

Dearest Daddy,

It is very difficult to believe that you are gone. As hard as it may be, I am comforted by the fond memories that we, your children, shared with you. I remember how I would rub your head while we chatted at home; how you'd ask me to write your letters and iron your clothes when I was on holiday from boarding school because you loved my handwriting and the 'gators' I would iron on your pairs of trousers and shirts.

You were a great host, amiable, and accessible. You loved to have a good time. I saw that first hand while growing up. There was always food and drinks to entertain friends and guests who would dance and drink to their hearts' content. You were agile, fiery but magnanimous, affectionate and good to all and sundry.

Your work ethic was exceptional and worthy of emulation. You were incredibly brilliant, resolute, determined and passionate. You worked hard in every sphere and venture you delved into and succeeded in them all. You put your heart to whatever it is you did. Your word was your bond. Men testified to your integrity. The slew of awards and accolades you received speak to your values of hard work, integrity, and industry.

'Daddy Daddy' as I fondly called you – I miss you. It still beats me how things spiralled out of control but now I see that the Creator, who knows all things from the beginning, always had a plan for the end. Your death was sudden and filled us with so much shock, but through it all I see the hand of God. What the enemy meant for evil, the LORD turned it in your favour.

Daddy, you ran your race, you fought, you won. The wicked one did not see your salvation coming! Even in death, you were victorious! As it is written in the Holy Bible; *So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. 1 Corinthians 15:54 (KJV).*

Your life was exemplary, yet, instructive. We did not understand the magnitude of your influence and how far-reaching your name. We see now and are learning from your life how we should live and conduct ourselves. We your children will do well to imbibe your good virtues and learn lessons from the wars you fought. Your goodwill speaks volumes.

Thank you for the quality of life you gave us. You gave us the best! Thank you for the opportunities and exposure you gave us through the education you provided. You opened doors to great possibilities and helped me at every weak moment. You never let go of your hand or support to me. I remember how you sent people to me, to convince me to let you buy me an A-Class Mercedes after I graduated from my first degree. You would always say; "I should have allowed you to join the army". For all of these benefits, I say an unending thank you. Thank you for your love, your concern, your care and kind-heartedness. Thank you for being a blessing. You were a father indeed!

I will sorely miss you. I am comforted that though I see you no more on this side, we shall surely see again in the presence of the LORD for eternity! For it is written; *Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death, so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope. 1 Thessalonians 4:13 (NIV).*

Sleep well dad. I love you very much!

Deborah