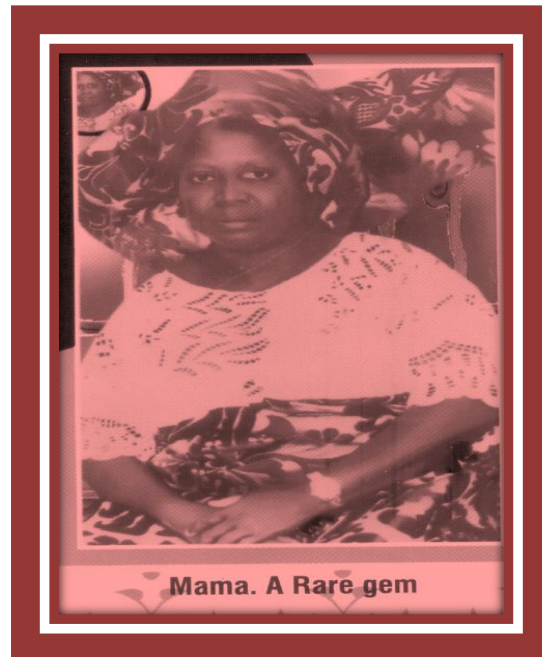


ESW WEST-CENTRAL AFRICA DIVISION
ELLEN G. WHITE-SDA RESEARCH CENTRE
Sabcock University
PIONEER OF THE MONTH

*As one of our publications, Pioneer of the Month
brings to you from time to time
brief accounts of some of
our Pioneers who had laboured in
God's Vineyard.*

*For the month of January,
we present a servant of God,*



Late Mrs. Marian Olaitan Ajike Owoabi

(NEE ODODEJI)

(May 1927 to December 31, 2014)

EARLY LIFE: On a special day in May, 1927, a baby girl was added to the three children of Pa. Idowu and Madam Hannah Adetoun Odedeji of Aworo's compound, Oke-lia Orangun in present day Osun state, Nigeria. The baby girl, on the eighth day was named Olaitan Idowu Ajike Odedeji. Her other siblings are Dada, Taye and Kehinde, Mobolaji (all of blessed memory) and Elder James Olatunde Odedeji.

By the grace of God, the baby grew, attained the school age and was fortunate to be among the few in her days to have formal education. Olaitan Idowu had her early education at the Seventh-day Adventist Primary School, Oke-lia Orangun from 1937-1943. Among her school mates were Joshua Popoola, Samuel Osundina and Pastor Diji Owolabi who later became her beloved husband.

FAMILY LIFE: The enterprising, hardworking, virtuous and beautiful young lady became a point of attraction and discussion to many young men and their parents in the community. Her passion to touch lives with her Christian experience and educational background made her to fall in love with the young godly and handsome school mate, Jacob 'Diji Owolabi of Obaafa Isale Compound. They were not new to each other, for they were classmates in SDA primary school, Oke-lia Orangun. They were destined to be husband and wife, as it was observed that Odedeji Olaitan and Owolabi 'Diji came in that order in their school register. On April 14, 1949, Olaitan wedded 'Diji and the new bride joined her husband who was transferred to SDA primary school, Ikun- Ekiti. That marked the beginning of a team work that lasted for sixty-five years. They were blessed with God's given Children, Grand Children and Great grand Children.

WORK EXPERIENCE: After the early education in Oke-lia, she desired to join her male colleagues who proceeded to Oke-Bola, Ibadan for further education, but could not for lack of accommodation facilities for female students. The enterprising, hardworking and growing young lady, in spite of the apparent obstacle, did not give up. Olaitan rather registered as an apprentice sewing mistress under Mrs. Akanro (Nee Dare) at Erunmu. With dedication to duty, she acquired the skill and was certified a competent sewing mistress after meeting all the requirements.

Shortly after their wedding in April 1949, the couple experienced their first transfer from Ikun-Ekiti to Ayetoro-Ekiti. The change of location did not spoil the joy of their marriage, for they were willing to sacrifice personal interests for God's service as well as the future and development of the young pupils. As soon as they arrived in Ayetoro, the radiant young wife, Marian Olaitan Idowu Owolabi was baptized in May, 1949 by Pastor J. B. Oriola. With joy, she also welcomed the call for her loving husband to go for ministerial training in the then Nigeria Training College, Ibie East-Central State of Nigeria, now Abia State from 1950-1951.

After the training, the resourceful teacher, Jacob 'Diji Owolabi, became a full-time Evangelist and Mrs. Olaitan Owolabi began the second phase of her team-work as a pastor's wife. In this capacity, she moved with her husband to Omu-Oke, their first Pastoral Station. Thereafter, both of them served with dedication to God and humanity in the following churches:

i. Omu-Oke from June 1952-1955

ii. Erunmu from July 1955- August 1956

III. Yaba, Lagos from August 1956 to April 1958

IV. Erunmu from April 1958 to May 1959

V. Osi, Kwara state, from May 1959 to February 1967

VI. Erunmu from 1967 to September 1975

Vii. Ila-Orangun from September 1975 to 1987.

In 1987, Pastor and Mrs. J. D. Owolabi were officially retired. After the couple's formal retirement, they remained in Ila-Orangun from 1987 to 1990 The Extended service was in response to appeals from both the Conference and Ila-Orangun Church for the dedicated retired couple to complete the church building projects before finally returning home.

RETIREMENT

Madam Owolabi enjoyed the retirement with her husband for many years. Nevertheless, whatever has a beginning must always have an end, this includes human life on earth. As written in Ecclesiastes, chapter 3: 1-5 “To every [thing there is] a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven: A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up [that which is] planted; A time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; A time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;” . Mama completed her life circle on December 31, 2015.

I.

Source: Extract from Biography (burial program April 2015); Edited by (Chinanu- Akpuh, Chinwe Comfort, Research Assistant, Ellen G. White-SDA Research Centre, Babcock University),

Published

By

Ellen g. White-SDA Research Centre's

Mailing Address: PMB 21244 Ikeja, Lagos, Nigeria

E-mail: egwsdarc@babcock.edu.ng; egwsdarcbu2014@yahoo.com

Director: Adelowo Felix Adetunji, Ph.D. Tel.: +234 8033705097; 80720290189

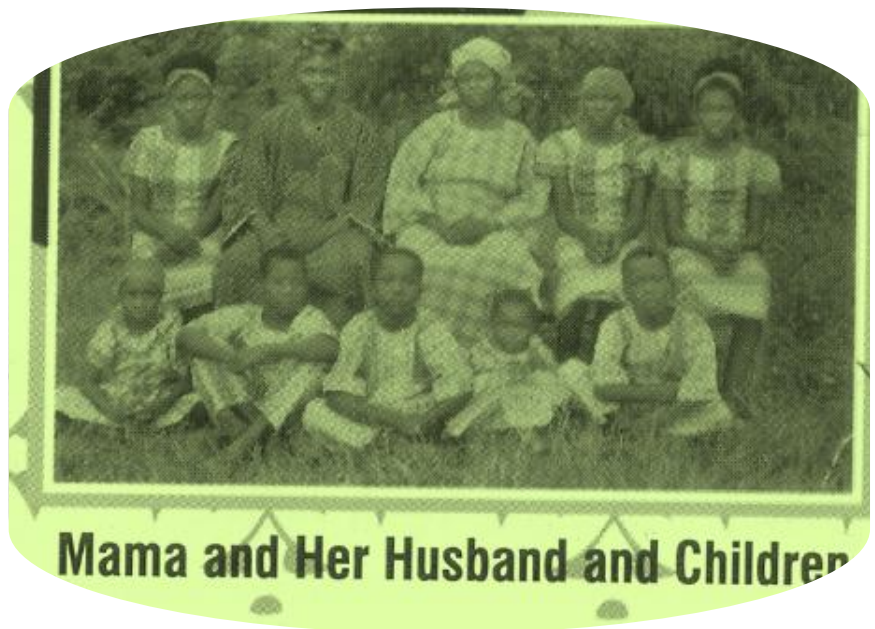
Research Assistant: Chinwe Comfort Chinanu-Akpuh, Tel.: +234 8034969753

Principal Administrative Officer: Oyewole Akintunde, Tel.: +234 8028347214

ALBUM



Grand Pa posed with His African Queen



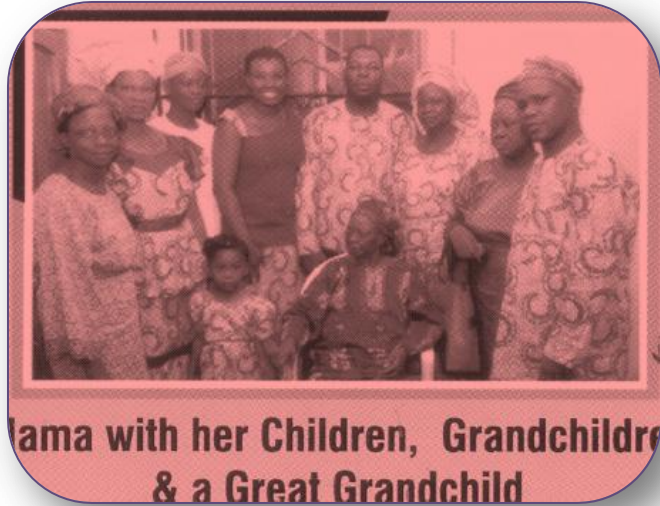
Mama and Her Husband and Children



Mama with her friend at youthful age.



**Mama and Her Siblings
and their Children**



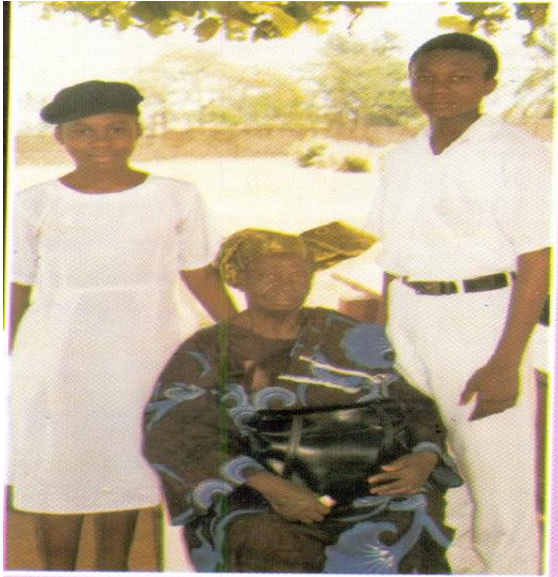
Grand Ma, Grand Pa and Grandchildren



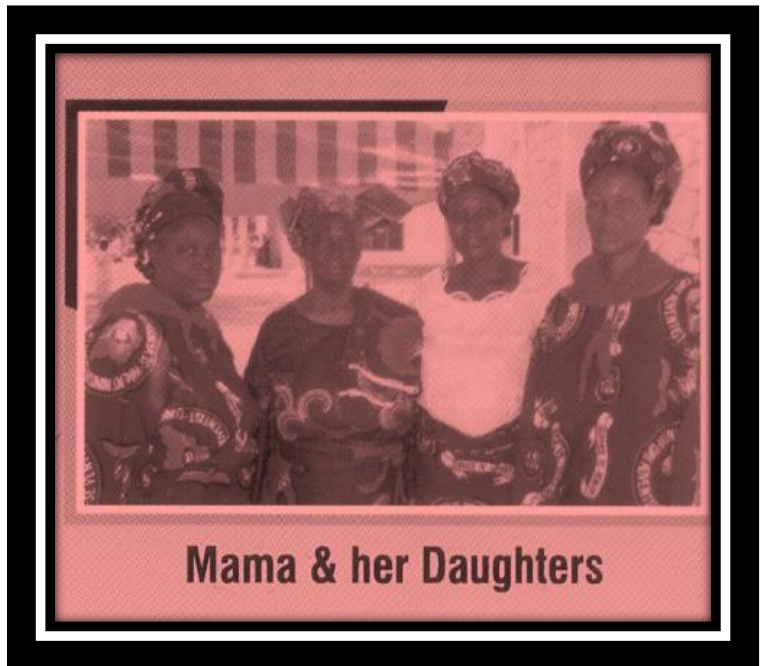
Mama and family celebrating one of their daughter in marriage.



Grand Ma on her Grandson's Graduation



Mama on a visit to her grandchildren in High School.



Mama & her Daughters

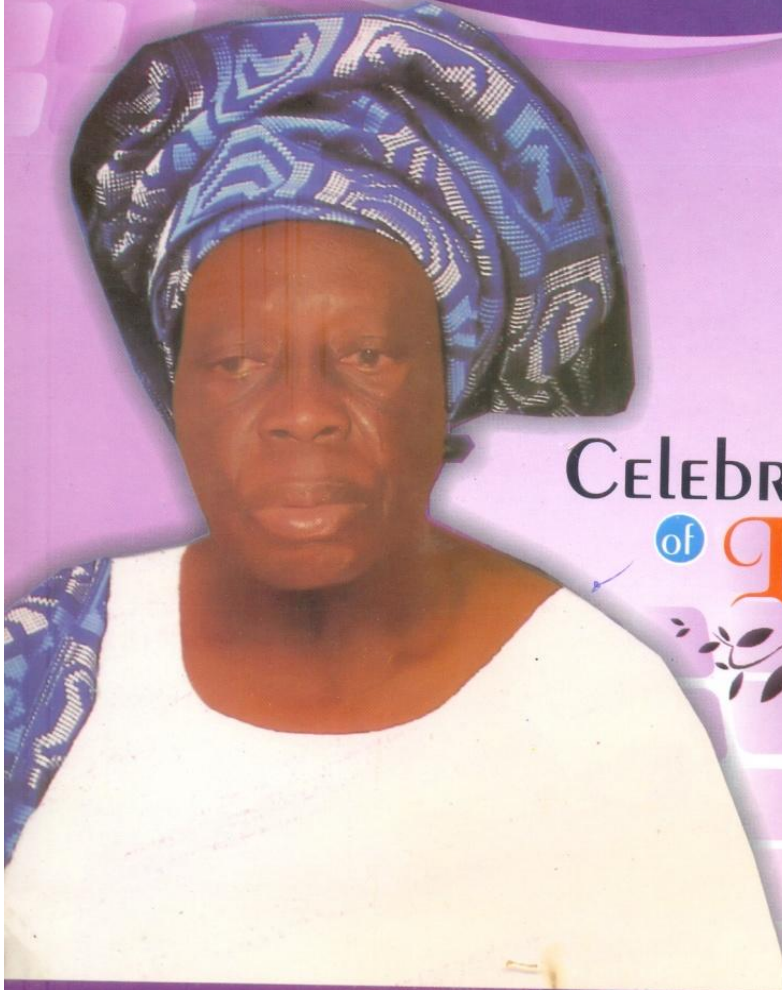


Mama in her old age.



SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

(DISTRICT HEADQUARTERS) OKE-ILA ORANGUN
IFEDAYO L.G.A. OSUN STATE.



CELEBRATION
of *Life!*

Shepherdess
**MARIAN OLAITAN AJIKE
OWOLABI**
(NEE ODEDEJI)

Aged:
87
Years
Thursday, 2nd April, 2015

