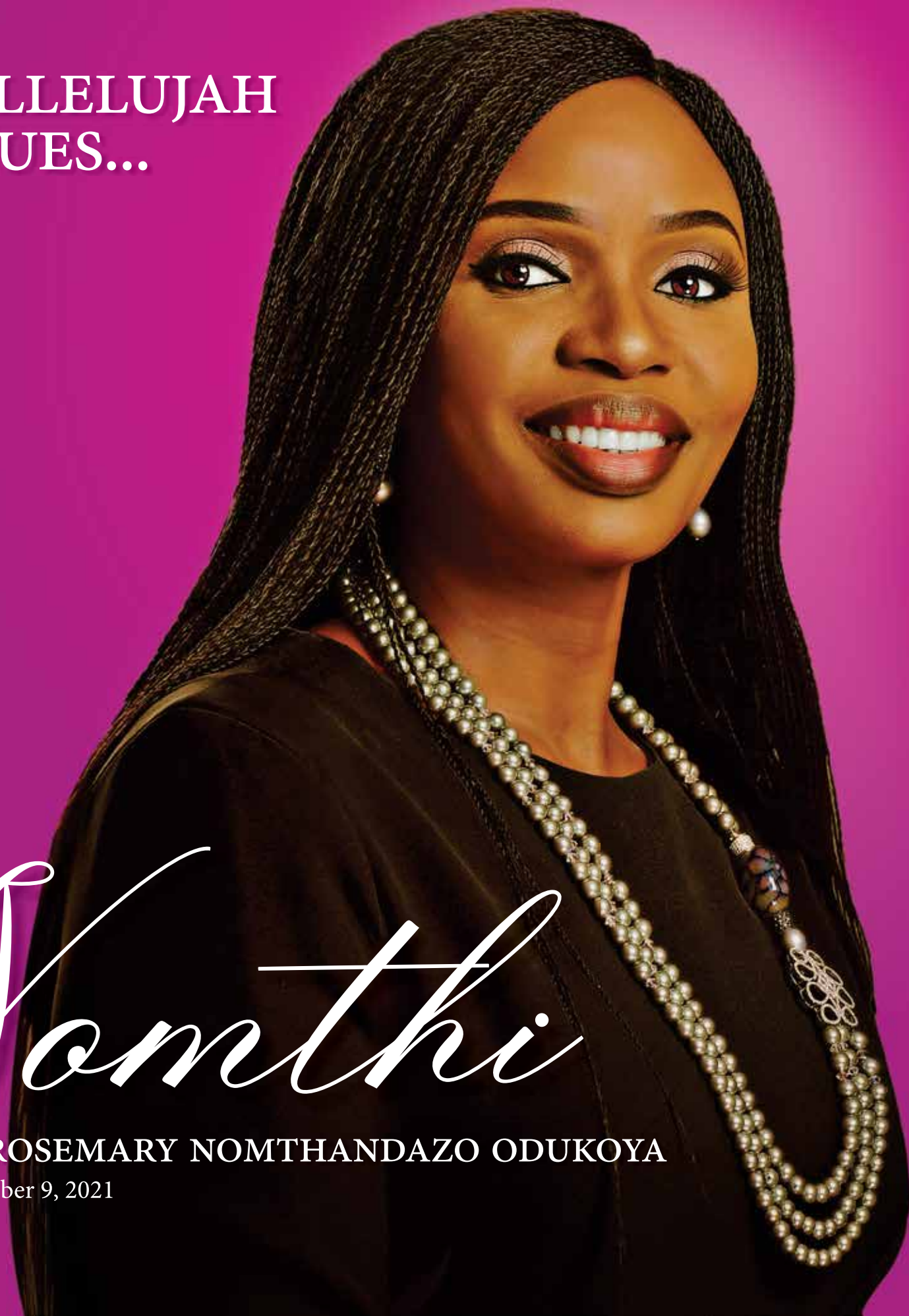


THE HALLELUJAH
CONTINUES...

Nomthi

SIMANGELE ROSEMARY NOMTHANDAZO ODUKOYA

May 30, 1974 - November 9, 2021



Night of Tributes

Order of Service

1. Call to Worship
2. Opening Prayer
3. Opening Hymn: Great is thy Faithfulness
4. Bible Reading: 2 Corinthians 4:7-10 TPT
5. Tributes from Community
6. Pastor Nomthi's Biography
7. Special Song
8. Bible Reading: John 14:1-3 NKJV
9. Hymn: We Have An Anchor
10. Pastor Nomthi: A Woman of Promise
11. Special South African Medley
12. Bible Reading: Romans 8:31-39 NKJV
13. Tributes from Friends
14. Song Ministration
15. Pastor Nomthi and her Mr. T
16. Tributes from Families
17. Worship
18. Exhortation
19. Prayer for the Family
20. Pastor Nomthi's Hallelujah life
21. Guest Ministration
22. Choir
23. Vote of Thanks
24. Benediction



Biography

Simangele Rosemary Nomthandazo Odukoya

May 30 1974 - November 9 2021

Christened Simangele Rosemary Zulu, Pastor Nomthi was born on the 30th of May 1974 in Durban, South Africa, the first child of Mrs Busisiwe Zemeth. A brother, Ntsiko, followed seven years later. Raised in a single-parent home, Nomthi (as she came to be known after her family friend named her 'Nomthandazo', meaning 'Woman of Prayer'), did not lack father figures as she had uncles and other father figures in the church. Although she lived in the city with her mother, her childhood was marked by long holidays spent in the village with her great-grandmother.



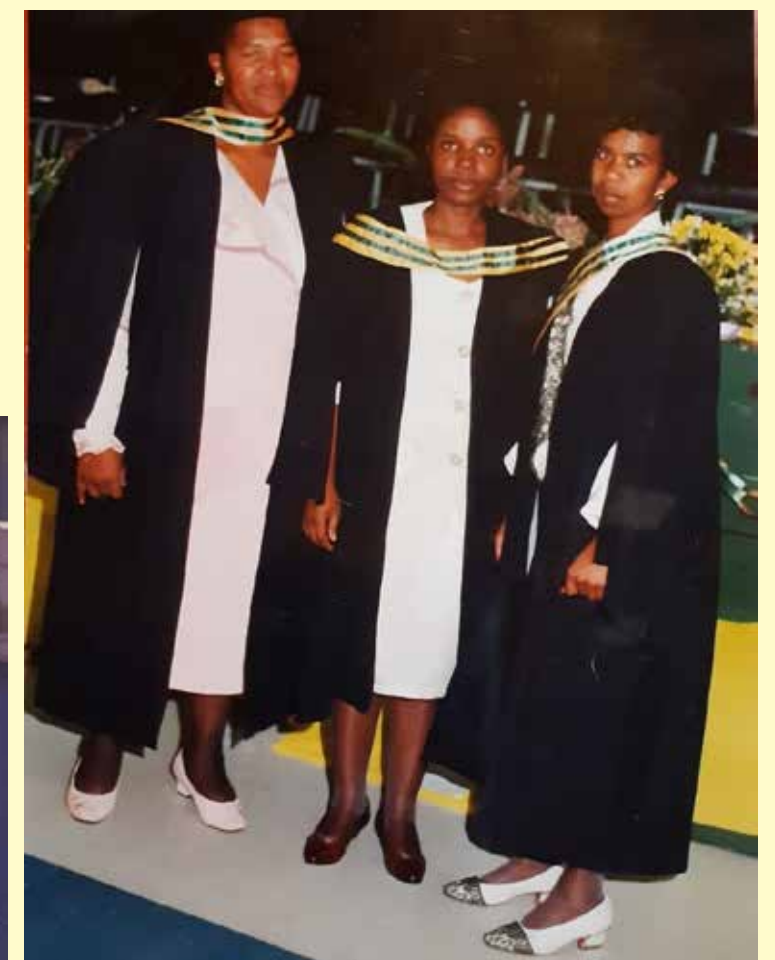
She attended Domino Servite School, an independent Christian school in the KwaZulu Natal Midlands, South Africa. She credited her school with cultivating her lifelong habit of starting every day with a morning devotion. Raised in a deeply committed Christian home, Pastor Nomthi grew up within a close-knit church community. She attended church regularly and was surrounded by Godly counsel. In 1987, she made a conscious decision to give her life to Christ.



She attended the Natal College of Education, where she got her Higher Diploma in Education. She then worked as a teacher in South Africa for eight years, during which time she bought a piece of land in the Pinetown area of Durban and built a house for her mother. Although her mother passed on to glory in 2014, the house still stands as a family home and a testament to the dedicated and hardworking daughter that Pastor Nomthi was.



Pastor Nomthi moved to London in 2002, where she continued to work as a teacher. She joined Triumphant Church International (TCI), under the leadership of Pastors Clem and Marjorie Esomowe, through whom she said she learnt consistency in prayer. A dedicated member of the choir, TCI Shouts of Joy, she rose to become the choir's Music Director.



It was whilst ministering in song with this choir that she was spotted by Pastor Taiwo Odukoya, Senior Pastor of The Fountain of Life Church, Lagos, when he went to London to preach at TCI's Dominion Conference in 2008. They were married on 5th January 2010. They have two sons together, Timilehin and Jomiloju, and six grandchildren, through the children from Pastor Taiwo's first marriage – Pastors Tolu, Jimmy and Tobi.



Pastor Nomthi quickly endeared herself to The Fountain of Life Church pastorate and members with her joyful disposition, palpable love of Christ, and kindness. She became the President of Home Affairs, the Married Women's Fellowship of the church in 2014.

In 2015, after a visit from a church member who went to speak in a school and returned with handwritten questions by students who had been molested and sexually abused, she decided to pray about what could be done to curb the menace. She also encouraged Home Affairs members to pray. In response, God told her to write a children's book to educate children on how they can protect themselves from such abuse. She then wrote a book titled "No! Don't Touch Me There", which became one of the best-selling children's books in Nigeria.

Over the years, she spoke in various schools to children and adults about child protection and donated free copies of her books to students in public schools in Lagos. Testimonies abound of how these books have helped to prevent child abuse.

She founded a not-for-profit organization, Funda Wazi Foundation, which means "Learn and Know" in her native Zulu language in 2015. The Foundation is committed to developing and distributing child-friendly resources to educate, equip and empower children and adults to confront abuse and social ills, thereby ensuring children's safety and wellbeing.

She went on to write more books for children, including: 'A Bully Is Not A Hero', 'Help! They Are Fighting Again', 'Children Saving The Planet', 'Boys And Girls Are Different But Equal', 'Some Children Have Additional Needs', and 'How to Be Safe Online'.





She also wrote two volumes of stories for adults titled '40 Real-Life Lessons', and 'Enjoy Your Life'. She published these resources and more via the morally driven social enterprise she established in 2017 called 'Yazi Wenze Limited', which means 'Know and Do' in Zulu.

Pastor Nomthi was the inaugural President of the Board of Trustees, Grace Springs Cooperative Multipurpose Society from June 2012 to April 2017. The cooperative was established to facilitate financial independence as well as investment management and growth by promoting the economic interest of all members, encouraging regular saving habits and providing credit facilities to members at fair and reasonable interest rates for provident and productive purposes. During her tenure, the cooperative grew from 20 people to over 1200 men and women who have benefited immensely from its various schemes.

Pastor Nomthi was also the Chairperson of Fountain Initiative for Social Development (FISD), a faith-based non-profit organisation committed to entrepreneurial development and the empowerment of underprivileged individuals and communities across Nigeria. The Education Support Fund (ESF), an initiative of FISD, was established in February 2015 to provide scholarships, books, and

equipment to public schools in Lagos. In October 2015, FISD delivered an NYSC Enterprise Funding Fair that provided funds for budding entrepreneurs in partnership with Lagos State .

Pastor Nomthi was President of "Discovery Makeover", an outreach of Discovery for Women Ministry targeted at young ladies in university. The catalyst for this initiative was the realisation of the moral decadence pervading university campuses. With the strong belief that the only way to save our future generation of wives, mothers and exemplary career women was to win their souls for Christ, Pastor Nomthi presided over this annual event where thousands of young ladies gathered, with hundreds giving their hearts to Christ.

Pastor Nomthi was the Head of Fine Wine, a mature singles fellowship for people over 40.

She became known for her catchphrase, 'Enjoy Your Life', as she constantly encouraged people to enjoy their lives regardless of their circumstances. She was fondly nicknamed President of Enjoy Your Life.

In her lifetime, Pastor Nomthi spoke at various platforms across Africa, Europe, and North and South Americas.

On 9th November 2021, after a bravely fought battle with cancer, Pastor Nomthi transitioned to glory. She inspired those around her with her unwavering faith and commitment to sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ even in the face of illness.



Tributes

BY FAMILY



My dearest Nom

You came into my life with your own special kind of light and sunshine. You brightened up my days and things took a beautiful turn. Within a short space of time, I knew God had favoured me highly by blessing my life with yours.

I found in you a woman of great depth, uncommon wisdom, a great listener, slow to speak, with your words chosen very carefully. You were willing to learn about everything new very fast; my people, my culture, my nation.

You blended in smoothly into every facet of my life - my children, my siblings and their families, my ministry and everything our God has committed to me. You were simply one of a kind!

You approached everything with the simplicity and purity of heart like a child as our Lord Jesus often spoke of, embracing all things with the innocence of a child.

Before my eyes, I watched you evolve, expressing and manifesting the rich depth locked within you, built over the years in your intimate walk with God. Your love for God was so palpable. Your habit of daily Bible reading, prayer

and praise & worship could make anyone almost become jealous of your fellowship with Him.

You saw everything and everyone through the lenses of the Word. Indeed, you believed all things, hoped all things, endured all things - your life was an amazing expression of love as God intended.

Nom, I am the one that is so grateful God brought you into my life and caused our paths to cross this side of eternity.

Thank you for 11 years of love I cherished, 11 years of fun, laughter and joy. You lit up my world! You were an incredible woman. An embodiment of all the qualities of the Proverbs 31 woman.

Sleep on Nom in the bosom of our Lord Jesus Christ. Enjoy your many crowns!

I love you.

Mr T

Taiwo Odukoya





Words cannot express my love for you, Mummy.

We had close to three weeks after you came back. Those three weeks were the best I've had in my life. Seeing your smile and being able to have conversations and to be able to touch you, kiss you on the cheek and forehead and even to hug you. It was amazing to have you back.

You wanted the best for us. You loved us so much. You woke up at 3:00 A.M to watch my Year 6 graduation, and you never wanted to miss anything going on in our lives. You were so proud of us making achievements and even when we didn't, you were still so happy and proud. Even when we disappointed you.

You always expressed how much you loved us.

I could tell you anything, and you would listen and make corrections but in a loving way. I loved the way you preached; I loved your love and especially your positivity. I still read all the children's books you wrote. Your love for God was very strong and He called you back home.

I'm happy knowing you're in Heaven enjoying your life. While here, I'll learn Zulu. Every decision I make, I'll think: "Will my Mummy be happy?" Mummy, your kindness is like no other.

Ngikuthanda khakulu, Mama.

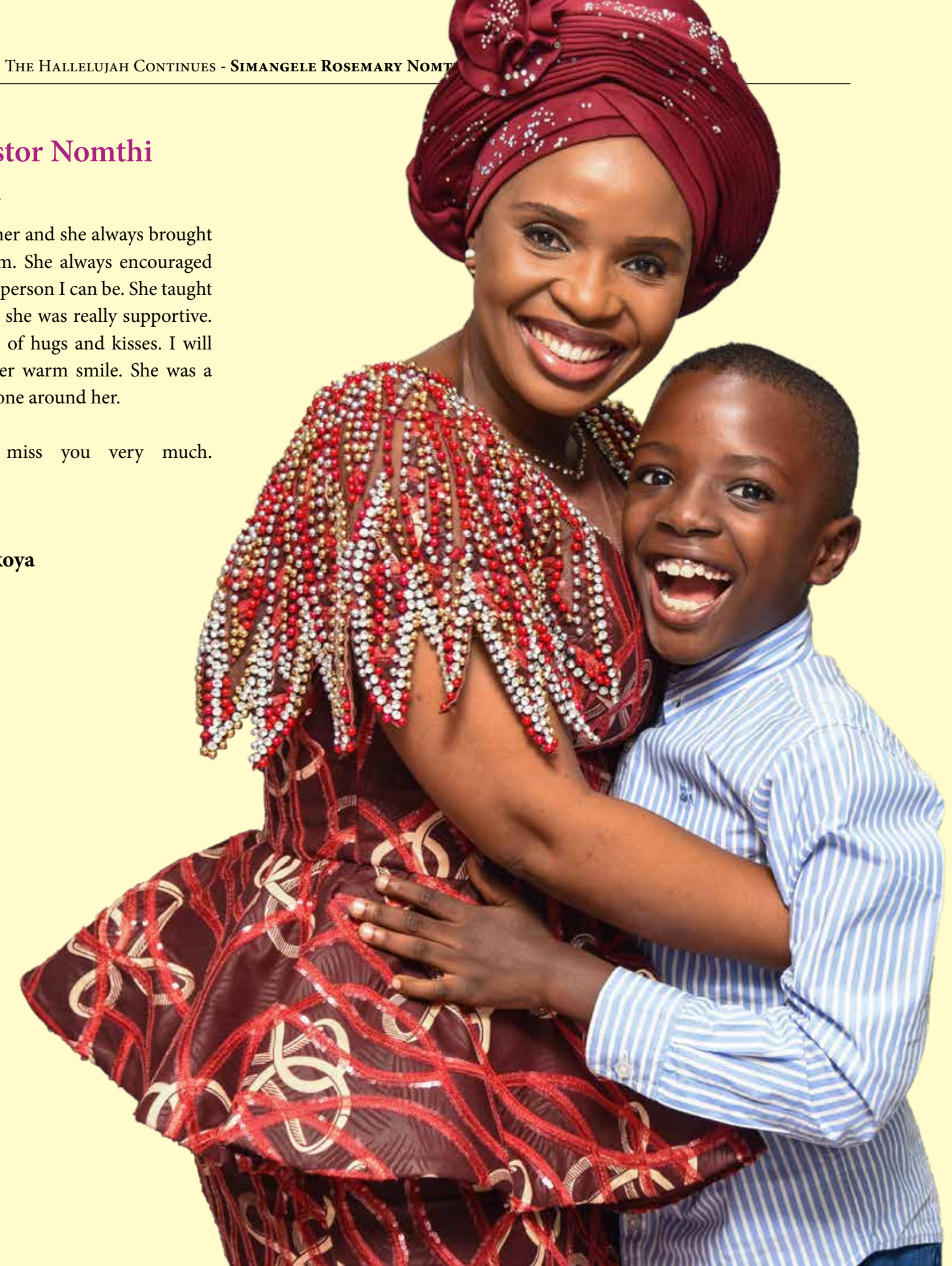
Timiology
Timilehin Odukoya

I loved Pastor Nomthi very much

She was my mother and she always brought joy to every room. She always encouraged me to be the best person I can be. She taught me kindness and she was really supportive. She gave me lots of hugs and kisses. I will definitely miss her warm smile. She was a blessing to everyone around her.

We love and miss you very much.
FAREWELL.

JJ
Jomiloju Odukoya



Dear Aunty Nom,

I'm going to miss you! Your Christian faith, your smile, your genuine affection for children, and your good night song.

You brought so much joy and love into our lives. You made my Father laugh again, You brought so much joy to his heart, and you gave us TimTim and JomJom.

You were a powerful woman who devoted your life to God. You kept asking me to tell Him to open the door and give you the code. But we didn't want you to go. I guess He finally opened the door, or you found the code. Either way, cancer didn't win; your Father called you home, and you are at peace in the presence of the Lover of your soul. You will be sorely missed, and by God's grace, I promise to look after the boys; I give you my word. I'm confident that, by God's grace, they'll make you proud.

Thank you for leaving such a lasting legacy. Thank you for my Zulu heritage.

We'll always be deliberate in enjoying the life God has given us, and we know now more than ever that Hallelujah will never finish from our mouths. Continue laughing, smiling and dancing in Heaven, Aunty Nom-Nom. Give my Mummy a tight hug for me and update her on how faithful God has been to us. We miss you so much; Mr T really, really misses you. It's a difficult pill to swallow, but we know that everything is working together for our good. Bella, Mimi and Nathy will miss their Gogo. I will say the exact words of your good night song: "Goodnight Aunty Nomthi, Goodnight. I love you Aunty Nom, I love you so much!"

Till we meet again.

Tolu Odukoya-Ijogun



Dear Pastor Nomthi,

We miss you. You were a kind, loving and pure hearted person. The children will miss you Gogo. We celebrate you today knowing that you are in a heavenly place. Rest on Aunty Nomthi.

Olumide Ijogun





Aunty Nomthi,

The first day I met you, you had a smile on your face, and that smile would remain constant even until the last time I spoke to you. I could tell you were in pain, and your breathing was laboured, but it did not take away your smile. You carried an inner joy that came only from God that allowed you to smile during the toughest battle of your life, and it was that joy that was deposited in everyone you came in contact with. Now God has called you home, and I know even now you have the biggest smile on your face basking in the presence of your Maker. Thank you for being a companion to my dad, thank you for coming into our lives and blessing us with Tim Tim and Jom Jom .

Thank you for teaching us how to “enjoy our lives” and to fully appreciate life’s moments. Thank you for showing us what unwavering faith looks like. As you have taken your place amongst the great cloud of witnesses (probably sitting next to mum), we will continue to run our race. Be rest assured that your sons are covered and they will make you proud. Continue to sing and dance with the angels.

Jimmy Odukoya

Auntie Mama. Where do I start from?

Your Kemkem, your gist buddy is (for once!) truly speechless.

Our relationship was characterised by love, fun times, and laughter, so much laughter.

You were so pure-hearted. When I’d get angry, I’d remember the sermon you preached telling us to ‘guard our cities’ meaning guard our hearts and our emotions, lest we let the enemy in. I’d remember the sermon and then I’d be angry that I was convicted about my anger! I’d call you to complain, “oooooh, I want to be angry now, but the only thing I can hear is ‘guard your city’. You’d laugh out loud and say, ‘GOOD! Well done Kems’, and laugh some more!

You had so much time for my children. I’ll miss sending Ariella, who you named Nolwazi (meaning wise), to you when she’d ask questions about God that I didn’t feel like answering, like ‘why did God put milk in boobies and not somewhere else?’ Even with these seemingly silly but quite hard to answer questions, you’d take your time and give her a well-thought-out answer that made sense, and you’d say, ‘what a smart question Grandma Ari!’ (you always said Ariella is an old woman in a child’s body).

When I travelled with you for treatment, everyone we met just loved you, because you were a light that people could not resist. You’d say, “Kemkem, this cancer has to go, because this can’t happen to Daddy again, and my boys are so young”. We’d agree and pray together, and then I’d say, “And me! What about me? You can’t leave me!” You’d laugh and say, “True! How can I leave my Kems”. Other times you’d say, “I can’t die because I still need to tell the world about Jesus”. One thing I’ve learnt in the short time that has passed since your transition is that you did tell the world



about Jesus! Your message of ‘enjoy your life’ and your unbridled hallelujah in the presence of God has indeed gone to the nations.

The world has truly lost an icon. My world has lost an encourager, a mother, a spiritual advisor and a friend. When I had to travel back to Lagos without you, I said, ‘even though I wish we weren’t here, I’ve had the best time with you.’ You said the same.

I wish we had more pictures together! I’m not a big picture taker, and now I find myself wishing I’d captured more memories with you; but we said, ‘I love you’ every time we spoke, and I’m glad you knew how much you meant to me.

I’ll make sure I help Daddy to look after the boys. I’ll continue to be the ‘fun Auntie’, and provide many opportunities for enjoyment. I’ll make sure I continue to guard my city because even though you won’t be there to tell me, I know that’s what you’d expect.

Your courage inspired me. Your faith! I could write pages and pages about your faith. It never wavered. It could move mountains. So, even though I wish you were here, I know that for God to call you home, it was because it was time. Worship was your favourite thing to do, so when I think of you, worshipping God in heaven, I smile.

Siyabonga Auntie Mama. I love you.

Kemi Odukoya

Dearest Aunty Nom,

You were full of life, relatable and great company to be around. Anytime we started a conversation, laughter was soon to follow.

You always brought a Jesus perspective to every situation. Your words were unassuming, clear and impactful. While you were proud of your roots, you embodied the words of Ruth: “your people shall be my people”. You enjoyed learning and becoming a Yoruba wife. Sometimes, we joked that you had become more Yoruba than me.

From teaching us the song “Siyabonga Jesu” to teaching me the voshu dance the night before my wedding, I loved learning about your culture too.

Thank you for being you. Being you ushered in the era of enjoying our lives and storytelling promises. Being you came with dancing and singing. We “put a praise on it” and then got reminded that “Hallelujah no go finish from our mouths”. I still remember the first time you heard the Hallelujah song, you were so amused by the words. Little did we know then that it was going to be your praise anthem.

You had an unwavering spirit and truly practised what you preached. You were so appreciative of your relationship with God and how He was lifting you up during what would otherwise have been discouraging times. You kept saying to me, “I don’t understand how anyone can go through cancer without God”.

As I watch my dad deal with your loss, I can see the same unwavering spirit: trusting and holding on to God. You were truly partners in love and life. I am sure you are cheering him on like you used to do.

As I read people’s encounters with you and how you impacted their lives, my mother’s voice keeps coming to my head. She used to say, “it is only what you do for God that counts”. Aunty Nom, I can truly see the fruits of what you did for God through the lives of people all around. If seeing this brings me so much joy, I can only imagine how much joy Jesus has on His face now as He welcomes you home. Thank you for giving to the Lord, many lives were changed, including mine.

Thank you for being my dad’s companion. Your Mr. T! I enjoyed watching my dad fall in love again. Thank you for our boys. From the moment they were born, they brought joy into our home.

Thank you for the stories, so many stories. You spoke about your life at TCI (your old church), your friends in London, life in South Africa. You definitely lived a rich life.

Thank you for the times we got to spend together. I enjoyed our Saturdays together in London with Pastor Zandi.

Till we meet again Aunty Nom,
Rest on.

Tobi Enuha

Dear Aunty Nom,

Thank you for words of comfort, the advice you gave and the laughs we had. Thank you for being a good friend to me and my wife and thank you for welcoming me to your family with open arms. Your smile was genuine and warm. You were always ready and willing to offer wisdom when needed and you laughed with a depth of warmth that made strangers feel at home.

I will always marvel at your capacity to care for the children inside and outside of your home. Your wonderful boys will continue to be a testament to your character and to your faith and in the words of Pastor Taiwo, your work will continue. Rest on Aunty Nom.

Oluchi Enuha





Gogo,

You're very loving and caring and very serious with praying.
I love you with all my heart, I remember you every day and
I miss you.
Love from Bella.

Gogo I will never forget you because you love me and I love
you. In my heart I know I will still see you. I pray you are
enjoying heaven. I love you Gogo.
Love from Mimi.

Gogo is the best. She's always funny, always makes jokes and
she always makes us happy. We love her and she loves us.
God will love her, everybody loves her because she's kind,
she's nice and she's funny.
Love from Ari.

**Isabella and Michaela Ijogun and Ariella Odukoya
on behalf of the Grandchildren.**



Hallelujah no go finish
for your mouth.

– *Nomthi Odukoya*





Dear Pastor Nomthi!

We thought it was going to be a more lasting relationship. You came into our family, and your arrival brought us great joy and relief. You opened a new chapter of completion, filling the vacuum left by the sudden and unexpected passing of late Pastor Bimbo. We did not know it was going to be another temporary stay. Yes, we are all passers-by in this world. You came, hit the ground and started running, carved out your path and left your mark on the sands of history.

You made our brother so joyful, gave us two handsome boys and brought everyone together with your beautiful smiles and gentle disposition.

You lightened up the hearts of many, encouraged all with passion, and were a lover of children. Your books have travelled far beyond the borders of Nigeria as they are being used to protect children around the globe from predators. All this you achieved in just 11 years.

You demonstrated strength, courage, determination, love and compassion. We saw you cry when someone around you was sad and jumped for joy at others' testimonies. These things you did effortlessly because you could relate with the plight of others from your past experiences. You prayed for the sick even on your sick bed and many were healed whilst you still trusted God for your healing. You were so selfless.

Thank you for coming, thank you for fighting, and thank you for winning.

We will definitely miss you.
Rest on Pastor Nomthi

Pastor John Odukoya for the Odukoya Family

Pastor Nomthi,

In everything give thanks for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.” - 1 Thessalonians 5:18. Writing this tribute for Pastor Nomthi is a struggle for us because we have not truly come to grips with the fact that she is no longer with us, at least in the physical sense, but we gave thanks to God.

Pastor Nomthi, even though simple by nature, loved life and lived life. She would encourage everyone around her at any given opportunity and most times ended her preaching with the phrase “enjoy your life”.

We choose to remember your beautiful and infectious smile, your innocence in your deep sense of humour, your generosity, your sincerity, your peaceful nature, your unparalleled love for children and most of all your hunger to know God more and more. You saw good in everyone and wanted the best for everyone. You were never too tired to give advice or counsel to anyone in need. You took the Church as yours and gave your all.

A beautiful and lovely soul,
Shining light to many people,
A magnificent woman whose strength was beyond compare,
A true Amazon to the end.
We shall miss you even though we know you are in a better place.

We say goodbye till we meet again and part no more.

Wole & (Pst) Lara Adesanya





Aunty Nom,

From the day I met Aunty Nom, I appreciated her genuine interest in me and warm disposition towards me at every encounter. Our close relationship started in 2012 when the family spent their vacation in London. I was a student in London at the time which provided an opportunity to spend my break with them.

Over the years, I enjoyed so much love, understanding and support from her. She opened her home to me and trusted me with her precious boys. She was my ever ready cheerleader in any endeavour I chose. In fact, she patronised my catering business, Kitchen Luv, all the time and didn't mind spreading the word. This love was also extended to my family and she had a special place in her heart for my parents. I remember her excitement and gratitude when my parents readily accepted her request to stand in as grandparents for the children at their school's Grandparent Day.

Watching her with her husband and children in their home was a blessing to me as I learnt so much. She always made time to spend with the children daily asking about every single detail of their day and they shared gladly. Every morning, she and Pastor prayed for them and she rounded up with hugs and kisses. Every night, she sang to them and shared Bible stories. The songs continued even when she had to be abroad for treatment; she was that close to them. The boys enjoyed so much love and I will do my best to ensure they keep getting that.

She was a worshipper and a dancer. I have so many fond memories of us dancing in the living room or pool area with the children and grandchildren. She was really friendly and polite to everyone, which sometimes made people underestimate her, but she was very wise and often

surprised me with the way she handled seemingly difficult situations. Her Christianity was so real and practical, she literally saw God in every event, from broken compact powder to a picture on the wall. Everything reminded her of a Biblical principle, and she generously shared these revelations with those around her at that moment, in church when admonishing the promise of the week, and on her social media platforms.

Aunty loved taking pictures and I gladly took on the role of her camera lady whenever I was around. She inspired my selfie hobby! I feel really blessed to have had the time to know her. I always jumped at the opportunity to go out with her each time I was available. I can never forget her smile and deep belly laughter; I fondly remember a funny event at the salon when three ladies were arguing in Yoruba that I was her South African sister. When I replied to them in Yoruba, the shock on their faces made us laugh so hard that Aunty Nom had some tears in her eyes.

She introduced me to the South African TV shows she usually watched with Pastor. I still watch them and I have even added some additional shows to the list! I enjoyed eating steamed bread, uphuthu, chakalaka and other South African dishes with her.

I am really going to miss you Aunty Nom. Thank you for loving me and granting me access. Thank you for the gift of companionship and for all the beautiful memories we shared.

Ulale Kahle Anti Nomthi. Ngiyakuthanda Kakhulu.

Mayokun Adeniji

Aunty Nom,

My Aunty Nom, I'm very privileged to be able to call you my pastor, my aunty and my friend.

Thank you for all the firsts I experienced with you; thank you for all the lessons on kindness and forgiveness; thank you for all the deep and meaningful conversations; thank you for the friendship; thank you for everything.

You were an open book Aunty, I appreciate the access you gave me. You constantly rooted for me and were one of my biggest cheerleaders. I want you to know I will make you and God proud. Kindness and generosity? You lived those qualities in your everyday life. Forgiveness? You consistently gave people multiple chances. Strength and determination? You'd pick up a new goal and smash it, like when you signed up for Yoruba classes. And your sense of humour? I absolutely loved it.

Exemplary Christian, I remember how I used to joke that you're the one more like Jesus between us both and I was still learning. I am still learning o Aunty, but I know with the help of the Holy Spirit I will get there. I'm praying to God to help me love Him and live for Him just like you did.

Knowing that you're no longer a phone call away is very difficult for me to accept, but rest on my lovely Aunty. I love you and I WILL MISS YOU but I know God loves you more.

Enjoy your life with your Maker.
Love,

Sayo Hassan



Sisi Nomthi,

You were a very strong and successful woman who brought so much peace into the house. You treated me like a daughter. I remember when I first got to Nigeria. You weren't home and you had asked Auntie Mayo to give me perfume, sew me Nigeria attire and also give me some ready-made dresses.

I know you are still here in our hearts although gone away physically. I love you and will miss you very much *ulale ngokuphumula sohlezi sikuthanda*.

Snenhlanhla Shinga



My MAMAAAAA!!!!

Meeting you 11 years ago was nothing short of divine mercy. God allowed my path to intersect with yours for many reasons, as you would go on to be a pivotal pillar in my life. You never let me forget how Pastor told you about one small girl that loves God. We would burst into laughter every single time. Living with you for the better part of my 20s are years I will NEVER take for granted. We had a strong bond, you spent hours talking to me about Jesus. Amidst the daily routines, I received a firm grounding, there was a lot I learned from you. So much rubbed off on me.

You loved God and people deeply, you genuinely cared. You taught me so much about marriage many times without opening your mouth.

With you was a safe place, with you was unconditional love, with you was always proper enjoyment. I remember the trip I followed you to SA, where we visited your hometown Nazareth, it brought to life all the stories you had shared. With you was always joyful.

I recall all the many times you just broke into a dance in the living room or the hallway and beckoned on us to join. Oh such sweet times, mama. You made a fuss about everyone's birthday, making sure to call once it was midnight.

You saw Jesus and biblical principles in very mundane things and taught me to live the word through and through. When I look back it was as if I came to you on training wheels, and at the right time, you removed those wheels, held the handle of the bicycle, steadied me a bit and then let me ride, never holding back on the encouragement and the applause. You just never held back your love.

With you, I always knew where I stood. You made me

firm and secure in that. Mama, thank you for allowing me access into your space, your heart and your life. Thank you for believing in the gifting and calling over my life. Thank you for being present at important milestones, through marriage, all my pregnancies, deliveries and the work of my hands. Thank you for being a chief encourager and never holding back.

It's with a heavy heart that I say goodnight, as I know I will see you in the morning but my flesh aches that I won't see you again on this divide. Enjoy your crowns, mama. Enjoy your Master! I love you deeply.

Your Bunms
Bunmi George

Pastor Mrs Nomthi Simangele Rosemary Odukoya

She lived her life to the fullest with ardent faith in Christ.

We got to know her when she started attending Triumphant Church International, London in 2001. In her quest for truth, she took one year to prayerfully commit to membership after over a year of regular weekly attendance. Her commitment was full-blown, causing her to rise to top leadership in the Shouts of Joy Choir, Bible School Administration and in the women's ministry of the Church.

Pastor Nomthi never allowed her hectic secular job to affect her church commitment as she won best prizes for commitment and attendance consistently for several years. She would attend every service no matter the nature. With

the news of her death grown men and women in TCI wept like children.

It was while she was leading the choir in ministry during the church's annual Dominion Conference 2008 ministering that she was noticed by my friend Pastor Taiwo who was a guest minister at the same conference. They tied the knot in January 2010 and she became Pastor at The Fountain of Life Church having completed her Bible School training at Destiny School of Ministry.

Her life took a dramatic turn and transformation at The Fountain of Life Church, Ilupeju under the able mentorship and tutelage of her endearing husband Pastor Taiwo Odukoya.

Even in death, Pastor Nomthi's life continues to impact and teach many people to come to terms with God's Sovereignty. Three years ago, before the Wisdom for Women Jerusalem and Israel tour, she said, 'I have desired to visit Israel during my lifetime', and she did, perhaps a premonition she would be going home soon.

We are proud of her as our faithful and successful daughter in the Lord and a worthy ambassador of Triumphant Church International. She fought a good fight, finished her course and kept the faith even in sickness and we cannot question God. Surely Pastor Nomthi is with God in heaven rejoicing, singing and dancing with the angels. You are greatly missed but one day we shall meet again. May your legacy live on Pastor Nomthi Simangele Rosemary Odukoya.

Pastors Clem & Marjorie Esomowei

Senior Pastors Triumphant Church International, London, U.K.

Tributes

FROM FRIENDS



Nomthi, You have gone way too soon, it hurts so bad, it almost feels like you have been stolen from our lives. What a joy it has been to know you personally as a friend, sister and co-labourer in the vineyard of our Lord Jesus. You cared and loved our family and ministry unreservedly and we always looked forward to spending time with you whenever you were in London. We may not understand completely why you had to go at the prime of your life, but one thing we know is you loved God, and God loved you too much to see you suffer in pain. Your legacy will live on; your books will speak of issues that were in your heart. You tackled societally difficult issues and mended many broken hearts with your messages and stories.

Your last sermon on Mother's Day was your prophetic message to the church, you preached whilst your body was in pain but you did it with grace, and that will leave a mark that cannot be erased. Standing with you in prayer over the last two years and believing God with you, has been an assignment that connected us on a deeper level, therefore the pain of your loss is felt more deeply. But we do not grieve like those without hope and know we will see you in glory. Our deepest condolences to Pastor Taiwo, TimTim, JomJom, Tolu, Jimi, Tobi, Kemi, Mayokun, and all the grandchildren, the Odukoya family, the Zulu family, the Pastoral team and the whole family at The Fountain of Life Church and everyone who made an impact on her day to day life. May God comfort you all with her loving memories.

Sleep tight Nomthi and continue to dance unrestricted in the presence of our God, endless praise forever!

Lala ngokuthula Sisi (Rest in Peace)! Until we meet in glory.

Pastor Adama and Zama Segbedji

I am not sure where to start to talk about Nomthi, it feels surreal that I have to write about her as someone who has departed.

We met in London through a friend and we connected straight away, we called each other mzala (cousin) as she shared my mother's maiden name.

We also shared our deep love for the Lord Jesus which she held onto till the end. Mzala was the most consistent person I know.

She stayed positive with a smile on her face even when she had all the reasons to fall apart and I admired her for that. It is very painful to think about her family whom she loved dearly, especially her children. I know with time the pain will subside but we will never forget her.

I enjoyed our friendship very much, the laughter, the singing, praying together, teasing each other and girly talks. I prayed and believed God for her recovery, however, it looks like there was a clash between my calendar and God's calendar which stated that she needed to be home with the Lord.

The pain is deep however I accept that I will live without my dear friend and a sister, as her husband, Pastor Taiwo beautifully said, 'God is Kabiyosi' (Unquestionable God).

Sleep tight Mzala, *sobonana ekuseni* (see you in the morning).

Love you always.

Zandile Nhlela

Till we meet again my dear friend, I am truly grateful to God to have met you. About 17 years ago when we met in London, I was inspired by your love for God and commitment to serve in the house of God. You lived a life that was set apart for the Kingdom of God. You became more than a friend, a loving sister.

You will always be remembered for your quiet spirit and true humility. Even at the hardest times, you received the word of God with your whole heart. You had no reservations! You lived a surrendered life my friend, which inspired many of us. Our conversations were always about the wonders of GOD. I am already missing you 'Lady No1'. You had such a positive attitude and a never-give-up attitude.

Indeed, heaven has gained an Angel. You have fought the good fight; you have finished the race and have kept the faith (2 Tim 4:7-8).

You have left a legacy Pastor Nomthi. You have touched many lives through your ministry and the books you wrote. You truly cheated death and God has elevated you.

You will always be in our hearts, my friend. I will cherish all the memories. What an honour it was to walk the journey with you.

Until we meet again my friend.

Busi Selala



Nomthi and I met in 1990, that is 31 years ago at Kwasizabantu Mission where we went for schooling. We met when we were about 14 – 15 years old and we became friends. What attracted me the most was her friendliness, laughter and openness. Nomthi was transparent, she could not hide anything whether good or bad, she was just frank and would say it as it is. I liked that kind of friendship. Even if we made mistakes as kids, and one would be thinking of how to put it, she would say, ‘why think of something else?’, say it as it is and be punished if need be, because God sees it all. From that young age, I learned from her that honesty and being transparent is the right thing to do.

Both Nomthi and I were brought up by God-fearing single mothers. The seed that was planted then in our lives, sustained us to date. We sang in the same youth choir and she used to stand in the front because of her height and I used to stand two rows behind her, but we both sang soprano.

After matric, Nomthi went to KwaGqikazi College of Education to study to become a teacher. Soon after her qualification, she got a teaching position in Northern Zululand. Nomthi worked before me and I was privileged to have a working friend as I was still at the Mission. She would come visiting to attend youth services at least once a month and would bring nice goodies. I remember one incident when I had to attend a wedding and had no decent clothes to wear, and Nomthi had a clothing account. After the youth service, she gave me her card and a consent letter, giving me permission to purchase an outfit in her absence. She said I could buy anything I wanted. Her first cellphone was Alcatel which we nicknamed “Alca”. I didn’t have a cellphone then, she gave that one to me and bought another one for herself. This is the Nomthi I know, she was kind and she gave willfully and cheerfully without you asking, she saw the need and acted.

In 2002, she left South Africa to pursue a teaching position in London. Whilst she was away, that very same year, arrangements for me to get married, were underway. I told her and she asked me how could she help. She deposited some money to assist with my wedding.

I have lost a true, supportive friend. Besides material things, she supported me spiritually. Her faith in God was amazing. Nomthi trusted God with all her heart with everything, even when it came to her taking the decision of saying yes and marrying Pastor Taiwo Odukoya, she prayed and sought God’s face before saying yes. She knew that marriage for her was a big step, especially since she was moving to a different country, she needed God to lead and guide her. I was excited for her and knew that if she was just herself and continued to do everything prayerfully, following her name NOMTHANDAZO meaning a WOMAN OF PRAYER, God would complete the work and He did; she enjoyed her life, serving God with her fellow Fountaineers.

Nomthi loved her husband, loved her children Tolu, Jimmy, Tobi, Tim-Tim and Jom-Jom. She spoke highly of you all and she would tell me about your achievements, even if one of her stepchildren got married, she would be so excited about everything. She told me when her boys were doing well at school, and told me what grade they were going to, what football club the boys supported and liked watching. I will miss her laughter and her wisdom and insight in everything. Nomthi loved the church she was serving under, she even convinced me to subscribe so that I could follow the Thursday Showers and other services. I got to love the “Hallelujah no go finish for my mouth oh”, song and at first I didn’t catch the English, and Nomthi told me that it’s pidgin English. Now I know that irrespective of what comes my way, I must not stop praising and worshipping God.

Nomthi loved children, no wonder she wrote children’s books. She also liked my children, they were like her own.

She called to check on them and was interested in how they were doing at school academically and in sport. She was excited when I told her that they had both accepted the Lord Jesus as their Savior. My daughter is writing matric this year and is sad and disappointed that Aunty Nomthi departed before having seen her final results, as she so much wanted to make Aunty Nomthi proud.

Nomthi walked with God even before us as friends, she was not a hypocrite. It was either black or white and no in-between. You are either saved and born again or a heathen, there was no compromise for sin.

The hardest time for me was when Nomthi fell ill. She told me last year in March that she had got her results and that she had cancer, but we would pray against it because our God is able. We prayed every day and every time I thought of her, even in the middle of the night. God was faithful because Nomthi died in the Lord. As children of God, we know that when we are sick, the devil tempts us to the last minute and he throws fear and complaining our way so that we may curse God and die having failed God or having sinned. I am very proud of my friend and am grateful to God for sparing the INNER Nomthi until the end of her race. She fought and kept saying, “God still sits on the throne and I trust Him”. At times she would say, “the devil is trying so hard, but God is helping me”. She walked with God until the end. When she was critically ill and couldn’t speak properly, Pastor Odukoya allowed me to speak to her and I am grateful for that. I could connect with her and could still hear her say, “Amen”.

Nomthi has left me with an eternal void, but I trust God going forward. Finally, from the bottom of my heart, I would like to say thank you to her husband, Nomthi’s Mr T. You really loved my friend. We saw and witnessed your true love for her. You did everything you could to try and save your wife’s life. You prayed and fasted for her, took her

to the best hospitals in the world, and made sure that she was comfortable and looked after well. You looked after the children in her absence. With God, nothing goes unnoticed. Your crown awaits you.

Please do not forget that you have family and friends in South Africa, we will forever love you and your family.

Thank you.
Velile Radebe



I'm hurting, this one is painful. My sister, my friend, my Pastor Nomthi. Writing this tribute feels unreal. My sis (as we fondly called ourselves, in a way we meant literally and not as a "spiri koko" term) came into my life and brought nothing but pure joy.

I still remember clearly the day we met. Pastor had called and said, "Olajumoke, I have met someone special, she will be visiting Nigeria and before I introduce her to the church, I would like you to meet her and be her friend". I wasn't sure I would like you and I told Pastor, "friendship cannot be forced", and he said, "I have prayed you will like her" - and he was right. Immediately when we met, your smile was huge, your eyes beamed with joy and your hands were outstretched. We hugged like long lost friends. Lunch lasted until we had dinner and that was the beginning of a beautiful relationship.

My sis, you came to marry not just Pastor but his people, his culture, his nation. You actually are the biblical depiction of Ruth; you loved his immediate and extended family.

Only you could have been destined for this role. You loved this nation and you were very proud of being a Naija wife. You even had a Yoruba teacher, taking lessons to speak and understand the language. I remember telling you that you have become more Yoruba than me, with your gele and native attires. We had too many conversations around the subject matter of Nigeria and you were always praying for her. I recall you calling to remind me to go vote in the elections.

My sis, no one else could have fit like a glove into the church like you did, bringing joy and harmony. You made everyone feel welcomed, heard and seen.

My sis, when I think of who a Christian is, you will always come to mind. You simplified it, you exemplified it, you

were reachable and relatable. Being a Christian was your happy place, and humour could be seen in everything you did and in the messages you shared. I remember telling you I would become TimTim and JomJom's manager as most of your teachings came from things they had done or said and you should start paying them.

My sis was an excellent mother and loved being a grandma and was the best Gogo. How I will miss our inside jokes and the teasing of how you had converted Pastor to watching your favourite South African Shows, not to talk of how I was forced to watch with you when I came visiting.

I miss you so much sis! Thank you for the memories, for being you and for your many acts of service. I remember you showed up at my house with Seun when I couldn't be reached at a time I was hurting because that's what sisters do.

Through the pain of cancer, you were graceful, you were still concerned about the well-being of others, especially Pastor, when we chatted or talked. That was the selflessness with which you lived.

I don't know how it's going to be for me without you being a call, a drive or a text away, but without a doubt I know joy will come in the morning and we will laugh again, definitely not tomorrow as my heart is broken. We will dance again because that is what my sister would have wanted. May we live our lives in the light of the love of Jesus she freely gave, the smiles we basked in and the warmth of her affection. I love you, sis. I will always love you. Rest now in the Lord you wholeheartedly loved and served.

Olajumoke Salami

I remember the first time I met Pastor Nomthi. She walked into the room in a white blouse and blue jeans flashing the most contagious smile. It was the day before she got married to Pastor Taiwo and in that split second, I got a glimpse of why she captured my Pastor's heart. My husband and I visited with her and Pastor Taiwo after the wedding before returning to the United States. I asked for her contact information so we could keep in touch. She obliged me and that would be the beginning of our friendship. I was enamoured by her deep love for God, her firm loyalty and commitment to her family and friends, and her joy and passion for life that exuded in all she did, even something as mundane as shopping. She always called me her shopping buddy. I remember one time we were in New York shopping, she turned to me and said, "Pastor Bola God created shopping and it was good". I laughed so hard, but such was her love and passion for life!

About this time two years ago, she was so excited when I told her I was having my 50th birthday celebration in South Africa. In retrospect, it was God ordained that we would create so many beautiful memories together in the birthplace of 'My Zulu Princess', as I called her. When I saw her after my birthday, she told me she enjoyed every aspect of the celebrations and I told her I was volunteering to plan her 50th birthday. She responded that it would be in five years since she was only forty-five, I laughed and said we had lots of time then... little did I know!

In January this year, when I had a dream about your diagnosis and subsequently found out it was true, I could never have imagined that I would be writing a tribute to you at this time. Your faith was strong and resolute and your amen was emphatic at the end of every prayer session we had. You fought bravely and gallantly to the very end. When we visited with you two months ago, we never imagined that was goodbye. I remember you joking that I



was hugging you too tightly, now I wish I had hugged you even harder. The last week since your passing has been a blend of pain and gratitude, pain at the reality of our earthly separation and gratitude for all the memories we shared and the joy you brought into our lives.

Of the 365 days in this year, the date picked for your funeral is my birthday. In death as in life, there is a final connection that we share. From here on every birthday will also be a celebration of your life and our friendship. We will miss your smile, your sweet spirit, and the joy you brought into our lives. I am sure you are enjoying your life in the company of fellow angels like you. Love you loads and see you on resurrection morning, my dear Zulu Princess and friend!

Pastor Abolanle Matel-Okoh

My Pastor Nomthi Odukoya. My teacher, my Pastor, My Queen Mother and best friend.

To know her was to love her.
She was such a sweetheart to the core.
A woman of faith and prayer.
A woman of wisdom, that was truly divine.

Words aren't enough to express the love she eluded and her smiles - oh my God! - extremely genuine. Her dance lit up the atmosphere in such a beautiful way.

My Pastor Nomthi derived meaningful wisdom from seemingly small things. I will miss our long calls, gist, jokes and laughter. I will so miss your advice and mentorship. I will miss how you always looked out for me especially, and how we'd run through my vision for the year together prayerfully.

My daughter whom you named after you will grow to know her God-mother loves her so much to have named her Nomthandazo (a woman of Prayer).

My son, whose birth was your personal testimony and our miracle, will forever cherish your love. You named him Sthembiso, and he is indeed a child of promise.

My southie-Naija Queen, my Zulu princess; a devoted and proud Christian till the end.

I know she's happy where she is, and I can only imagine how bright her smiles are right now walking on the streets of gold. With her beautiful garment, clung sandals and fine polished nails, never to be caught unfresh. I can picture you taking a picture of the view and thinking of how to explain it, the beauty of heaven, to us your children in an easy to read fashion.

Oh my beautiful Pastor Nomthi, enjoy your life general. Death has lost its victory.

We will all continue to enjoy our lives here and I promise that HALLELUYAH no go finish for our mouths forever and ever.

Love you Queen Mother. Thank you for the gift of access and the rare privilege you gave me. I will forever be grateful to God for connecting us in such a special way.

I turned 40 a few days ago, and you didn't attend like you rightly predicted, and as God intended, but I had a little piece of you with me like I promised you I would. We even danced to your favourite song in honour of you.

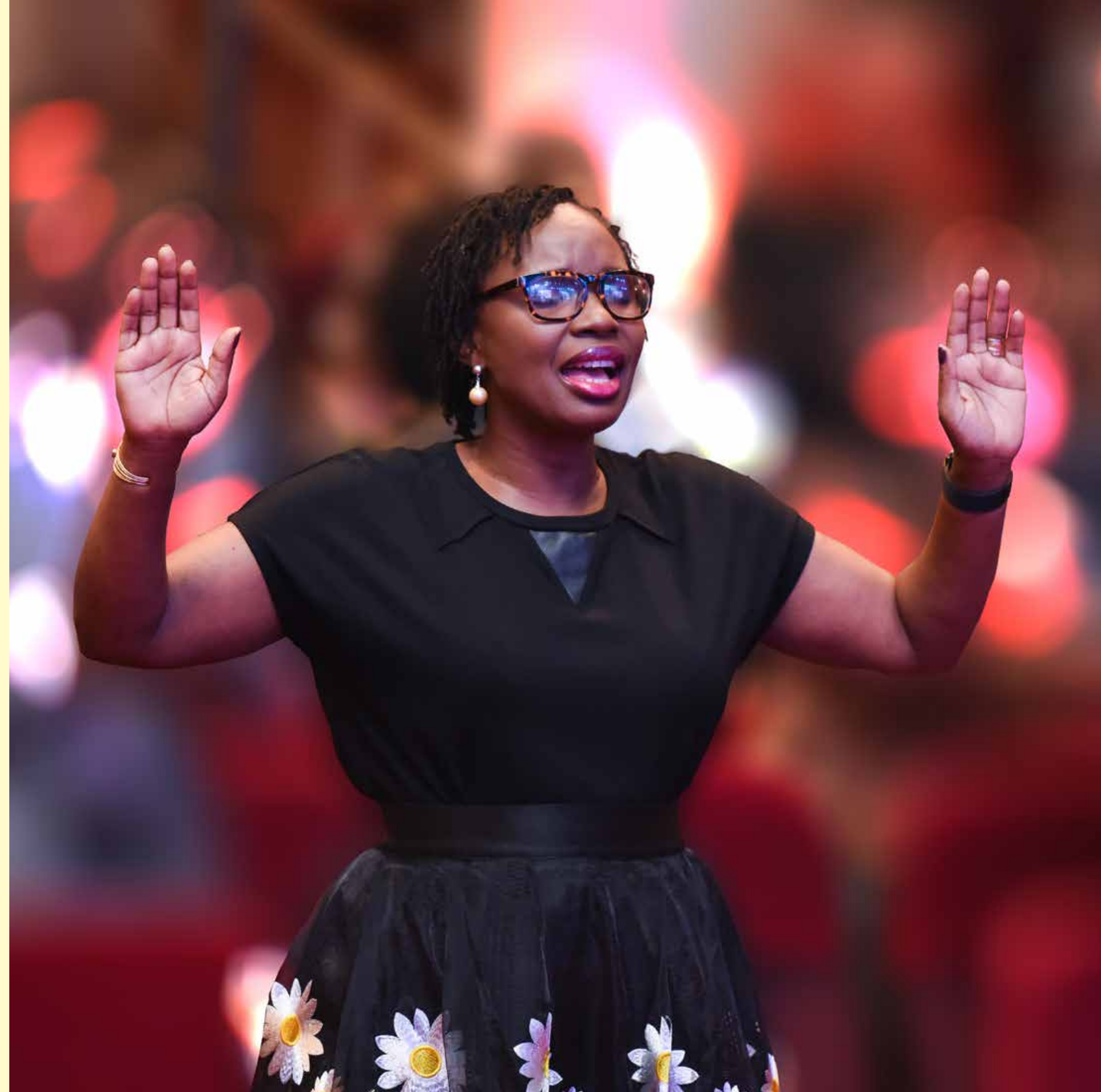
I will forever be Your daughter, Busisiwe. Naming me after your own mother is such a huge honour, but my husband Pastor David is still waiting for his own Zulu name ooo.

Nino & Zion can't believe you are now in heaven. We will all miss you, especially the 'Inspiring Change' tribe, whom your words of wisdom and dedication impacted so much, and our Royalty Christian Centre family; we will forever hold you dear to our hearts Ma.

I will always love you my Queen Mother, forever and a day more.

Busisiwe Adesunmbo Adeoye

Royalty Christian Centre



A true friend is never truly gone
Their spirit lives on in the memories
Of those who loved them

There are some who bring a light
So great to the world that even
After they have gone the light remains

An Eternal Memory
Until we meet again
Those special memories of you
Will always make me smile.
If only I could have you back,
For just a little while

Then we could sit and talk again
Just like we used to do,
You always meant so much to me,
And always will do too.

The fact that you are no longer here
Will always cause me pain
But you are forever in my heart
Until we meet again.

Mpume and Mlu Mazibuko

“When the devil says,
‘what if,’ tell him ‘even if’.”
– Nomthi Odukoya

We remain grateful to The Almighty God for the remarkable life that Pastor Nomthi Odukoya, a true child of God and the amiable wife of Pastor Taiwo Odukoya lived.

We remember very well how she distinguished herself as a loving and disciplined person. She was such an authentic Christian and leader. Her contribution to the Fountain of Life Church, the Christian community and her service to humanity especially children is commendable.

Her physical presence will be greatly missed but our encouragement is that she lived out God’s purpose.

In her own words, she said to me some months ago when we chatted, “God is taking me through a very interesting journey right now but I know His name will be glorified in the end.” Now we are here, we give Him the glory still!

On behalf of Pastor Sam and the Daystar Christian Centre family, I pray that the Lord will comfort and strengthen Pastor Taiwo, their children, the entire Odukoya family, her extended family and The Fountain of Life Church.

By the Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, all will be well.
Adieu, beloved Pastor Nomthi Odukoya.

Pastor Nike Adeyemi
Daystar Christain Centre



Many friends come into our lives but only a few
leave their footprints on our hearts.
THEREFORE WE SHALL NOT GRIEVE LIKE
THE REST WHO ARE WITHOUT HOPE.

For
We celebrate a woman of faith
A woman of bravery
A woman of hope
A woman with the biggest heart (we all have our corners)
A woman of integrity and honesty
A woman with the biggest smile
A true friend.
An advisor
A woman of wisdom
A treasure
A WOMAN OF GOD

Heaven is rejoicing sleep well Mfowethu, sleep well Brah,
sleep well Mngani. Sleep well S.R., sleep well Mrs Odukoya.

Gone but memories shall forever live in our heart.

Zothando (aka Nanana)

“God is the reason why even in pain, I smile;
In confusion, I understand; In betrayal, I
trust; and in fear, I continue to fight.”
– Nomthi Odukoya

They say friends are the family we choose.
Being chosen by you was the greatest moment of
my life

And when you passed on, it was the worst moment ever.
Friendship transcends death, memories made will never
be forgotten and created a lasting impression on those left
behind.

Everyone became a better person for having such a
wonderful friend like you Nomthi.
Saying goodbye is not for us.
Instead we’ll say that we look forward to seeing you.
My friend, each time I’m reminded of your smile, through
your praise.

Rest well my friend.

May the good Lord whom you served all your life be with
you and send His angels to comfort your husband, kids and
family.

Till we meet in resurrection.

From Thandaza (Paw paw) Zakwe

There was once a human-angel on assignment from South Africa to Nigeria.

She dwelled in the midst of us. She came on a mission to humanity to show us the heart of God.

I called her ‘The Phenomenal’ because it really did flow with her name and because I genuinely attributed that adjective to describe her. She had always had my utmost respect and admiration from afar. Simple yet profound. Sweet and sturdy. Sensitive yet strong. Innocent yet savvy.

It started on September 13th, 2015 at a ministry meeting where we both had been invited as guest ministers. Our relationship evolved and it transited to a sweet friendship and sisterhood. She’d ask, “Glowreeyah, can you hear Pastor Taiwo singing your ‘Ojochegbe’ song in the background? What does it mean?” I’d ask her, “Pastor Nomthi, please how do I translate and sing the Zulu version of my ‘Holy Hallelujah’ song correctly?”

Due to my foray into the development / social entrepreneurship space and because we shared a passion for children and edutainment causes, she asked if my Starbeam Foundation could consult for her Fundawazi Foundation. This resulted in a few strategies and implementation sessions between our work teams for a few months.

This Phenomenal one with a compassionate and humanitarian spirit greatly desired the empowerment of children.

In every way, we saw this human-angel pour out of the vials of her essence as a passionate woman of God with the tender heart of a child. She had a wide smile, hearty laughter and also gave warm fuzzy hugs. She had a bubbly essence and

playful innocence. She had a light that twinkled in her eyes when she was genuinely excited or happy.

If you knew her, you would be eternally struck by the purity, authenticity and mesmerising radiance from her soul. She took on the loving heart of her heavenly Father and sent it forth to us as beams. Oh, how she loved Him! Oh, how she danced for Him! Oh, how she worshipped Him!

She creatively shared intentional stories about Him, weaving her life’s experiences interspersed with her testimonies from her earthly sojourn here. She was many remarkable things but her greatest role out of them all was being a yielded child of God, a doting mother and an exemplary loving wife! This made her come alive!

I would do anything to hear her sweet voice again and to have our in-depth conversations about God, life, love, humanity, child causes, and cultural diversity.

I will forever see her kingdom service, her investment in children, her literary and creative contributions and most of all her wonderful family as the tangible evidence that she blazed through this earth leaving her indelible mark, whilst she urged us on to enjoy our lives in Christ while we are on this journey! We know undoubtedly that she wears her crown in glory!

She is forever branded in my heart! Eternally loved and fondly remembered!

Ngiyakuthanda, my Phenomenal Pastor Nomthi.
Always and forever,

Glowreeyah Braimah



“

Keep your head up. God gives His hardest battles to His strongest soldiers.

– Nomthi Odukoya

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Tributes

FROM THE CHURCH



Pastor Nomthi Rosemary Simangele Odukoya. Our exceptional gift from our Father. Like we told you often, you were our exceedingly abundantly above answer to our prayers.

You came with your simplicity, fully secure in your own skin, and no pretences whatsoever. With your gentleness and your humility, you warmed your way into our hearts and captured our hearts just by being YOU so unobtrusively.

It was impossible not to love you. You engaged all our hearts one on one, you loved us all, but you had your unique style of loving each of us individually, and connecting with each of us in different and special ways.

Your wisdom was incredible. You taught effortlessly with every smile. Oh! The twinkle and sparkle in your eyes always.

How do we describe a woman so beautiful on the inside and the outside? How do you describe a woman completely without guile?

Our amazing and extraordinary storyteller! You wove the depths and sheer magnitude of God's Word into our hearts with your characteristic simple style of expressing profound truths from the Word with your captivating stories. No one could minister God's promises the way you did. Every time you preached a sermon was an encounter with the depth of the Word.

Someone wrote and it captured you succinctly; if someone asks you to explain the fruit of the Holy Spirit and you just cannot find the words, you can simply say, "go and study the life of Pastor Nomthi Odukoya!" You would have pointed them in the right direction. You were the fruit of the Spirit on public display.

Pastor Nomthi, you exuded love.
You breathed love.

You sang love.
You danced love.
You prayed love.
You preached love.
Your love knew no boundaries. To the young, to the old, to the man, to the woman, to the boy, to the girl.
Peace, meekness (so much strength and power under control), goodness, gentleness and faith, oozed out of you effortlessly.

You were a walking epistle of every bit of the Word of God. You simply lived your life the way the Bible tells us to. You were nothing else but a true Christian every step of the way. For you, there was simply no other way.

You were a light leaving an unmistakable trail of the nature of God everywhere and in every life you went through.

We are deeply comforted remembering that we held nothing back in loving you too. We showed you and told you at every opportunity that we loved you and we appreciated you a great deal. We loved you and you knew it. We celebrated the extraordinary YOU always.

You were so deep, insightful and highly cerebral. You were very intentional in everything you said and did.

Our Queen from Zululand, you became the Queen of our hearts.

Your life was a loud expression of
THE POWER OF SIMPLICITY
THE POWER OF AUTHENTICITY
THE POWER OF A PURE HEART

We are the ones especially loved by our God to have had the gift of your extraordinarily beautiful life.

We are the ones favoured by God to have relished the various flavours of YOU.

Pastor Nomthi as we fondly called you, Mother of the House.

Impact Redefined.
Legacy Unravelled.
Our Gift.
Our Blessing.
Our Astounding experience of the love our God has for us.

A RARE AND UNBEATABLE EXPRESSION OF
EVERYTHING BEAUTIFUL

NIYABONGA for 11 unforgettable years of YOU.

A life that will keep giving as we remember all you stood for and held dear.

Amongst all your profound messages,
We will continue to enjoy our lives.
And we promise you,
Hallelujah no go finish for our mouths.

The Pastors of The Fountain Of Life Church

Pastor Bimbo Abiona
Pastor Dayo Adeniji
Pastor Lara Adesanya
Pastor Eloho Agbaje
Pastors Charles & Ugochi Agbasimelo
Pastor Damilola Ajiboye
Pastor Sunday Akindilemi
Pastor Yemisi Akindolie
Pastor Ronke Aladesuru
Pastor Monica Alaga
Pastor Kunle Areogun
Pastor Moji Awokoya
Pastor Ibukun Awosika
Pastor Ladipo Babatunde
Pastor Feyi Babajimi
Pastors Tunde & Tobi Badmus
Pastors Makinde & Titi Bolarinwa
Pastors Paul & Esther Briggs

Pastor Kayode Ebenezer
Pastor Tobi Enuha
Pastor Mary Fayemi
Pastor Sarah Gideon
Pastors Tolu & Funke Ige
Pastor Tolu Odukoya Ijogun
Pastor Tayo Kujore
Pastors Gbola & Debby Lawson
Pastor Oyinda Lewis
Pastors Tunde & Nk Malaolu
Pastor Amaka Madueneme
Pastor Femi Megbope
Pastors Muiyiwa & Bunmi Mepaiyeda
Pastor Chukwu Nzegwu
Pastors John & Elizabeth Odukoya
Pastors Jimmy & Kemi Odukoya
Pastor Femi Odukoya
Pastor Femi Odumabo

Pastor Alfred Ohiani
Pastor Rotimi Okpaise
Pastor Bisoye Okwoli
Pastor Kayode Olagunju
Pastor Femi Olatunji
Pastor Tinu Olashore
Pastor Tony Olu Kanayo
Pastors Siji & Nina Olude
Pastor Gbenga Onabanjo
Pastor Akin Osibanjo
Pastor Dipo Osinloye
Pastor Kunle Osunkunle
Pastors Olumide & Imisi Owolabi
Pastor Seun Shobo
Pastors Biodun & Oyinda Soderu
Pastor Kunle Soriyan
Pastor Tosin Sowemimo
Pastor Dapo Williams





My Dearest Pastor Nom, a woman of resolute Christian faith, genuine affection, joyful disposition, faithful love, great generosity and passionate pursuit of her Father's mandate!

It has been one of my greatest blessings from God to have been called to work with you for the past eight years. What an honour to have been your Personal Assistant!!

You didn't treat me as a staff member, but as a daughter, sister, and friend, and you were an amazing Gogo to my children. I remember telling you I prayed for a maternal grandmother for them, and God brought the answer through YOU. I couldn't have asked for a better Gogo. Sthelo and Lindani will miss you. Sadly, Sthelo will not get to buy you that birthday gift you both agreed on.

Over the last year, I remember telling you how much I disliked being in the office without you, and you advised me to tell God, as you wanted to be back too. I did, but I guess He thought it better to call you to Himself instead.

Thank you for showing a deep commitment to your God-given assignment. Even in pain, I watched you accept various invitations to minister—because God gave you a Word for them—until it became physically impossible to minister. Practically all the time, I would see you show up with a big smile on your face and fire-filled Word from the Father in your mouth.

My Warrior Woman!!! Indeed, cancer did not win; love did! Our Father loved you more and called you to Himself. I am sure you are smiling, singing, dancing and enjoying your life in heaven.

Thank you for showing us what it means to enjoy our lives,

not just in words but in action. Travelling with you was always exciting. You'd say, "Bisoye, let's enjoy this, we will deal with the weight in the morning." CEO, Enjoy Your Life, we promise to continue to enjoy this life that God has given us.

I miss you so much! Your smile, your warm hugs, your dance, your jokes, your gists, your profound stories, your prayers, your wise counsel, our picture moments, your love and the way you found pleasure and meaning in the simplest things. But I do not sorrow as those without hope. I love you, Pastor Nom! I love you deeply!!

Lala ngokuthula Mama till we meet again on resurrection morning.

Bisoye Okwoli



Pastor Nomthi Odukoya, my pastor, mother, teacher and boss. Pastor Nomthi, you were a generous, kind, and compassionate boss.

A dynamic, strong, and hard-working person you were, and you loved to invest in humanitarian works. You touched the lives of so many vulnerable and underprivileged children far and wide through FundaWazi Foundation, the non-profit organisation you founded. In line with your vision of care and lifting people up, FundaWazi provides child-friendly resources and training to equip children and adults to ensure children's safety and well-being.

You had a heart of gold as you always put children first in every project we embarked upon, and you always believed that every seed sown would one day lead to a good harvest. I remember the first time we had a Christmas program for children at Army Children School Oshodi. Oh! How your face lit up when the children sang about protecting themselves from abuse: you sang along and danced. The joy and love were irresistible, you connected unusually with the children and this love flooded the hearts of the children you had just met for the very first time.

We are in shock, disbelief and crushed with a pain we can't explain because of your passing. However, you did not leave without a lasting impact. You left a clear message that children can learn how to take a stand for their personal safety and protection from all forms of abuse.

Your passing has left a huge vacuum in our hearts, however, we are encouraged, through faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, by the assurance of a unique place that awaits you in heaven, singing with joy and rejoicing Halleluyah to the Glory of God. For us in FundaWazi, we stand tall with our shoulders squared & walk confidently to ensure your sound legacy, Pastor Nomthi, remains forever. Goodnight.

Bisola Soneye
Coordinator, **Funda Wazi Foundation**

Pastor Nomthi was a driven and visionary leader committed to the development and production of resources and tools that could help both children and adults.

Her love for children was palpable as she continually looked for avenues to educate and empower them in order to preserve the essence of their childhood. She carefully curated children's books on topics considered difficult like sexual abuse, bullying, domestic violence, and climate change.

While the aim of most businesses is to make a profit, she would rather sell her materials at cost price, as long as children got educated and empowered to protect themselves. She treated her staff with the utmost respect and dignity, and for this, we are most grateful. Thank you for your exemplary leadership! We will miss you.

Our prayers are with Pastor Taiwo, the children, and the entire TFOLC family. May God strengthen and comfort you.

Titi Awelewa
From the **Yazi Wenze Limited Team**

“
It is safe to cry in
God's arms.
– Nomthi Odukoya
”



Pastor Nomthi, our gift from God, our beacon of light, our ray of love, our olive branch of hope. It's all so surreal but as children of God, knowing Him means acknowledging His Sovereignty in all areas concerning us.

God sent you when we needed some love and laughter. You always assured us that our own 'Mr T' would find us at the appointed time just as he did you, a choir girl in another continent. You always had a kind word and a smile for everyone no matter who they were. Thank you for leading by example, thank you for sharing your experiences, thank you for allowing God to use you, thank you for showing us how to serve God, thank you for teaching us to enjoy our lives as honourable people. We will never forget the fun we had on our trips to South Africa, Maryland and the United Kingdom for our meetings abroad. You always had time to take the Ruth and Boaz Executives out for lunch or dinner with Pastor Taiwo, and what fun times we had.

Your legacy will live on in all of us, your footprint in the sands of time will never be erased. We rejoice knowing you now have your wings and dancing shoes and are doing what you do best – worshipping and praising your Father. You've completed your earthly assignment, so, Pastor Nomthi Simangele Odukoya, lala ngoxolo. Siyankuthanda.

Tinu Olashore

On behalf of: Ruth and Boaz Fellowship

“When you face a river which seems impossible to cross, build a BRIDGE of prayer, praise and worship over it. You will cross over freely.

– Nomthi Odukoya

Pastor Nomthi came into our lives as the wife of our Senior Pastor following her marriage to Pastor Taiwo. She unfolded gradually into our consciousness as a highly religious person, humane mother, loving wife, humorous and good dancer and an encouraging church leader. She was a good preacher who used several simple examples to explain intricate issues to our church members. Pastor Nomthi was the supervising Pastor for Abraham and Sarah Fellowship and interacted with us closely.

Her statement of, “We are enjoying our lives” in response to, “How are you?” Served to energise our souls. She lived a brief but impactful life that had a positive influence on people across many nations and cultures.

Her death is a shock to us. We pray that God consoles her husband, children, family members and the church at large. We pray for God to sustain all of us in His glory to the end of our lives.

Rest in peace Pastor Nomthi. We love you but Jesus loves you more.

Felicia Oyekanmi

On behalf of: Abraham and Sarah Fellowship

Pastor Nomthi, as our leader of the Home Affairs Married Women's Fellowship, you made our homes your affair. Your genuineness, purity, honesty and humility spoke volumes to us, you always kept it real. You were childlike, yet very motherly. You were indeed a mother to us!

At our Home Affairs hangouts, you simplified every issue through the eye of the spirit. You spoke solutions to everyone's issues. You taught passionately about being a Christian wife and mother, and training our children in the way of the Lord. You taught us how to enjoy our lives in Christ. You shared practical true stories of your life which encouraged us.

In your words of wisdom, your smiles, your hugs, and your warmth, we found refuge and comfort. You touched us all in many different ways. Our incredible spice, you indeed spiced up our lives and homes. We have too many testimonies.

We will keep enjoying our lives, singing and dancing Halleluyah! Thank you Mama for loving us unconditionally and pouring yourself into us. We will keep walking the walk you taught us and keep our homes in Christ.

We love you and miss you but we are comforted by the Holy Spirit and we know you are resting in the bosom of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Ayo Yusuf

On behalf of: Home Affairs Fellowship



The streets of our lives were crossed by an angel in Pastor Nomthi. You were a queen, resplendent in your Master's glory. You were the epitome of elegance; a brave soldier; an embodiment of peace; a fearless warrior; a tireless intercessor; an exuberant dancer; and a child of God. Your accomplishments are immortalised in the sands of time. You brought zest and humour into our lives like sweet wine, setting an example of love and sacrifice for us to follow.

Pastor Nomthi, your life refreshed our lives. Like the dew of heaven, you brought joy and gladness to the Fountain Of Life Church, and you came and poured out all of yourself, finally raising your empty cup heavenward in victory, to receive the eternal reward from your Master.

You kept prophesising 'Honourable Fountaineers' into our lives with a lot of love, light and grace. Perhaps, to teach us to love one another more, pray for one another more, forgive one another more, love our family members more, and care for our children more.

We love you Pastor Nomthi, and we are grateful for the impact that you have made on our lives as individuals, as a department, and as a church. Our hearts ache because we know that we will miss you greatly, but God wanted you now and God set you free.

Hallelujah no go finish for our mouth!

Bola Bayo-Kujore
*On behalf of: **Intercessory Department***

We were attracted to Pastor Nomthi, for her simplicity, and quiet but powerful deposition. The various stories she told which preceded the Promise for the Week indicated her deep-rooted knowledge of the Bible. The stories definitely made the promises easier to understand.

In 2019, when a few of us in the Education Support Department went to wish her a happy birthday, she was so warm and pretty in her simple ankara dress. She greeted us with warmth and spoke to us in her beautiful South African accent. We took photographs with her that we will cherish forever. That is Pastor Nomthi for you. Warm, receptive and always with a lovely smile. She never missed an opportunity to bond.

Above all, she loved God dearly and definitely made our Pastor Taiwo very happy.
Thank you Pastor Nomthi and goodbye sunshine.
We miss you already.

Funmi Ademoye
*On behalf of: **Education Support Department***

Thank you Pastor Nomthi for being such a transformative leader and for the access to you. The passion and compassion you exuded when you talked about children amazed us all. You were always asking, "How are the children doing in the Children's and Teens Church?" Thank you for your confidence in me, and the whole department. Thank you for your vision to create Discovery for Children and Discovery for Teens; legacies we will ensure we uphold. Finally, we shall miss your soft-spoken voice when you pray and end meetings, looking at us directly to say a genuine, "thank you for all you do!"

Olumide Okeowo
*On behalf of: **Children's and Teen's Church***

You came into our lives
like a kaleidoscope
Shining

Lightening
Livening
Brightening
Cheering
Blooming
Lifting us to the heights of your radiance

Quickly, we shed the toga of days gone by
And warmed up to the warmth of your aura –
An anecdote for every promise
A praise on everything
A love for every child
A hug for every woman
A smile for every man
The more we craved

The more you gave
We never had enough
You never said be-gone

Unknown to us your term was tenured
How we wish it could long endure
And with you we can much enjoy
Our life as you often us enjoined

Alas! You've served your term
Good soldier of Christ for a heavenly crown
And while we'll miss and reminisce
Your time and moments with us
One thing is certain and sums up how we feel
We can never go back to the way we used to be.

Babatunde Oladele
*On behalf of: **Publications Department***



Dearest Pastor Nomthi, thank you very much for being the light God called you to be. You were so easy to work with and I must say, it was under your leadership that we found the opportunity to explore the social media world for the kingdom and you always encouraged us and provided feedback that helped us improve. The entire Digital Media Department celebrates your life, teachings and special moments. We will definitely miss our Sunday photo sessions, your radiating smile that is so uplifting, and your counsel whenever there was a need.

We know you are in a better place and we look forward to the day when we shall all be reconciled with you and other saints.

John 17:4-5 is your testimony; it shall be ours also by the grace of God.

Keep resting in the bosom of our Father, we will meet to part no more.

We love you till eternity.

Ozena O. Utulu

On behalf of: **Digital Media Department**

Dearest Pastor Nomthi, What shall I say but thank you to the Almighty God who sent you to us as “Mother in Israel” at the darkest moment of our life as a church? A mother of comfort you were to the Fountain of Life Church. An epitome of a mother. You were a perfect fit for Pastor Taiwo and the entire congregation. You had all the characteristics of a mother. Emotive, empathetic, firm and virtuous in every way.

You came like a flash of light and kindled an unquenchable fire for God in us. Thank you for your sustainable legacies.

Rest in the bosom of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ until we sing HALLELUJAH together again.

We will forever miss you.

Good night.

Sanni Olukayode

On behalf of: **Government Relations Department**

Kindness is loaning someone your strength instead of reminding them of their weakness.

– *Nomthi Odukoya*

Pastor Nomthi came into our lives, for a reason, at God’s own appointed season.

She came and the Lord used her to bring out us some soft flowered freshness, and a young hearted openness.

Watching her minister, we saw ministrations of God’s Word with simple uncluttered illustrations. For the years God blessed us with Pastor Nomthi on this side of the divide, she brought out the grateful heart in us.

Pastor Nomthi gave us reasons to testify that indeed we’re ‘Enjoying Our Lives’.

Pastor Nomthi, I can’t say goodbye, because you live in our midst, in your simple yet profound books and the good memories of what God has used you to do in our lives.

For this, ‘Hallelujah No Go Finish For Our Mouths’.

Pastor Nomthi do rest in God’s bosom! We promise to keep Enjoying Our Lives!

Dada Ajai-Ikhile

On behalf of: **Heritage of Grace - The Fountain of Life Church Drama Department**

Obedience is a fast track to an upgrade.

– *Nomthi Odukoya*

Dear Pastor Nomthi, an angel indeed you were that blazed amongst us for a very short period.

Your smile, gentle responses, support for the department and encouragement was second to none.

That you will be missed dearly is an understatement. Rest on our honourable fountaineer.

We love you so. To this blazing amazon we say, rest on in the bosom of our Lord and saviour.

Atinuke Odukoya

On behalf of: **Hope Centre**





Pastor Nomthi Odukoya was not just a pastor to us, she was also a mother and a mentor that we can never forget.

Her mantra, “I am enjoying my life”, has been a guide for us all, helping us to realise that it is important we enjoy our lives regardless of the situations in which we find ourselves. This has helped us immensely, to the point that whenever she’d climb the podium in church we felt a sense of joy, happiness and hope - most especially when she started with a beautiful story.

We will miss her Sunday stories, jokes, the way she danced to encourage us, and her beautiful smiles.

We know she’s with Jesus right now.

She will forever be missed till we all meet again to part no more.

Pastor Nomthi, we love you!

Peter Okwoli

On behalf of: Fountain Sports Club

We are yet to come to terms with the news of your departure. We still remember the look on your face when we’d share feedback from our outreach centres, especially when it concerned the children and their welfare, you were quick to ask what could be done and how could we further help them grow spiritually and otherwise .Your passion for evangelism will always remind us that the “work must continue”.

Rest on Pastor Nomthi Odukoya till we meet to part no more. Your memory and works will be engraved on our hearts.

Kayode Famuyiwa

On behalf of: Outreach Department

Our dear Pastor Nomthi, you came to our world and brought so much joy. Now, you have returned to God Almighty our Maker. Heaven’s gain, our loss. Thank you for the love and your sincere heart towards God and the Fountain of Life family.

We always cherished the beautiful stories you shared to drive home the promise for the week. We constantly looked forward to it. The Healing Streams stand was usually one of the first to be visited by you & Pastor during the Annual Trade Fair. We will surely miss you.

May the good Lord comfort Pastor Taiwo and the entire family.

May the beautiful, sweet, loving and gentle soul of Pastor Nomthi Odukoya continue to rest peacefully in the bosom of the Almighty God in Jesus’ name.

Till we meet again on the resurrection morning.

We love you, but God loves you more.

Abiodun Oyeneyin

On behalf of: Healing Streams Department

With a deep sense of loss but with gratitude to God, the Home Fellowship Unit celebrates the kind, gentle and beautiful spirit that Pastor Nomthi embodied. We celebrate Pastor Nomthi for the beauty and grace she brought to Pastor Taiwo’s and the entire Church’s Life.

We will miss her, but are thankful that she crossed our paths and for the impact she had in the short time that she was with us.

Enjoy the heavenlies dear Pastor.

Babafemi Oluwalana

On behalf of: The Home Fellowship Unit

Pastor Nomthi Odukoya came into the life of our dear Pastor and the Church with an aura of Peace, Love and Joy. You could see that she had embraced her husband’s country, his church and his ministry as her own. She radiated God’s presence and it was so evident that she was truly called by God and was passionate about going about His business.

As a Church, it was so refreshing to see her come on the pulpit every Sunday, singing, dancing and telling her short but intriguing stories, which were actually messages, preached in the simplest but most profound ways possible. In the Hospitality Department, she was a mother and role model to not only the women but all the men as well. On several occasions, she stopped by with Pastor Taiwo to rejoice with birthday celebrants and to welcome first-timers with her charming and captivating smile. She always had soothing words for all she came across and made us all feel rest assured of God’s love.

Pastor Nomthi came and fulfilled her purpose. Heaven has gained an angel. We have no doubt and are completely assured that she is resting with our Heavenly Father. Goodnight our own dear Pastor Nomthi, till we meet again on resurrection day.

Dayo Onabowale

On behalf of: Hospitality Department

— “ —

Enjoy your life

— Nomthi Odukoya — ” —

There are things we will never be able to fully understand while we are here. Your passing is one of them.

Your sincerity, smile, unique way with children, unflinching devotion to God, stories, passion for service and so much more distinguish you.

The entire Music department is deeply grieved and pained by your exit but we are consoled by the fact that you departed peacefully into the waiting arms of your Lord.

Thank you for gracing Fountain with your beautiful spirit. We are truly blessed to have experienced your amazing life. Goodnight Pastor Nom. Keep blessing your Maker with beautiful rhythms till we meet again.

Siyabonga!

Damola Oguntinyinbo

On behalf of: The Music Department

Pastor Nomthi Odukoya, our hearts are no doubt heavy because you touched us all in many different ways.

Was it your smile? Your dance? Your stories? Your simplicity? Surrounded with peace and love, you had so much to dish out, which you did, but it was just too short for us and GOD wanted you home with the angels.

You will be greatly missed, we will keep enjoying our lives till we meet again!

Rest on Gogo.

Ademola Adesanya

On behalf of: Church Care Department

When the Senior Pastor inaugurated and handed over the reins of Fine Wine to Pastor Nomthi, we knew that we were in for a good time, we just didn't imagine how good. Pastor Nomthi poured herself into Fine Wine. Having been a mature single herself, she easily identified with the ladies of Fine Wine. She gave of herself, both her time and resources. Each Fine Wine hangout with Pastor Nomthi was a joy session, we always looked forward to the next one.

We miss you Pastor Nomthi. We had such great plans. You were so excited about our planned Jerusalem trip. We were all looking forward to it. You looked forward to each of us getting married and having children. You were committed to the vision of raising fortified, fulfilled and flourishing women.

Your transition to glory has left a huge vacuum in Fine Wine. Your warmth, your joy and your hearty laughter remain with us. We take solace in the knowledge that you are in glory, enjoying your life. We know you are cheering us on, so we will stand strong. We are certain that you will share in the joy of our testimonies as they come. We will miss your presence, but we carry you in our hearts forever.

Our Zulu princess, Siyabonga. Thank you for giving to the Lord. See you in eternity.

Fehintola Olulana
On behalf of: Fine Wine Executives.

Our dear Pastor Nomthi, a mother with a heart of gold. Very peaceful, simple, ever loving, ever caring, always jovial and brought a smile to the face of everyone who came into contact with her.

Your stay was short but very impactful. We will certainly not forget the stories you told during your teachings.

You have indeed fought the good fight, you have finished your course, you have kept the faith and no doubt will inherit the crown of righteousness, which the Lord has laid up for you.

Heaven has gained an angel indeed. You will be sorely missed by all of us.

Adieu Pastor Nomthi.

Seyi Sowemimo
On behalf of: Bishops' Court (The Married Men's Fellowship)

Pastor Nomthi Odukoya, your light shined so bright. Your smile was the brightness that any sad room needed. As young people, you inspired us to brighten the world with our smiles.

Your dance steps were more than just mere movements, they ministered gratitude to us

You brought to our consciousness the need to enjoy our lives as God's children and you led by example.

Your care for our families and 3:16 as a church was divine.

Your storytelling prowess wasn't just exceptional but was transformational.

It always felt like we kept reading scriptures with modern-day revelations.

Your love and care for our father and pastor was so exemplary.

Truly, one thing is certain - you lived so intentionally for CHRIST and it was evident to the whole world.

We know JESUS will be proud of how you served humanity with your gifts.

Thank you for giving to the LORD Ma.
We love you Ma.

Seun Shobo
On behalf of: Church 3:16

Thank You for loving our Pastor, supporting him and walking this tough and often lonely journey with him.

Thank You for treating us as your children, caring for us, praying for us and being a source of inspiration and encouragement.

Thank You for everything you did behind the scenes to knit the Church together.

Thank You for being a great example of balancing marriage, motherhood and ministry.

Thank You for being brave in the face of adversity.

Thank You for celebrating our successes with us.

Thank You for all the hours you put in organising, planning, and coordinating events for our spiritual growth.

Thank You for your relentless pursuit of excellence and uncompromising commitment to the Body of Christ.

Thank You for loving and nurturing our children and teaching them the Word of God.

Thank You for giving your time and resources so sacrificially without expecting anything in return.

Thank You for the grace you portrayed.

Thank You for your genuineness, your warm embrace and your smile.

Thank You for being authentic.

Thank you for teaching us how to Enjoy our Lives

There are many family members today who can testify of her grace, dignity, and godliness. Her impact will be felt for generations to come.

Strong, Beautiful and Courageous Woman of God! We Salute you.

Isaac Ohiani
On behalf of: Technical Department

Pastor Nomthi, it's hard to believe we will no longer see you smile when you greet us, your humble disposition, your generosity, your kindness, the way you lit up everything around you.

It was so clear to see that yours was a heart that truly loved God.

Thank you for making it easy for the Protocol team to work with you.

Thank you for choosing us at the Fountain of Life Church.

Thank you for bringing so much love and light to us.

Thank you for teaching us to #EnjoyOurLives, we won't forget it.

We pray that you continue to enjoy yours with your Father in Heaven.

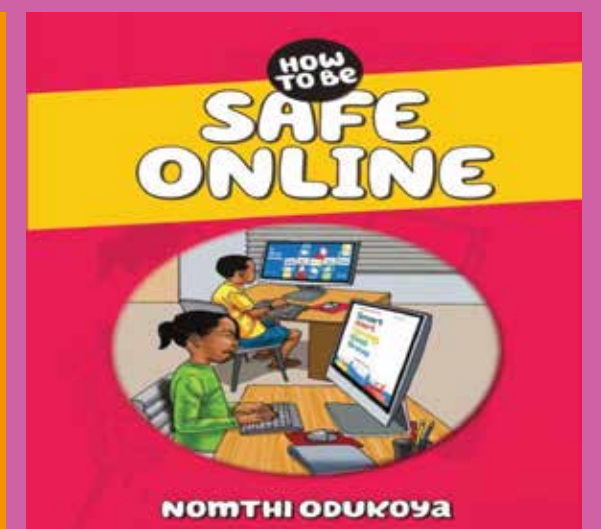
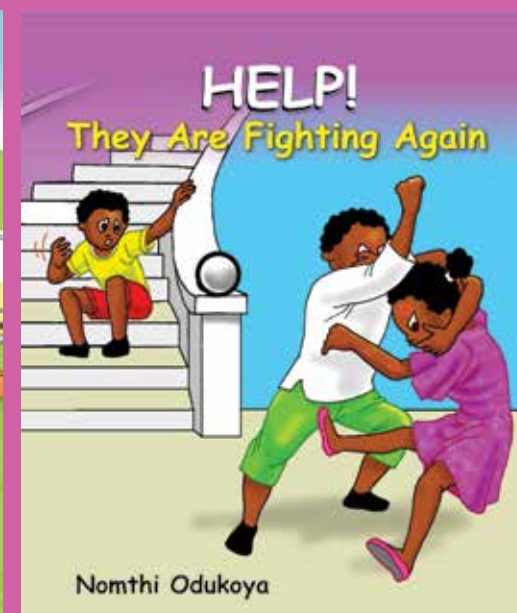
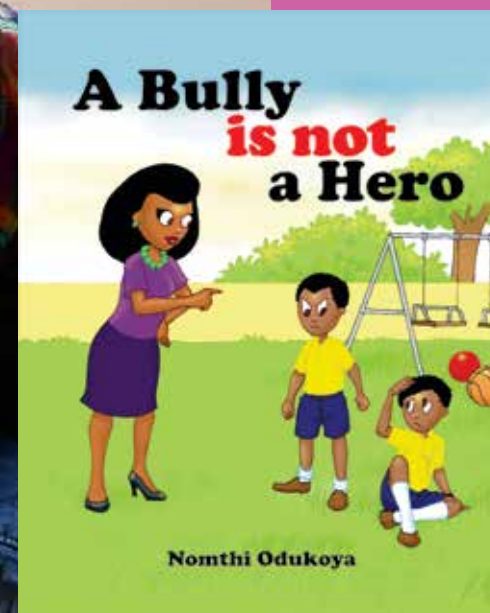
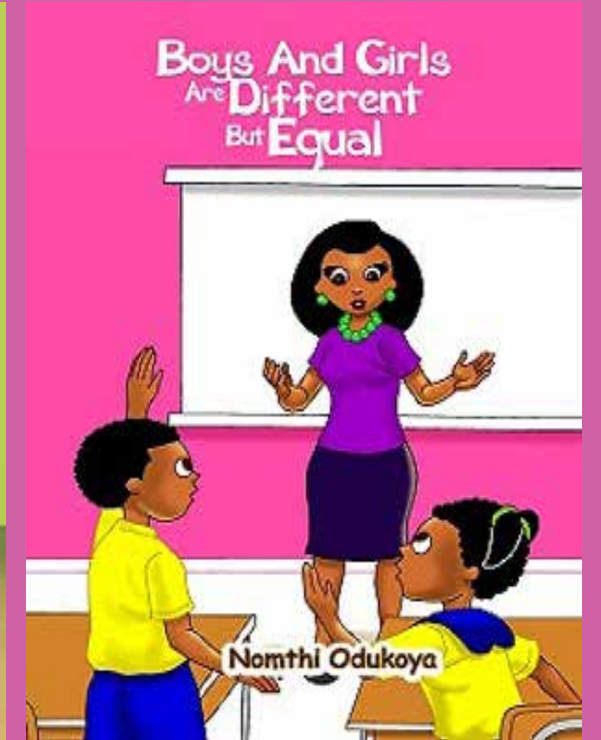
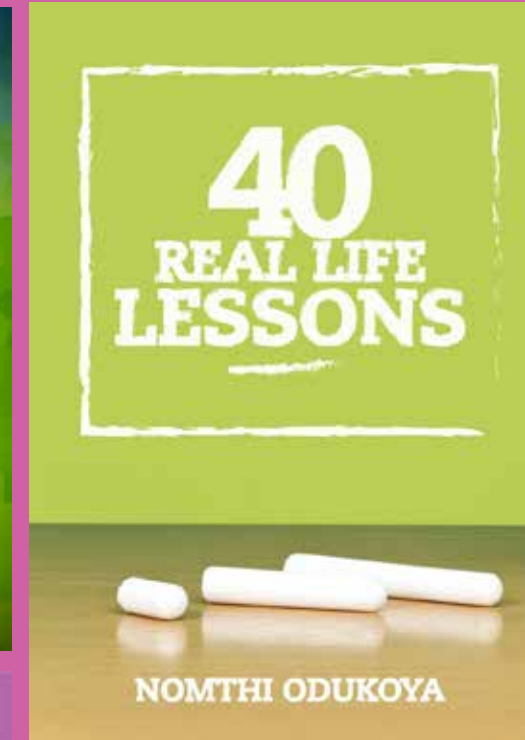
We love you but God loves you so much more. Till we meet again.

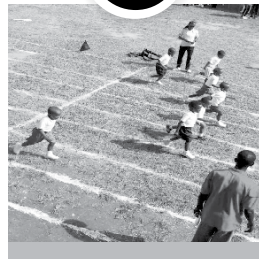
Akinlolu Akinyemi
On behalf of: Protocol Department

Honourable Fountaineers

– *Nomthi Odukoya*

COVERS OF ALL HER BOOKS



Day
97

RUN AND FOCUS ON YOUR RACE

At my son's school inter-house sports competition, I was touched by a little boy who stopped during his race because he saw others in competition with him falling.

He had this look of confusion on his face which literally asked: "Do I continue running or should I help them?" When the race started he looked focused, like one having mastered the art of running with a band around his ankles. But he didn't win because he allowed himself to be distracted. Those that fell immediately got up and continued running, leaving him behind.

This is like some of the excuses we hear people give for not living right. They say, "Other believers are living contrary to what Christianity stands for." Some stop going to church altogether because of other people's acts of hypocrisy.

Don't let what others do stop you from running your race. If they are not living right, what has that got to do with your life anyway? And how would you know when they get back on track if you are busy using their life as your excuse?

The devil doesn't want you to win in the race of life; don't allow him to distract you.

Keep running. You are a winner!

ENJOY YOUR LIFE | 107

NOMTHI ODUKOYA

Day
126

HIGH FIVE

One day, my older son did something great. So, after praising him, I gave him my cheek for a peck. But he came ready with a high five, thinking it was my hand I was bringing. The problem is, once a high five lands on one's cheek it is no longer a thing of joy because it immediately turns into a slap. Thankfully, my son realised on time that it wasn't my hand I was bringing but my cheek. We both laughed about it but I learnt something from it.

The cheek is prone to slaps and blows. However, whatever it suffers, it does not cease to function. Some slaps you might have received in your life were meant to be high fives, but you had your cheek ready for a peck and it landed on it. It's called misunderstanding. Both parties might have had good intentions, trying to express love and joy but it ended up landing in the wrong place. It happens to people in all relationships. Other times, the slaps we receive were intended to hurt us, but that doesn't mean we should be any less forgiving.

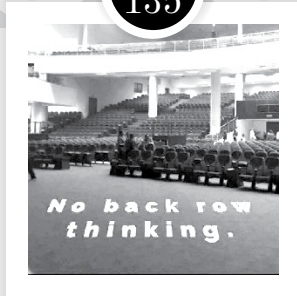
Our great example is Jesus. His cheeks were bruised, His beard was plucked, His face was marred beyond recognition, but in spite of such brutality, He never ceased to function as Christ, and He loved the very same people that put Him on the cross. (Luke 6:28 – 38)

142 | ENJOY YOUR LIFE

NOMTHI ODUKOYA



Day
135



TAKE A FRONT ROW SEAT



One time I was going to preach somewhere and I just randomly asked the boys to pray for me. They took it seriously and started praying for me. One of the prayer points I heard one of them say was that those sitting at the back would hear me clearly. I smiled when I heard it because it was so cute and childlike.

One day, God reminded me of that prayer point and explained what it actually means: there are people who are sitting at the back row in certain areas of their lives. Terrible situations have happened which forced them to the back. They have feelings of rejection as if nobody loves them. They come to church and go back the same way they came because they have believed in their hearts that their prayers wouldn't be answered (back row thinking).

I would like to encourage you to take a front row seat again. You must purpose in your heart to take the first step forward. Even if you have to crawl to get there, you will get back in shape and be in the place where God wants you to be.

Take a front row seat; it is always available to you.



“He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also He has put eternity in their hearts, except that no one can find out the work that God does from beginning to end.

Ecclesiastes 3:11

NOMTHI ODUKOYA



Day
323



ADEQUATELY PACKED FOR THE JOURNEY



When I was younger, Christmas was always better in the village. We were not only always looking forward to Christmas Day itself, our excitement used to start from the preparation for the journey to the village. We would prepare a lot of food for the journey to the village. I actually think I was more excited about the food than the journey. I think the journey was about four hours but it felt like the whole day to us. On the train, we would eat to our satisfaction and I appreciate my Mum for always being adequately prepared for the journey.

On our journey with Christ, we should be more excited about the word of God which is our food. Whenever the length of your spiritual journey seems too long, search your spiritual bag (Bible) for your provision and be refreshed.

May God give you strength to adequately prepare for the journey. You will finish well in Jesus name.



“Your word I have hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against You.”

Psalms 119:11

NOMTHI ODUKOYA





The Hallelujah Continues...



“
No matter how hard the situation is, we will
not go back to Egypt, but will press forward

– Nomthi Odukoya

”



