period that he engaged in home studies and passed his Ordinary and Advanced Level Examinations.

He was admitted to the University of Ibadan from 1969 to 1972 and graduated with Bachelor of Arts Degree in Religious Studies in Second Class Upper Division. He got admitted to the University of Aberdeen, Scotland, UK for his Postgraduate Studies from 1973-1974 and graduated with Master of Theology Degree [M.Th] specialising in Biblical Studies in general and New Testament Studies, in particular. He returned to the University of Ibadan, got engaged in his doctoral studies from 1974-1978 and obtained

his Doctor of Philosophy [Ph.D] in 1978, specialising in Pauline Corpus within the field of New Testament Studies [New Testament Greek, Exegesis and Theology].

Late Professor Abogunrin then began a career that spanned almost 35 years during which he blazed the trail in the field of New Testament Studies, pioneered the take off of the forum of Specialists in the field of Biblical Studies in Nigeria as he founded the Nigerian Association for Biblical Studies [NABIS] which he led as President for its first 10 years from 1986-1996. He pioneered the publication of the renowned International Journal of the Association named *Africa Journal of Biblical Studies*[AJBS] which has become a credible African voice of scholars in Biblical Studies. He also pioneered the growth of the South Western Zone of the Association. He was the General Editor of the refereed Conference Proceedings of the Association for almost two decades.

He served the University of Ibadan in several capacities as Member of Senate, University of Ibadan, Ibadan, 1981-2008, Acting Head, Department of Religious Studies, University of Ibadan, 1982-1983 and the Head of Department 1986-1988, 1990-1991, Dean, Faculty of Arts, University of Ibadan, 1991-1993, Acting Dean, Faculty of Arts, University of Ibadan, 1993-1994, Head, Department of Religious Studies, University of Ibadan, 1998-2001, Warden, Kuti Hall 1988-1990, Member, Junior Staff Appointments and Promotions Committee, 1983-1986, Member, Junior Staff Housing Allocation Committee, 1983-1986, Member, Senior Staff Disciplinary Committee, 1983-1986, Senate Representative on the Senior Staff Disciplinary Committee, 1989-1991, Member, Appointments and Promotions Committee, 1991-1994, Member, University Development Committee, 1991-1994, Member, Board of The Postgraduate School, 1982-1983; 1986-1988; 1990-1994; and 1998-2001, Faculty of Arts' Representative on the Faculty Board of Education, 1976-1982, Faculty of Arts' Representative on the Board of the Institute of Education, 1984-1986, Senate Representative on the Joint Council/Senate Committee on Naming of Building Streets, 1994-1996, Senate Representative on University Ceremonials Committee, 1997-1998, Acting Dean, The Postgraduate School, University of Ibadan, 1991-1994, Acting Provost, Defunct College of Arts, The Social Sciences and Law, 1991-1995, Acting Vice-Chancellor, University of Ibadan at the Matriculation and Graduation Ceremonies of Affiliated Theological Seminaries, 1991-1994 and Member, Faculty of Arts' Panel on the Promotion Problem in the Department of Classics, 2004.

He also served the Church of God and Nigeria and all over the world in several capacities. Treasurer, Nigerian Association for the Study of Religions, 1981-1986, Chairman, Appointments and Promotions Committee, UMTC, Ilorin, 1981-1994; Member, Board of Governors, Immanuel College of Theology and Christian, Christian Education, Ibadan, 1982-1990; President, United Missionary Theological College Alumni Association, 1986-1994; Member, Board of Governors, UMTC, Ilorin, 1986-1994; General Secretary, West African Association of Theological Institutions 1987-1994, Member of Executive, Conference of Theological Institutions, 1987-1995; Vice-Chairman, Governing Council, Christ International Divinity College, Erinmo-Ijesa, an Affiliate of Acadia University, Canada, 1989-2009; Vice-Chairman, Board of Governors, Christian College of Theology, Ibadan, 1990-1995; Vice-Chairman, Proposed ECWA

University Planning Committee, 1991-1992, Member, ECWA Education Board, 1991-2006, Chairman, Board of Governors, ECWA Theological Seminary, Jos, 1995-1998; Chairman, Board of Governors, ECWA Theological Seminary, Igbaja, 1999-2005; Chairman, ECWA Bingham University Implementation Committee, 2001-2004; Member, ECWA Joint Seminary Board, 2001-2006 and Member, Planning and Implementation Committee, Moses Orimolade, University, Omu-Aran, 2004 to date. Furthermore, he served as External Examiner for Diploma, B.A., M.A., M.Phil and Ph.D. degrees in University of Nigeria, Nsuka; University of Jos, Jos; University of Lagos, Department of Curriculum Studies, Lagos; Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife; University of Ilorin, Ilorin; Edo State University, Ekpoma; University of Ado-Ekiti, Ado-Ekiti; Lagos State University, Lagos; Olabisi Onabanjo University, Ago-Iwoye and University of Ghana, Accra, Ghana.

His post retirement services included serving as Professor [on contract] in Ajayi Crowther University, Oyo), Foundation Head, Department of Religious Studies, 2008-2012, Chairman, Quality Assurance Committee, 2008-2010, Chairman, Business Committee of Senate, 2008-2010, Senate Representative on Appointments and Promotions Committee, 2008-2012, Chairman, Faculty Students' Disciplinary Committee, 2008-2012, Member of Senate, Ajayi Crowther University, Oyo, 2008 to date. Chaired two investigation Panels set up by the Vice-Chancellor, 2009-2010, Senate Representative on University's Disciplinary Committee, 2009-2012, Chairman, Senate Panel of Investigation of Students Crisis, 2012 to date, Dean of Humanities, Ajayi Crowther University, Oyo, 2012 to date, Member, Governing Council, Ajayi Crowther University, Oyo, 2012 to date and Chairman, Committee of Deans, Ajayi Crowther University, Oyo, 2012 to date.

Details of other community services and Church services include serving as Pastor, ECWA Church Gboluoko (now Okeayo), 1962-1964, Pastor, ECWA Church (then Challenge Chapel), Mushin, Lagos, 1964-1969, Part-Time Pastor, ECWA Churches, Odeolo and Challenge, Ibadan, 1970, Part-Time Pastor, English Section, ECWA Church Odeolo, Ibadan, 1974-1978, Member, Chapel of the Resurrection Committee, 1976-2012, Member, Board of Governors, ECWA Girls' Secondary School, Omu-Aran, 1980-1990, Chairman, Management Board, Concordia Nursery/ Primary School, Omu-Aran, 1981-1986, Chairman, Planning Committee, Omu-Aran Development Association (ODA). This Association planned and raised fund for the establishment and take off of three secondary schools (Aperan High School, Ogbo Grammar School and Ofe-Aran Commercial Secondary School) in one day in Omu-Aran, 1982, Member, Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN), Oyo State, 1986-1987, Vice-Chairman, CAN, Oyo State, 1987-1995, President, Omu-Aran Development Association, 1993-1996, Member, Scholarship and Award Committee, Fabiyi Foundation for the Award of Scholarship to Indigent Students in Omu-Aran, 1993 to date, Foundation Part-Time Pastor, ECWA Monatan, Ibadan, 1994-2000, Member, Board of Governors, Thomas Adewunmi College, Oko, 1998-2008, High Chief, the Eesa of Omu of Omu-Aran, 2004 to date, Part-Time Pastor, ECWA Chapel, Ibadan, 2000-2003, Member, Board of Trustees, Omu-Aran Micro Finance Bank, 2004 to date,

Some of Professor Abogunrin's honours and distinctions included Nigerian Federal Government Scholarship for Undergraduate Education, 1969-1972, Departmental Prize for the best student in the B.A. Part II Examinations, 1971, Bishop Kale Prize for the best graduating student in the Final B.A. Religious Studies Examinations, 1972, University of Ibadan Postgraduate Scholarship for M.Th and Ph.D., 1972-1974. He was a member of many Societies such as Member, Nigerian Association for the Study of Religions (NASR), 1974, Member, National Association of Bible Knowledge Teachers of Nigeria, 1975, Foundation President, Nigerian Association for Biblical Studies (NABIS) 1985-1989, Member, Nigerian Association for Christian Studies, 1986, General Editor and Coordinator, African Biblical Commentaries Series, 1987-2003, Editor, African Journal of Biblical Studies, 1990-1992, General Editor, Nigerian Association for Biblical Studies, Book Series, 1994-2012, Editor, ORITA: Ibadan Journal of Religious Studies, 1995-1998, President, Nigerian Association for Biblical Studies (NABIS), 1999-2003, Fellow of the Nigerian Academy of Letters, 2003, General Editor and Coordinator, *African Study Bible* 2005 to date, Treasurer, Nigerian Academy of Letters, 2008-2012. A retirement Lecture in his honour was organised by the Department of Religious Studies, 2008 and a Lecture in his Honour was also organised by the Nigerian Association for Biblical Studies (NABIS), 2013.

Internationally, he was a Member, West African Association of Theological Institutions (WAATI), 1974, invited for one month fellowship by the C/S Foundation, 1983 and Dallas Governors of the Institute for Renewal Gospel Studies to attend *Synposium De Internatione Evangeliomins Pascanal, Jerusalem*, held at Notre Dame Centre April, 1984, General Editor and Coordinator, *African Bible Commentary*, 1984-1995 [attended by 29 leading New Testament Scholars], He was Included in *Who is Who in Biblical Studies and Archeology*, USA, 1985, Member, American Society of Biblical Literature, 1987, Member, American Academy of Religions, 1990, Member, Religion and Science Society, USA, 1990, Fellow, University of Dallas, USA, 1992, Visiting Scholar in Residence, McCurry University, Abilene, Texas, USA, 1994, Fellow of the Pontifical University of Nijmegen, Netherlands, 1995, Member, World Association of Theological Institutions (WOCATI), 1996,

Late Professor Abogunrin was a distinguished Professor Biblical and New Testament Studies with an unrivalled strength. He was the first Professor of New Testament Studies in Nigeria. He was widely published and read in many international books and Journals [on and off shore]. He had written over 100 articles in learned journals and chapters in books. He had mentored many students and scholars, pastors, clergies, General Overseers, Bishops, Archbishops and Primate including the present Primate of the Church of Nigeria, Anglican Communion, The Most Revd Dr N.D.Okoh, the former Archbishop of Lagos Ecclesiastical Province, The Most Revd Dr. E.A.Ademowo, the Archbishop of Ondo Ecclesiastical Province, The Most Revd Dr. G.L.Lasebikan and the present Archbishop of the Ecclesiastical Province of Lagos, The Most Revd Dr.M.O.Fape and leading clerics across many Christian denominations in Nigeria. He had supervised 17 Ph.Ds in the field of Old Testament, New Testament and Christian Theology including The Rt. Revd Dr. Olubayo.O.Obijole [1986] and late Professor Dorcas Olubanke Akintunde [2001].

During his 34 years and 3 months academic career in the Premier University of Ibadan, He served as father of Christian Studies for over 20 years. Not only was he the patriarch of the Department of Religious Studies and one of the most committed and selfless individuals ever enrolled as Faculty member in the University of Ibadan.

May his gentle soul rest in peace!

BURIAL ARRANGEMENTS

MONDAY, 27 NOVEMBER, 2017

Evening of Tributes, Faculty of Arts Quadrangle, University of Ibadan at 4pm

TUESDAY, 28 NOVEMBER, 2017

Lying-in-State, Trenchard Hall, University of Ibadan at 9am

Commendation Service, Chapel of the Resurrection, University of Ibadan at 11am

FRIDAY, 1 DECEMBER, 2017

Wake Keep at his residence, Oloruntele Villa, 35/37, David Bamigboye Way, Omu-Aran at 4pm

SATURDAY, 2 DECEMBER, 2017

Interment Service at His Residence Oloruntele Villa, 35/37 David Bamigboye Way, Omu-Aran by 8am

Thanks giving Service at First ECWA Church, Orolodo, Omu-Aran, Kwara State.

Reception, immediately after the Thanksgiving Service at St Paul's Anglican Church Field, David Bamigboye Way, Omu-Aran, Kwara State.

[END]