EULOGY FROM CHILDREN FOR THE LATE JOYCE MAKOR AKOSUA BEKPO KWAWU

Important Points

* Our father passed when we were very young. Mom, as a young woman had to take care of all seven of us single-handedly with no help from government or relatives. She worked very hard to educate all of us to the best of our abilities, even though she had little. She was strict and protective of us even when we reached adulthood. Some of resisted this move, but we know she did that because of her love for us and we say sorry for all the hurt. As a trader (businesswoman) sometimes she had to go on business trips to several towns to sell her wares, and we were left at home with the older siblings taking care of the younger ones. Sometimes neighbors stopped by to check on us. She made sacrificed a lot just to made us live comfortably, for which we are most grateful.
* Unmistakably larger than life, our mother also had an instinctive sense of justice and fairness. She was a very kind, loving, generous, compassionate and respectful of others. Even though she had a lot of mouths to feed, she took in other kids from the countryside who were sometimes sick and neglected to take care of and raised them like one of her own. She cared a lot about people and always volunteered to help whenever she was called upon. Be it a marriage ceremony, child naming, as mediator in conflict resolution, helping financially, and more importantly attending funerals. She used to attend funerals in our hometown on weekends and that brought her closer to family and relatives back home. She had a good knowledge of how we are related to people in both the maternal and paternal family. She was very active in the Agbozume community where she was born and raised. In her own small way, she tried to make the world a better place for human kind, quietly behind the scenes.
* She was a very religious person. Her entire life was driven by faith in God. This shaped her destiny. She was baptized and confirmed as an Anglican. She loved her church family and was a member of the Guild of the Good Shepherd, The Interested Group, The Christian Love Thy Neighbor Society and a few more now defunct groups. She imbued us with good moral values for which we are grateful for. Without such values most of us would have gone astray.
* She was an entrepreneur who at one point had several businesses and was good at whatever she chose to do. Sometimes we wondered where she got that energy from. Such was her passion that, we had to beg her to retire finally in her seventies. Indeed, she was a very hardworking and independent person.
* Our Mom was loved and admired by many, but she had her own detractors who misconstrued her. She used to remind us of what she’s been through and got the scars to show. She wouldn’t cave in to criticism for what she believed in or bow to any authority. She was a courageous person. Very authentic and down to earth. With her “what you see is what you get”. Dada, meaning mother in Ewe, as we fondly called her, left us on Monday October 8, 2018 for eternal glory. What a life worthy of celebration! We will greatly miss her.