

A TRIBUTE TO MY WONDERFUL BELOVED ELDER BROTHER,
CAPT. (DR.) IDAHOSA WELLS OKUNBO (JP)

The passing away of my dearly beloved elder brother Capt. (Dr.) Idahosa Wells Okunbo came as a shock to me. Unbelievably heartbroken, that I still imagine if it is real or not. It is indeed a great loss and a deep vacuum that has been created and only God Himself can fill that vacuum. The fact that I will not see you physically again is my greatest pain to handle.

You were always there like a brother and father, sent from God to us as a family. It meant so much to me that I will forever be grateful to God to have a brother like you – a rare gem with a large heart, compassionate, selfless, hardworking and intelligent, touching every heart that comes across you in a special positive way helping them to fulfill their purpose. A businessman who conquered poverty in the air, on the sea and on land and your success speaks all over the world today. What a great man you are my brother!

As a young girl growing up, we lived together with my grandmother in Benin City, there you taught me how to prepare one special Egusi soup and then in Dopemu, Lagos while you were a bachelor. And when you eventually got married, you still carried me along when I was a spinster. You were like a Guardian Angel to me. You were a brother and a father to me. How can I ever forget you!

You have always been there in the journey of my life as a pillar, a great support and an encourager. Words are not enough to express all that God has used you for in my life. As your only sister from the same mother, you cared so much for me like your daughter. During my days in higher institution, I never lacked, you gave me excess more than what I ever requested, which gave me the opportunity to discover my strength in some certain areas of my life that is still helping me today. You were a great impact to my life, so much impact you made that it will take a whole book to write it down.

I will always remember what you call me with a smiling face “*Iye-Nekhere*” meaning in Edo Language “My small mother”. You can never be erased from my heart. My heart bleeds each time I remember you are no more, but I can’t question God.

Recently, on your sick bed, there was a situation that needed urgent attention that I deliberately hid from you because of your health challenge and when you heard, your statement was “My sister, why did you not tell me?” And immediately you swung into action to provide solution for me to what has been giving me sleepless night. Tears row from my eyes that you

were asking after me making sure I am okay, even in that condition you were. This is a memory that is unforgettable.

I take solace in the fact that you were born again and you are in a better place in the bosom of our Lord Jesus Christ. I love you dearly my brother. I miss you so much. Rest in peace till we meet to part no more.

Your only sister from the same womb,
Iye-Nekhere, Mrs. Edith Onwuegbuzie