

To: exsa_usa@yahoogroups.com
CC: exssa_mal@yahoogroups.com; SakerClassof81@yahoogroups.com
From: emonjimbo@msn.com
Date: Mon, 6 Sep 2010 08:32:13 -0400
Subject: [exssa_mal] WHAT A LADY, WHAT A LIFE, WHAT AN IMPACT! (RIP AUNTY MEG)

SISTERS,

I don't know what to call what I am about to write regarding **Mrs. Magdalene Bessem Enoh née Nkongho**, this **BAOBAB OF A WOMAN** who just took a bow and exited this world's stage so abruptly on Tuesday, August 24 2010! I don't think it qualifies as a Tribute, given the fact that I was not blessed to know her very well. In fact, my intention, when I sat down in front of this computer was to log on to her Memorial Website, (<http://magdaleneenoh.last-memories.com>), say a prayer and then light a candle in her memory. That plan might have worked if I had gone straight to the intended page and immediately done what I purposed to do and logged off. However, the moment I saw just the picture of her on the Main Page, dressed in that ExSSA-Houston uniform, flashing that beautiful, infectious open-teeth smile of hers, I knew my plan did not stand a chance, and by the time I had read through just a handful of testimonies and seen just a couple of the pictures displayed in the gallery, it was more than apparent to me that there was NO WAY I was going to be able to condense my thoughts and sentiments to fit the 130 word limit mandated by the website. **WHAT A LADY, WHAT A LIFE, WHAT AN IMPACT!!!!**

The psalmist's plea in Psalm 90 verse 12 is that we learn to **"NUMBER OUR DAYS"** so that we may **"APPLY OUR HEARTS UNTO WISDOM"**. Because King James Version language can be too pedantic (as in "SASSE" or "I WAS") for a clear understanding, I think reverting to the New Living Translation where the English is downright plain would be a good idea. Here's how the same verse is presented:

"Teach us to realize the brevity of life, so that we may grow in wisdom."

And verse 4 of Psalm 39 puts it even better:

"LORD, remind me how brief my time on earth will be. Remind me that my days are numbered--how fleeting my life is."

From all accounts and reports, from what I have gleaned from her Memorial Website and from the little I was able to witness personally in Houston, Sister Magdalene lived a life which can be summed up as a continuous "application unto wisdom" in so many aspects, but particularly in the 3 that really count: **GOD, FAMILY and CAREER, - IN THAT ORDER!!!** You only have to take one look – even just a cursory glance at that Website to see more evidence of this fact than you could possibly need because her life story is clearly one of **COMMITMENT, INVOLVEMENT and SERVICE** and to think she did it all **without pomp and fanfare** says a great deal about her! Here, in a **COCONUT** shell (a nut is too small), is what really impresses me in the life of this **REMARKABLE and EXEMPLARY SAKERETTE:**

1. DEDICATION TO GOD: Women's Leader in Etougébé Baptist Church for 8 solid years, Deaconess, Vice President of the Cameroon Baptist Convention's Education Board, Planting churches all over Yaounde, one of which met in her own home for 4 good years?????!!!! WOW!! All of that is more than I can fathom but what struck me even more is the testimony from a member of her **"Friday Prayer Group"** who spoke of the uncharacteristic passion and energy with which she prayed, the testimony from

her own sister whom she personally led to Christ, and the lament of her sister-in-law over having just lost her **"PRAYER PARTNER"**!

2. DEDICATION TO FAMILY: Is that not what brought her to the U.S. in May in the first place? You would have thought she gave birth to that baby, and Bessem was just the "Nurse Baby" tagging along! Just look at the pictures of her with her children. She could very easily pass for their sister and in fact, I wonder if that picture of her in jeans with her son's hands around her waist would not have made the poor boy's girlfriend go "hmmm! Chance (as in space) go dey for me so?" I was even confused about the number of children she actually had because half the people who've lighted candles on her website refer to her as "MOM", "MUMMY", "MOM", and "MAMA" since she was a mother to them all! My tear ducts have run dry just reading what not just her own siblings have to say about her, but her IN-LAWS as well! A LOBA LA NDEDI! The pain and heartache are RAW as they tell how she educated them, nursed them back to health, called them just to chat, etc. And as for her husband and life partner of 30 years!!!! What can I say eh, dear Papa God???? The pictures beautifully and vividly chronicle the "Love Birds" from their dating years in Ngoa-Ekélé, through their 25th wedding Anniversary in 2005 to date, interspersed with "Excursions to Rumsiki" and trips all over the globe to visit family and friends. Anyway, even though my heart hurts to see them, I am grateful for the example they have left for their children and for the rest of us as well.

3. "BOOK WOMAN": Scholarship to Saker; Breezing through CPC Bali; MAKING IT THROUGH NGOA-EKELE'S FACULTÉ DES SCIENCES IN 3 YEARS when everyone else took twice as long – marrying and "borning" 4 children along the way, gave up, or "Burned their Mandat"; Msc Degree in Chemistry from the University of Connecticut; Taught in Sasse, PSS Besongabang, Lycée Bilingue Essos; Pedagogic adviser; Member of G.C.E board; Hubert Humphrey Fellow ...!!! Yes, she is now unable to finish the work on her PhD but, as far as I am concerned, she has more than earned that Doctorate, and I can only hope that someone will pick up from where she left off because knowing and understanding the components of medicinal plants will definitely go a long way to improve the health of millions.

4. SERVICE, INVOLVEMENT & COMMITMENT: This lady could have come to Houston, said "ah cam look pikin" and stayed home but she did not! She got involved! She attended Houston meetings, sewed their Convention Uniform, sang with them and attended EVERY SINGLE EVENT on that Convention Program, including the picnic! By the way, she was at the D.C. Convention last year as well, which makes her U.S.A. Convention attendance record far better than that of some Ex-Sakerettes living in this country who are yet to attend even their first Convention!! She must have had a ledger for a passport and "impossible" frequent flyer miles, with all her trips around the world for conferences, workshops and seminars in places as far flung as Ghana, Singapore, and Kenya, all because she was genuinely committed to her work for God and Community. She clearly was also involved in peoples' lives. I gave up counting the number of times I saw the words "advice", "encouragement", "smile", "gentle" and "soft" on that website!

5. SHOW GIRL/HOT MAMA: This is no small or insignificant fragment of the bunch of things I noted that impacted me! To be frank, it is not so common to find a woman as well rounded as this Sister of ours was! Someone with her level of commitment to God and family, with the brain power she had – especially in the field of the Sciences is (let's face it), generally not too bothered about looks but our Aunty Meg sure looked hot oh! Her salamandas, apagas, dunkahs, pinafores and maxis; the "brokings" in her skirts, the tints and highlights in her hair, the "nenes" and especially that red hot décolleté in the picture where her darling husband looks like he was just about to plant a kiss on her cheek!!!! DE MADAM NO BE EASY OH!!!

This woman, to me, was **THE REAL DEAL, A COMPLETE PACKAGE, A RARE SPECIMEN OF A WOMAN** and for me who did not get a chance to know her well here below, I am glad I'll get the chance to "fix" that when the bell tolls for me too; Entre temps, I think I would do well to try, in the time I have left, to copy her example for she was A TRUE SOLDIER who, (as the song says), died at her post, IN ACTIVE DUTY, but whose soul goes marching on!!! MES RESPECTS, COMMANDANT DE L'ARMÉE DU DIEU VIVANT et mes sincères condoléances aux familles ENOH et NKONGHO si durement éprouvées !

Big Sis: I cannot make it to Houston this weekend to bid you farewell but one of the songs I will be singing from my living room in your honor come Friday night, will be "IT PAYS TO SERVE JESUS", because its words ring so true for you!

REST IN PEACE, **Dr.** MEG!

Egbe Mbiwan Monjimbo

(Weeping *and* Smiling away in Charlotte on this Labor Day morning)

IT PAYS TO SERVE JESUS

It pays to serve Jesus, I speak from my heart,
He'll always be with us, if we do our part
There's naught in this wide world can pleasure afford;
There's peace and contentment in serving the Lord.

CHORUS

I love Him far better than in days of yore
I'll serve Him more truly than ever before,
I'll do as He bids me, whatever the cost,
I'll be a true soldier, I'll die at my post.

And oft when I'm tempted to turn from the track,
I think of my Saviour, my mind wanders back
To the place where they nailed Him on Calvary's tree.
I heard a voice saying, "I suffered for thee."

A place I remember where I was set free,

'Twas where I found pardon, a heaven to me.
There Jesus spoke sweetly to my weary soul,
My sins were forgiven, He made my heart whole.

How rich is the blessing the world cannot give,
I'm satisfied fully for Jesus to live;
Though friends may forsake me and trial arise,
I am trusting Jesus, His love never dies.

There is no one like Jesus can cheer me today.
His love and His kindness can ne'er fade away,
In winter and summer, in sunshine and rain,
His love and affection are always the same.

Will you have this blessing that Jesus bestows,
A free full salvation from sin's bitter throes?
O come to the Saviour, to Calvary flee,
The fountain is opened, is flowing for thee.