

## EULOGY FOR MISS EUNICE KERN

Dear Family and Friends of our BELOVED and now DEPARTED MISS KERN:

I have been commissioned by the Alumni Association of Former students of SAKER BAPTIST COLLEGE in LIMBE, CAMEROON to write this address on behalf of "SAKERETTES", as we are called, who now reside and flourish on every continent and practically every country on the planet.

It is with great sorrow and shock that the news of Miss Kern's passing this past Friday was received by her "SAKER DAUGHTERS" the world over.

We are even further saddened by the fact that none of us, though WILLING and HEARTBROKEN, is able to be present physically to CELEBRATE her LIFE with you!

Come to think of it, it is probably best this way because, had we all had ample notice, you just might have been compelled to move this gathering to some football or hockey ARENA to accommodate all of us!

The task of writing "a few words" to bid Miss KERN farewell is not exactly one that I cherish, because, not only is there so very much to be said and not enough time to say it, there really are no adequate words to DESCRIBE the DEDICATION, the COMMITMENT, the SELFLESSNESS, the INGENUITY, and the sheer BRILLIANCE that were intrinsic to THE HUMAN BEING whose passing we mourn.

Actually, we, her SAKER Daughters are not alone in our sorrow: Our husbands, our children, our employers and employees, our colleagues and neighbors, our patients, our students, our Sunday School classmates ... mourn right along with us, because I do not believe there is a single one of us who has not, at some point, explained where their RESILIENCE comes from; where their capacity to pick themselves up and forge ahead after a devastating fall is derived; where their unflinching FAITH and HOPE for a brighter tomorrow spring from; and where their amazing capacity to sing 5 verses of any hymn by

heart and quote scripture in SONG comes from ! They know it; We know it! It comes, in no small part, from the SOLID foundation Miss Kern built for us during our formative years at Saker Baptist College.

Make no mistake: At the time, we did not quite know or appreciate the painstaking work she was doing, nor did it dawn on us that she was actually SOWING priceless and vital seeds in our fertile minds.

I, for one, considered the "YESTERDAY He died for me; TODAY He lives for me; TOMORROW He comes for me" song little more than a pretty neat tool to remember the PAST, PRESENT and FUTURE tenses of the English Language, just as the true meaning and depth embedded in the words of a song like "WE'LL TALK IT OVER" just did NOT sink in. However, as the years have gone by, we have, each one in her own unique, God-designed way, and to varying degrees, faced trials and tribulations: We have lost children; we have lost husbands ; we have lost jobs and failed in our careers; we have gone through bitter divorces, harrowing car accidents, undergone mastectomies and debilitating chemotherapy sessions and I can tell you in all honesty, that MISS KERN'S DINING HALL SONGS have played a primordial role in keeping us not just afloat, but THRIVING. We have come to understand, even if not completely still, but FAR BETTER, what it means to TRUTHFULLY declare that: "THOUGH SHADOWS DEEPEN, AND MY HEART BLEEDS, I WILL NOT QUESTION THE WAY HE LEADS"!!!

When sickness comes and we do not even have the strength to sing those "MISS KERN SONGS" out loud, the words still resonate in our hearts and when we are so crushed by adversity and so distraught that we do not even think to sing them, GUESS WHAT? A caring SAKERETTE sister or two - actually, more like 10, would show up and SING us through it all!

As for those Theatre Productions she was famous all over Cameroon for, and for which she ought to have won a couple of TONY AWARDS, (at least), they explain why our children think we are geniuses when they hear us glibly and effortlessly recite the entire second chapter of Luke in flawless KING JAMES English, at Christmas time. How would we not, when the narratives for all



those "MISS KERN PLAYS" were lifted straight off the pages of the Bible? Little did we know it then, but in accordance with Psalm 119:11, Miss Kern was helping us HIDE God's Word in our hearts! I could go on and on for days on end, and I would still not do Miss Kern's Legacy justice!

I was VERY privileged and Highly HONORED, in the past 3 plus years, to exchange calls and emails with her on a frequent basis, particularly because I happen to run a website that covers "ALL THINGS SAKER"; a site Miss Kern swiftly and unapologetically, became ADDICTED to, not even because she contributed so much valuable information to it, but because it gave her PURE, UNBRIDLED, GENUINE JOY to see pictures and hear stories of how successful and accomplished her "GIRLS" had become!!! She asked about them by Name; by Chapter; by Graduating Class; she worried and fussed about Cameroon until the very end. SHE JUST PLAIN CARED!

On a personal note, I believe I have lost my mother all over again, after losing the one who actually birthed me, some 3 years ago now. During that difficult period, Miss Kern did her best to remind me of the FIRM ASSURANCE that I WILL see my Mother again, and I guess the time has now come for me to apply the same wisdom, in dealing with her own demise!

Well then, what else is there left to say but:

THANK YOU - to you, her Family, for lending us your rare and precious GEM for 15 good years on the calendar but really for endless GENERATIONS, given that those of us who were BLESSED to have interacted with her directly, have passed on the BLESSINGS to those who weren't; and

THANK YOU, DEAR MISS KERN for GIVING OF YOUR VERY SELF TO GOD & TO US!

ENJOY YOUR WELL DESERVED REST.

WE WILL MISS YOU, SORELY, BUT WE ARE COMFORTED BY THE FACT THAT "WE SHALL MEET ON THAT BEAUTIFUL SHORE, IN THE SWEET BY & BY"

**GOOD NIGHT, HOUSE MOTHER!**

**SLEEP TIGHT, MUSIC & THEATER DIRECTOR!**

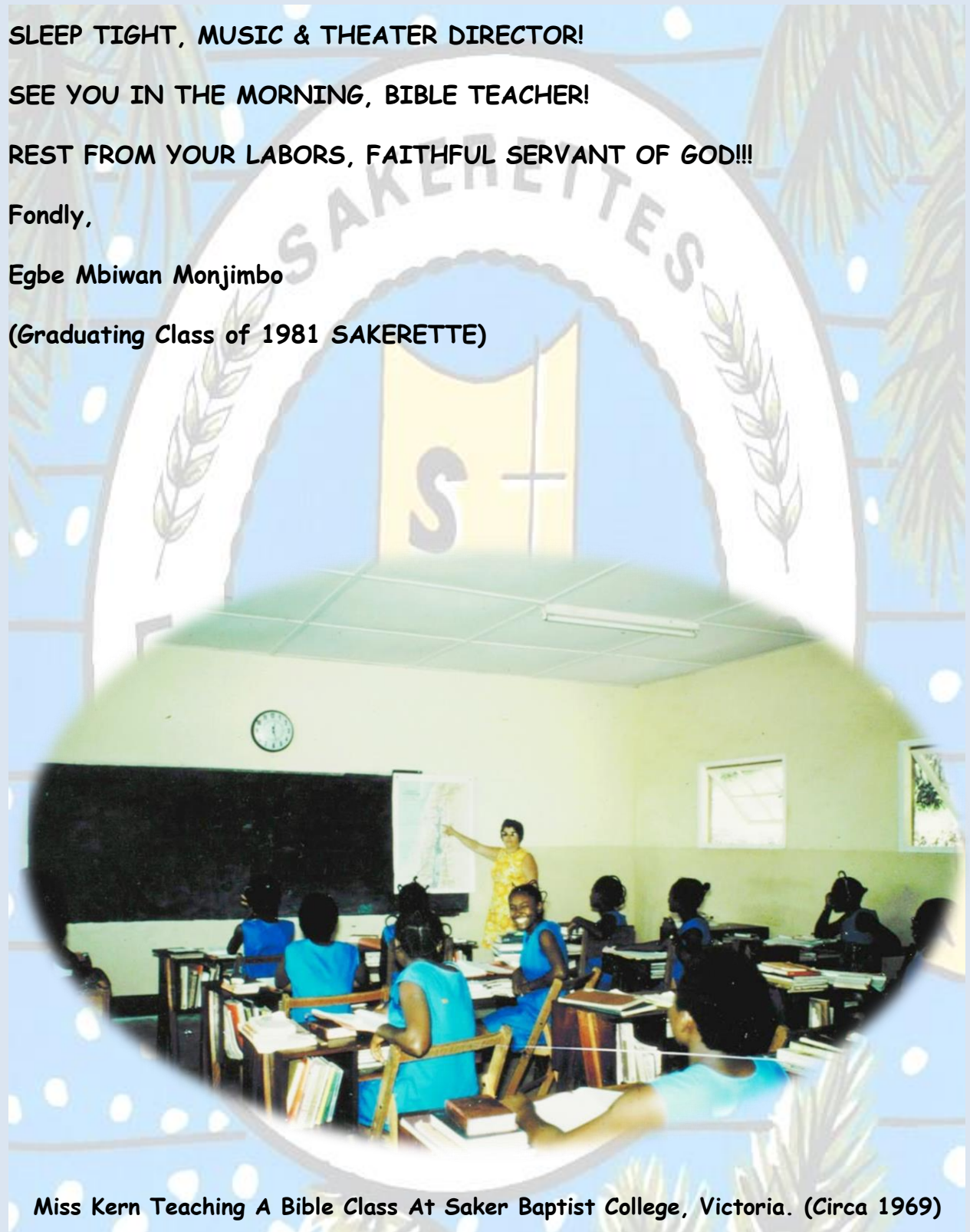
**SEE YOU IN THE MORNING, BIBLE TEACHER!**

**REST FROM YOUR LABORS, FAITHFUL SERVANTS OF GOD!!!**

Fondly,

Egbe Mbiwan Monjimbo

**(Graduating Class of 1981 SAKERETTE)**



**Miss Kern Teaching A Bible Class At Saker Baptist College, Victoria. (Circa 1969)**