

TRIBUTE TO MISS EUNICE KERN
From Chantal Gwannulla Nchanji, Harriet Nokuri and
Yolanda Nokuri Hegngi

There are key defining moments in our lives that literally shape our destinies in profound ways. In many of our lives, these defining moments are shaped by some special individuals. In Harriet and my life, a key defining moment was when we left all familiarity in Cameroon at age 18 and 17, respectively, and moved to Edmonton, Canada for college. As we both reflect on our lives, we attribute the success of that early transition in Canada to Miss Eunice Kern.

She not only was a "host mother" to us in Leduc, AB - Canada but she was a vital link to everything we missed at Saker and in Cameroon. She not only provided a warm home with hearty meals during the frigid winters, but Miss Kern warmed our hearts with stories of the early days of Saker, when she and a few missionaries, shaped the lives of thousands of young girls, who are now dispatched around the world.

Miss Kern not only taught us at Saker Baptist College in Limbe, erstwhile, Victoria, Cameroon, but she guided our academic choices at North American Baptist College in South Edmonton, AB - Canada and eventually as we transferred to graduate from Sioux Falls College, S. Dakota and Trinity University in BC, Canada, respectively.

Almost three to four years ago, when I was faced with an empty nest, as both of my sons left for college, I paused and wrote a small book about my journey. That book caused me to reflect on my life and I took one of the first copies of my book to Leduc, AB - Canada with Chantal Gwannulla to visit Miss Kern. In retrospect, I thank God for giving me the opportunity to have a 3-day visit that included worshipping with Miss Kern at her church. I thank God for allowing me to eat ham and pineapple pizza and hot apple pie, a la mode (with melting vanilla ice cream) with Miss Kern in 2011, just like Harriet and I ate with her and her mother in the early 80's. As we shared stories about Saker, Chantal and I remarked that Miss Kern spoke about Saker like time had stood still for her!!! Her recollections about the founding years of Saker were as vivid, 50 years later, as when she arrived in Victoria, as a young missionary.

I thank God for the numerous gifts of crocheted crafts that I have at home in Maryland and Cameroon, from Miss Kern. I thank God for all the historical photos of Saker and Cameroon that Miss Kern gave us, especially because the photos have been digitized and used since the Saker Jubilee Celebrations in 2012.

One of my lasting memories of Miss Kern is that she never remembered all her kindness to Chantal, Harriet and me. Please listen carefully to why this is so special. So many times, people never let you forget their kindness to you and seemingly imply a *quid pro quo!* Everytime I reminded Miss Kern of a kind act to me and she didn't remember, I breathe praise and thanks to our Almighty God. On this day, I join many thousands of women from Saker, in thanking God for Miss Eunice Kern's dedication, excellence and generosity. Miss Kern, see you in heaven one day, when we will continue singing the everlasting song with the angels...

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Top Picture: Miss Kern, Dr. Yolanda Nokuri Hegngi and Mrs. Chantal Gwanulla Nchanji, at Leduc Fellowship Church in Canada, when they visited Miss Kern in 2011

Bottom Picture: Chantal & Miss Kern

