



NACF NORTH AMERICA

(NIFES ASSOCIATE COMMUNITY FELLOWSHIP)

HONORS

**The Exemplary Life
of Service and
Dedication to God,**

of our Elder and brother,

UNCLE HUBERT NWOKOLO.

**(Chairman Board of Directors
NACF NA & Member Board of Trustees,
NIFES Nigeria)**



FROM NACF NORTH AMERICA

PHILIP OKWENI For NACF NA

On behalf of the **NIFES ASSOCIATE COMMUNITY FELLOWSHIP (NACF)** family, North America, and in submission of the ultimate will of God, we praise God for the exemplary life well lived amongst us by uncle Hubert Nwokolo who left a legacy of such graciousness in service that will remain a challenge to all of us for a long time in the faith.

Uncle Hubert was a blessed man who lived a generous life of a blessing to his family, community, body of Christ and many organizations that served humanity. He was a caring man who cared for everybody. He was always burdened about his relations at home in Nigeria the same way he was for brethren of NACF here in North America. This led to several sacrificial steps and effort he personally undertook to established several people around him both family members and the brethren. The presence of Uncle Hubert Nwokolo in any Christian organization made much difference because of his fatherly role and large heart of generosity.

He was a major supporter of NIFES projects and programs both at the headquarters in Nigeria and within the Alumni fellowship here in North America. One of the recent challenges he gave to all of us was when there was a request to give pillars towards the building of the NIFES Headquarter auditorium in Abuja, Nigeria. Not only did he agree to give 10 of those pillars, he also mobilized his friends to make it up to 15 pillars, and he played a major role in the

realization of over 50 Pillars given through NACF NA to that project.

Many ministries were blessed in his lifetime by his generosity and would truly miss him indeed.

As the board chairman of the NACF North America and my direct boss, I relied greatly on his wisdom, counsel and elderly insight to navigate through most difficult decisions and challenges that my tenure faced. He was such an encourager with a hushed baritone voice that assured with such a soul soothing effect.

Uncle Hubert was such a dedicated person, that anything he was involved in, he gave his all to it. He attended all the conferences in North America, and even paid his own expenses to attend conferences in Nigeria and report back to us. Am very much aware of his commitment to other groups like the African Christian Fellowship (ACF), and the scripture union (SU), and other organizations where he served as board members and chair. The story of his commitment, dedication and sacrificial service is the same across board.

Uncle Hubert was a marriage counselor, an elder and a minister. He brought hope to many families through counsel, mediation and support. He was an example in all ramifications, both in his marriage relationship, family life, Christian life and leadership. Indeed his exit leaves a big challenge to all, of what sacrificial service in the kingdom represents. He will be greatly missed and we pray the Lord bless and keep his family for all the good seeds sown by him in Jesus name.



Uncle **HUBERT NWOKOLO'S**

Mini biography and Reflection of Service
in his own writing as featured in the 3rd edition of
NACF NA Newsletter 2020

HUBERT NWOKOLO **CHAIRMAN BOARD OF TRUSTEES NACF USA.**

In 1966 I finished my Higher School Certificate in Dennis Memorial Grammar School, Onitsha. I had won a Shell Oil scholarship to study mechanical engineering in the UK. I was to start my university education in September 1967 but the Civil War in Nigeria put a stop to those plans.

I gave my life to Christ on July 28, 1968 at the Scripture Union house at Mission hill in Umuahia. The traveling secretary for SU Eastern Nigeria then was Bill Roberts, a man that was greatly used by God during those civil war years. It was the good thing that came out of the war for me. In 1970 after the war I was able to rejoin Shell Petroleum Development Company who reinstated my scholarship. I was briefly in Lagos for 9 months before leaving finally for the UK. During the short period in Lagos I was able to attend weekly Bible study at number 2 Hughes Ave. in Yaba Lagos. This was the home of "Tony Wilmot a man used of God to bless so many young people in Lagos at the time. The group prayed for me to send me off to the UK and "Tony Wilmot gave me a note of introduction to the NIFES coordinator for the UK. On arrival in the UK while we were still in the Shell introductory program for the first 2 weeks I met Mr Tim Pollard. He gave me a name for the Christian union leader in the University I was going to and told me that they will be waiting for my arrival.

I thus had a smooth introduction to the Christian union of Leicester University. Because of the war which had cost me 3 years of education I was already 24 when I started my university. I found out I was much older than many of the students and I

was also a more matured Christian so I was much valued by the group. I spent 3 years and returned to Nigeria as soon as I finished my Bachelors degree. I could not go any further because I had lost my father in my first year. In my last but one fellowship with the Christian union at the University I had an opportunity to throw a challenge to the Christians. I told them that I had labored with an elderly pastor and his wife in their church where we could have done with the help of a young Christian union student.

I had observed that about 250 Christian union members attended 1 of 2 churches every Sunday in the town. I had also observed that there were at least 50 other churches in the town who would have needed 1 or 2 Christians from the University Christian union. I therefore challenged the group to send out two people from the group to go and assist each of those pastors as part of their mission assignment instead of just warming the pews in the church that had too many believers. When I visited Leicester about 8 months after my graduation I went to the Christian union meeting and was so happy to see that they had accepted my challenge and that the churches in Leicester were much stronger than before.

I joined Shell Petroleum Development Company in August 1973 and was posted to Warri. The oil industry is notorious for using foul language especially on the drilling rigs where you meet a lot of not so well-educated workers. There was a lot of cursing and loose living. It was a place I had to work but I was glad that I left a mark with the workers. As

soon as I arrived I made sure that everyone understood that there was a Christian on site and soon got the title of pastor or bishop. I maintained contact with the Scripture union and got married in 1975 to my lovely wife, a girl I knew when I was still in high school. We were not born again Christians and really had no relationship at the time. We were both active in sports but got to know each other during the Civil War when our paths crossed again at a Scripture union rally. God made us for each other and we got married July 1975.

My first encounter with NIFES was during a conference at UNIPORT in 1981. I was giving a talk on "the Christian in Industry". I had met the NIFES traveling secretary and I was supporting the mission the same way I was supporting scripture union. Many students attended my talk and were excited to ask me questions and later on at least 10 people met me in Shell and told me they had been at that conference and they were encouraged by my talk and had decided to join Shell. We had Bible studies every Monday while rotating the venues among the staff who lived in the Shell camp. My wife and I had always supported Scripture union, NIFES, our local church and any other Christian group that we were convinced were doing a good work for the Lord. My wife and I always believed that it was our duty to support the work of the church at any level.

I was ordained as an Elder in 1980 and had been in the church leadership in many places where we

had lived both in Holland Norway and in the US. We support pastors and missionaries and believe that God keeps us so that we can support His work done by missionaries or groups that minister to schoolchildren.

To this effect we have been strong supporters of the Scripture union and NIFES as we see these 2 organizations dealing mainly with young children at the secondary and college levels. I know that this is a period of great concern when a lot of good can be done for the work of the Lord. I am a firm believer that the work of the Lord cannot just be done by giving 10%. The tithe belongs to the Lord and is already committed to the church but we still have 90% for which we are accountable to the Lord. I am a strong believer and committed to the work of the Lord. The Lord has blessed me tremendously because He makes sure that you cannot out give Him. The Lord has blessed my wife and I with 4 children and 5 grandchildren and has given us a wonderful marriage for the last 45 years.

I had worked in many countries in Nigeria, Holland, Norway and retired here in the US in Jan 2006 after 32 and half years with Shell Oil Company. I retired at the level of a vice president. I am currently 1 of the 5 members of the Board of trustees of NIFES Nigeria. I have been retained on this Board because of my commitment to NIFES even though I live in the US. The current chairman of the NIFES Board of Trustees is Uncle .Kola Ejiwunmi. We first met at "Tony Wilmot's house at number 2 Hughes Ave. Yaba Lagos in 1970.

THE LORD IS GOOD.



NIFES

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A TRIBUTE FROM NIGERIA FELLOWSHIP OF EVANGELICAL STUDENTS (NIFES)

A GENERAL HAS GONE HOME

Uncle HUBERT! Fondly called so by many. You were a Father indeed to us in NIFES. Staff, Students and Associates within Nigeria and in Diaspora enjoyed the grace of God upon your life in the areas of giving, counsel, advice, support, as you played your fatherly role to all that needed your attention. We are very proud of you for the simple and open life you lived as a committed Associate and Trustee of NIFES. You loved and cared for so many students who today are Graduates, Pastors, Leaders, Parents and Grandparents. Indeed, a man of deep thoughts and reflections; an intercessor and a devout man of prayers. You served as a rallying point for Christians in diaspora and especially the NIFES NACF-US.

A worthy Ambassador of Christ who though didn't reside in Nigeria in the later part of his life, but was still very much involved with the ministry of raising disciples among the youths for Christ within and outside NIFES. Until his death, he remained a member of the NIFES Board of Trustees and ensured that he travelled from the USA to be with us at every NIFES Mission Conference since 2001 – a rare commitment indeed! Uncle Hubert, you are a General that will not just be forgotten for the battles you fought, but the faith you kept will continue to speak on your behalf for many generations to come. Uncle Hubert, you were someone who would not want to kill a fly or shout at anyone to pass your message across, but through prayers, consultations, counsel and pious ways you got the message of the Kingdom into lives, making much indelible impact.

Our dear **Daddy HUBERT NWOKOLO**, you will live on in the minds of so many Staff, Students, Associates, Council members and Trustees of NIFES, and even the larger body of Christ. Whenever we look back, we will remember the one who often stood in the gap for us as a Fellowship before the King of Glory, and represented us in places we couldn't ordinarily attain as a missionary to the Nations. You were there at all times - interceding on our behalf, contributing financially and giving your time and resources; making sure that our work succeeds on the campuses. We will greatly miss you Sir!

There is so much to say about Daddy Hubert, but just these few words would summarize them – *Daddy, you lived with eternity in view; you sought for peace and*

always wanted a clear record with those you thought you may have offended or who offended you in any way. You were simple enough to ask for forgiveness, because you never wanted to leave this earth without settling issues amicably in seeking to maintain a clear conscience. You combined simplicity, humility, self-giving and contentment in a manner that endeared you to all who interacted with you. You were such a man who never considered personal recognition, rights, privileges and honour as something to demand for, as long as God's work is going on without hitch. It never bothered you if your name was not mentioned publicly for the contributions you made so generously. Daddy, we recognize you as a true Christian who was fully content with your calling and purpose in Christ' service. You could put up with anything to please God and fulfil ministry. Sir, you are a rare gem!

Without any exaggeration, I can boldly say of Uncle Hubert that he did not live for himself; he lived for Christ with every strength and breath of life in him till his last breath on earth on the 13th day of January, 2021.

UNCLE, DADDY, GRANDPA - your love, gentle, kind, honest, patient, longsuffering, faithful and humble lifestyle will be remembered always in NIFES. May your gentle soul Rest in Peace in the bosom of our Lord. Sleep on till we meet again to share fellowship at the Master's feet, where we would part no more.

For: Nigeria Fellowship of Evangelical Students (NIFES),



Rex Onuh
National Director
© January 2021





Celebrating **A GREAT LEADER**

DR. NGOZI MARTIN-OGUIKE (NEW JERSEY)

Uncle,

Your passing came to me as a rude shock. While I was yet to call to talk with you in this new year, this painful News came. It stung like a bee with such excruciating ache. And I just wonder for your immediate family. How are they feeling, if we feel this way from afar? So, to Auntie Uche and family, I come with words of comfort.

I got to know Uncle Hubert through NIFES. We met for the first time when he hosted the first ever NIFES Associates Community Fellowship (NACF) North America conference in Houston, Texas in August 2014. I was amazed at his humility and servant leadership. He was unassuming, fatherly and friendly. He was completely devoted to the Lord.

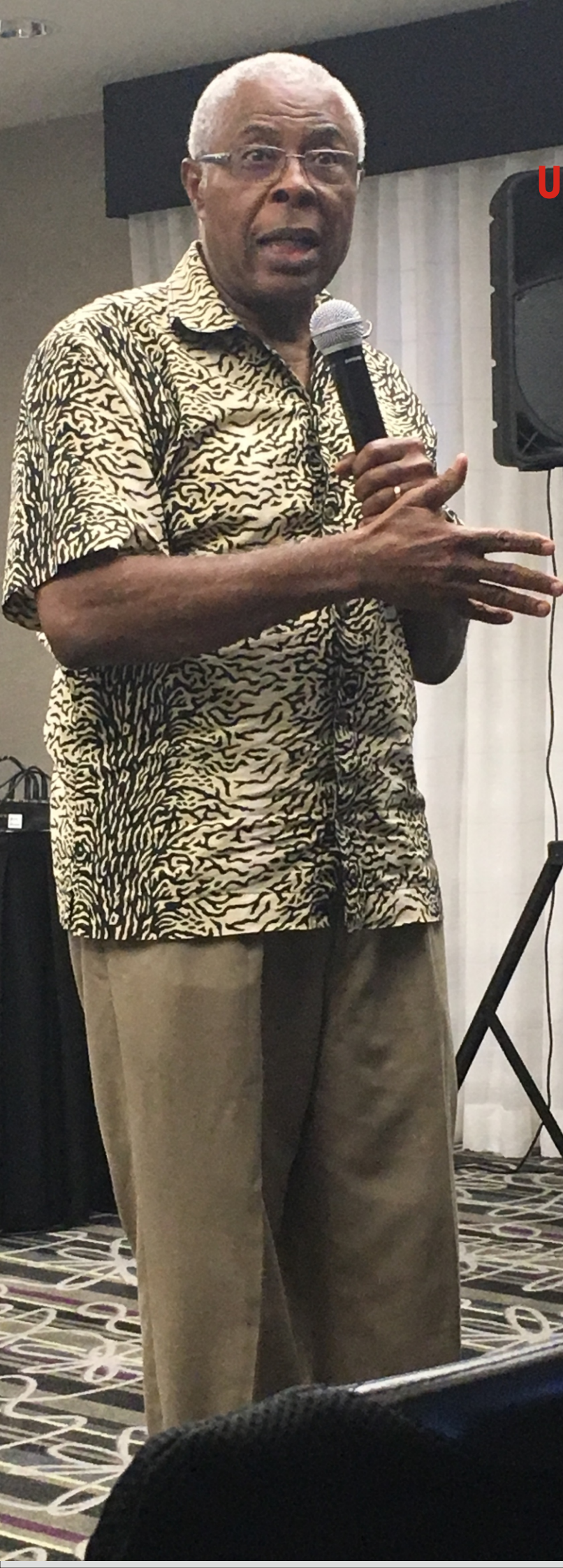
From that time, he bore the NACF like his child and we all looked up to him for advice and stability. He was fondly known and called Uncle. You don't need to ask, Uncle who? Uncle gave his time, skills and resources so sacrificially that he challenged everyone to contribute for the good of the ministry. He loved being retired from service and shared wonderful testimonies of his work in different countries, even in the most temperate parts of the world. Now, when you ask him what he does now, he will quickly retort, "What don't you understand that I am retired?" His sense of humor was not diminished. He inspired us to look forward to a happy healthy retirement from regular service.

One time, he told me about a missionary that served in Nigeria. So when Uncle got to England, he visited the missionary's home and to his surprise discovered they were not rich at all. He taught me that a generous spirit is all you need to serve God; you do not need to be wealthy. I could continue on end. You have left such a void among us, the NACF-North America board, executive and members are dumbfounded. You left your seat as chairman par excellence and wonderful team player. I guess you are laughing in paradise and telling us that you are done, "Which one concern me again?"

As I heave a deep sigh, I am consoled that you had no other loyalties but to the Almighty God through our Lord Jesus Christ and as a Holy Spirit-filled child you held onto Him till the end.

Well done, Uncle. We appreciate your love and services. Therefore, the Nwokolo family, be comforted, for his legacy is eternal. Be strong, NACF-North America as we celebrate the exit of our hero.

Adieu, Uncle Hubert, till we meet at Jesus' feet!



TRIBUTES TO **UNCLE HUBERT NWOKOLO**

FROM BERNICE LANRE ABEGUNDE.

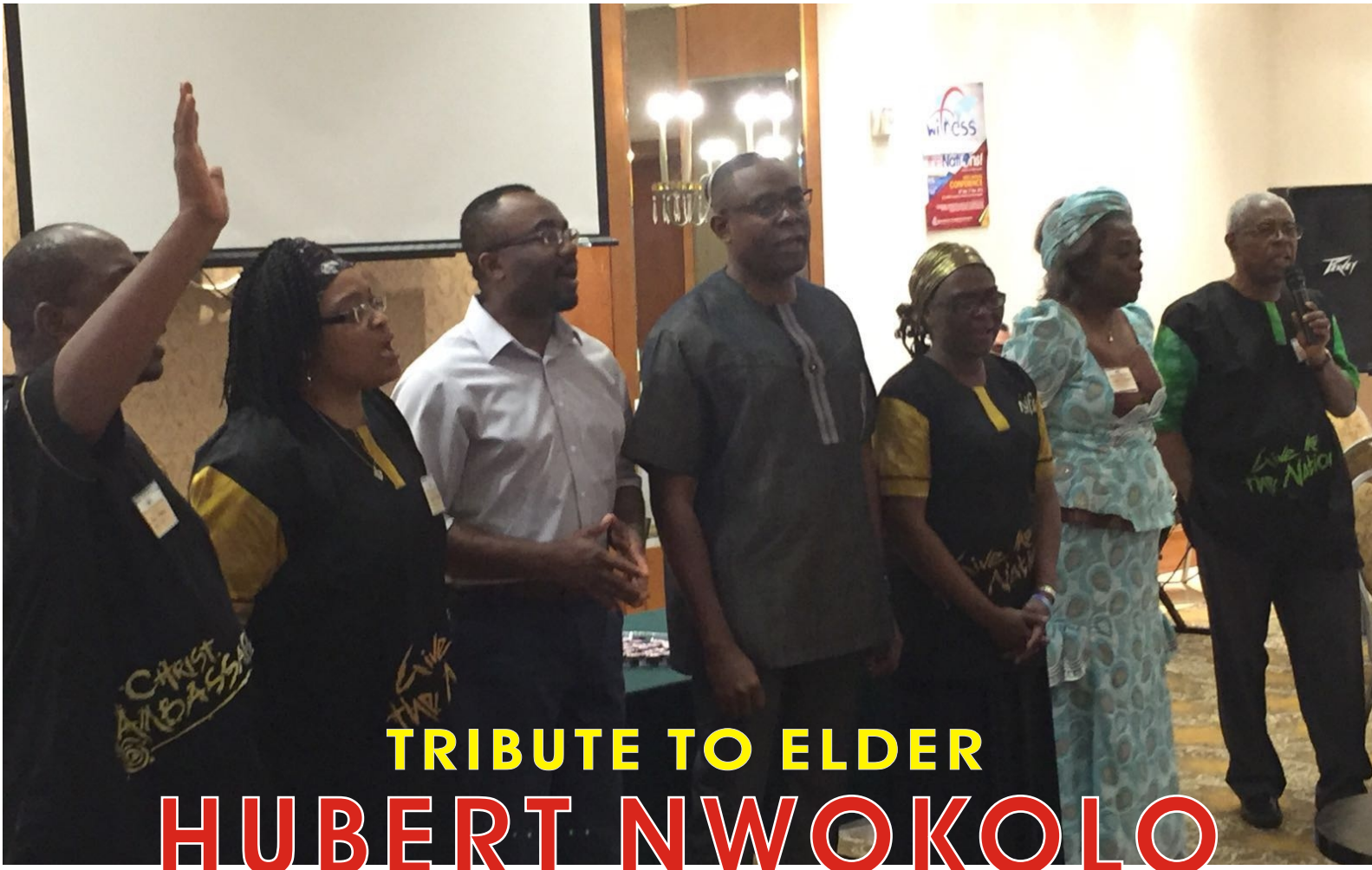
Shocked at the news of your home going, dear uncle Hubert, but who am I to question God?

My heart goes out especially to your wife, because I know how it feels to have your husband called home when you least expected. In the short time I interacted with you in NIFES, I saw a committed servant of God who would go a great length to make sure things are done decently and orderly.

You were not a 'people pleaser', as you would speak your mind to rebuke and reprove in a humble manner.

Uncle Hubert, you will be greatly missed. Our loss is heaven's gain.

Rest in perfect peace.



TRIBUTE TO ELDER HUBERT NWOKOLO

BY PASTOR CHRIS NNOLI

Elder Hubert Nwokolo was already a household name in Nigeria within the Scripture Union Nigeria (SU) and the Nigeria Fellowship of Evangelical Students (NIFES) circles before his final relocation to the US after retirement. He and his wife, 'our big Sister', Uche, were greatly used of God to build up many fellowships back home in Nigeria. And they did that at great expense opening up their homes for the brethren, providing succor to so many in need.

Here in North America, Elder Hubert spent a considerable time working with us in NACF (the North

American wing of NIFES Associates), leading by example. He was a giver, making sacrifices so that it would be well for other people. He was not only a pillar to the fellowship but played the role of a father and a sea captain helping to stabilize the NACF Boat when it rocked and was threatened with a shipwreck a couple of years ago. We mourn his departure from this sinful world, comforted though, that now, he's at rest in Abraham's Bosom. In the words of the old Anglican hymn, He will be ever remembered by the great works he had done within the Evangelical circles in Nigeria and North America.



TRIBUTES TO **UNCLE HUBERT NWOKOLO**

FROM APOSTLE O.C OBIKARAM

I heard so much about Elder Hubert Nwokolo in Port-Harcourt until I was privileged to meet him, then I realized that words were not enough to describe him. It got done on me that I was standing by a kingdom pacesetter an exemplary believer, a Christian with a heart of sacrifice , a selfless and humble man always willing to withhold nothing from the kingdom purpose. It was joy meeting him in Dallas again during NACF (Nifes) and SU Conferences with the same fire and commitment for the faith.

I was challenged. Now hearing of this sudden death saddens my heart but I know that you have gone to meet the God who you spent all your time and resource serving on earth . Without a doubt, your death has created a vacuum too big to fill, but we look up to God for help. The Lord comfort and strengthen your immediate family at this time of grief and pain ,NACF and the entire body of Christ at large. Goodnight and rest well.



TRIBUTE TO DADDY HUBERT NWOKOLO

EBERE & DOROTHY EZE
(former Director of Associates).

The life and times of Hubert Nwokolo was an uncommon Christian example to the body of Christ, especially to us in NIFES. He is a man that God blessed exceedingly in all areas of life, like Abraham, he became a blessing to many, especially to me and my wife. I wish I have all the time and space to write about all I know about him, but I will limit myself to just three aspects of his life that stood out for me, namely: servant leadership, meekness, and hospitality.

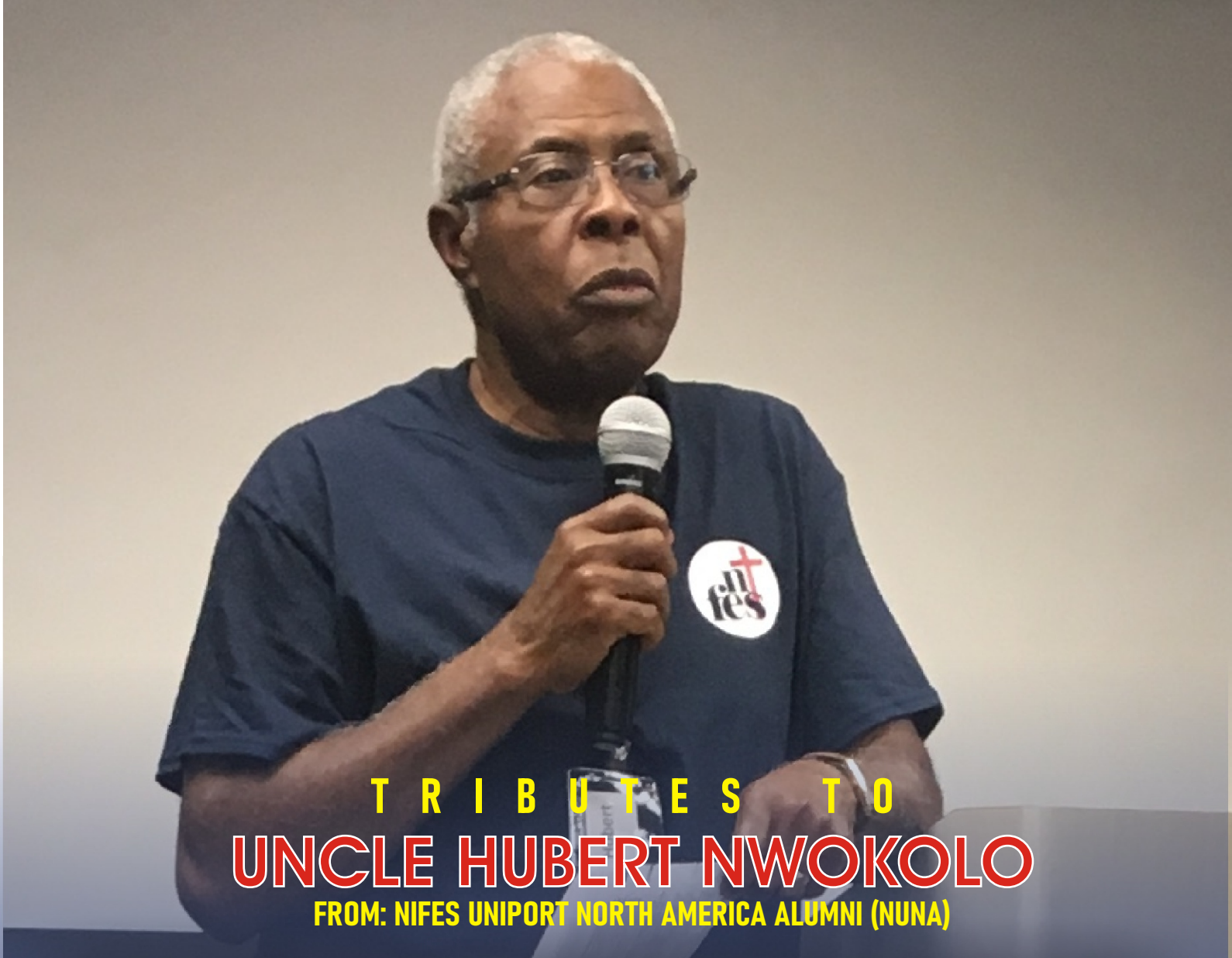
As a Board of Trustee member of NIFES, he played the role of hosting the Directors who visit the US on official trips. Together with his beloved wife, Mummy Uche Nwokolo, they made their home a place of rest, comfort, workplace, and friendship. Their hospitality is so real that instantly you are made to know that you are a part of the family while staying with them. There was never a time I visited and they were not hosting someone in the house. It seemed God blessed them with a big house for the purpose of hospitality ministry to the saints.

The other side of him that amazed me most is his servant leadership example. A servant leader is one who leads by serving. Daddy Nwokolo as we fondly

called him was a servant at heart. Before we proceed on our trips to the US, he will demand for our schedules ahead of our arrival and build in his own schedules around ours just to be there for us to succeed in our mission. He will help buy tickets for our internal runs while in the US to help save us more money in transportation costs. He was always there at the airports to pick us up on arrival and drop off for departure. He was more like the NIFES liaison officer in the US. His meekness as a BOT member function like an organizing secretary always left me speechless. He was such a servant leader.

Because he lived in the US, he often times planned to be in attendance at the NIFES triennial mission conference to be with students. He will stay with the students under the scorching sun and heat of Kwali in Abuja for days leading Bible studies and seminars. He was such a blessing to students through his sessions during the conferences.

Daddy Hubert Nwokolo's life was such a beauty and blessing. He will be sorely missed by all in the body of Christ. Daddy, we will always remember you with sweet memories. Rest on faithful servant of God till we met again in eternity.

A photograph of an older Black man with white hair and glasses, wearing a dark blue t-shirt. He is holding a microphone and speaking. On his t-shirt is a circular logo with a red cross and the word 'nifes' in black. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

TRIBUTES TO UNCLE HUBERT NWOKOLO

FROM: NIFES UNIPORT NORTH AMERICA ALUMNI (NUNA)

We were saddened to hear the news of Uncle Hubert's passing to glory. We recall his dedication to Nifes Port Harcourt zone and Nifes National Headquarters in Jos. We recall numerous times that Uncle Hubert organized Christians in Shell Nigeria at his home in Shell camp, PH, Nigeria to pray and raise funds for Nifes missions. He was always a shining example of humility and selfless service to God and humanity. One special aspect worthy of emulation was the loving unity between him and his wife, Aunty Uche!

They were a unique pair, wonderful hosts and an example of Christian marriage marked by mutual respect, love and gracefulness. Over the past 3 decades, he mentored several students and associates across Nifes Port Harcourt zone. His service to Nifes student ministry remains an example to all Nifes alumni. We send profound condolences to Aunty Uche and pray for God's protection and comfort for the entire family. Uncle Hubert, we will meet at Jesus feet by God's grace, Amen.



