

Forever

In our hearts



BIOGRAPHY
ORDER OF SERVICE
MEMORIES

EULOGY
TO A GOLDEN
SOUL

IYA ISANGA
BEKONDO-GRANATELLA
AUGUST 30, 1982 - JULY 10, 2024



Thank You!

For Your Support!

There are not enough words to fully express our heartfelt gratitude for your sympathy, prayers, love, and support during this difficult time following the loss of our beloved Iya Isanga.

*"Though He brings grief, He will show compassion, so great is His unfailing love."
Lamentations 3:32*

The Alobwede & Bekondo Families



BIOGRAPHY

Iya Isanga Bekondo-Granatella, BSc. (Hons), MSc., MBA. Kidney Warrior, Quality Assurance Specialist and CEO of the Iya Foundation

Iya Isanga Bekondo-Granatella was born on August 30, 1982, in Bota Limbe, Cameroon, to the late Pa Daniel Enya Bekondo and Rose Mesonge Bekondo. In accordance with their Christian faith, Daniel and Rose appointed Mrs. Beatrice Feh Tita and Mildred Ajayi as Iya's Godparents. Iya was baptized in December 1982 by Rev. Mbock Tabot and confirmed in her faith on July 31, 1993. Both Iya and her mother were devout communicants at the First Presbyterian Church in Metuchen, New Jersey, where her mother also served as an elder for six years.

Iya's life was characterized by humility, kindness, strength, and courage. Her early years in Limbe were filled with joy until, at age seven, her mother, Mummy Rose, a registered nurse, observed swelling in Iya's face and feet. After consultations with Dr. Mrs. Tchwenko at the Limbe General Hospital, Iya was referred to Douala and then to Professor Youmbissi, a nephrologist in Yaoundé. Thus began Iya's battle with kidney disease, requiring regular trips to Yaoundé for treatment every three months.

Despite her health challenges, Iya was a stellar student—exceptionally intelligent, she never repeated a class. After successfully passing her GCE Advanced level, Iya's health continued to deteriorate despite her mother's medical expertise. She was invited to the USA on a humanitarian visa sponsored by Robert Wood Johnson University (RWJU) Hospital, where her older sister, Sharon Romero-Ekiti worked. Shortly after arriving the USA, Iya became very ill and experienced cardiac arrest. Upon thorough medical examination, the doctors came with the news that both of Iya's kidneys had failed. She was intubated and put on a ventilator (vent), and after a few days, the hospital informed the family that they had to remove her from the vent due to financial constraints. Before discontinuing the vent, one of the nephrologists ordered an emergency hemodialysis treatment, and with prayers from family and friends, Iya started breathing on her own. Defying all odds, she returned to optimal health and was discharged shortly after, managing her condition with daily peritoneal dialysis at home. However, her petite and fragile body could not tolerate the fluid volume from peritoneal dialysis without complications, leading to a switch to hemodialysis three times a week.

During the initial phase of her treatment, Iya's older sisters, Sharon and Annie, took turns driving her to school and for dialysis. Her lovely mother, Mummy Rose played the most important role of accompanying and transporting her to school and for dialysis as well.

In September 2005, after several years on dialysis, Iya's mother, affectionately known as "fair lady," donated one of her kidneys to Iya. By God's grace, both made a full recovery, and Iya was inspired to raise awareness about kidney disease. Despite enduring financial hardship and lacking insurance, the support from her community was unwavering. Iya's first fundraiser was initiated by a few professors and students, raising over \$15,000 at a golf event. The Presbyterian Church in Metuchen, NJ, where she worshipped, took up the fundraising banner and organized events to help with her medical expenses. During this period, Iya attended Middlesex County College in New Jersey, where she quickly distinguished herself as an exceptional student. Her professors were impressed by her vibrant personality and academic prowess, despite her frequent absences due to health issues.

These random acts of kindness from people she hardly knew deeply moved and inspired Iya. With hard work, faith, and determination, Iya and her close childhood friends started the Iya Foundation (TIF), aimed at helping kidney patients in low-income communities in the USA and Cameroon. Over

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time, the Foundation extended its reach to other African countries, including those in the CEMAC region, Nigeria, Ghana, Sierra Leone, and South Africa. In 2019, Iya would go on to establish one of the first ever Kidney Resource Centers in Africa, located in Buea, Cameroon.

Iya was blessed with sixteen years of freedom from dialysis, which she used wisely. She traveled, educated, and inspired many people to remain hopeful. She lived life to the fullest, determined and grateful for each day. Unfortunately, in 2021, her transplanted kidney failed, and she resumed dialysis. Though saddened by the knowledge that her mother's kidney had failed and she would have to return to hemodialysis, Iya welcomed the reality with hope, knowing that God would sustain her. Despite this setback, she intensified her advocacy efforts.

At this critical time, many changes occurred in Iya's life, prompting her to relocate from New Jersey to Massachusetts to be with her partner, Kevin Kemembin. There, she continued dialysis three times a week while encouraging, educating, and inspiring others to live fulfilling lives. Vibrant, intelligent, fearless, and hardworking, Iya worked until June 24, 2024, when her contract ended. She was eagerly anticipating the start of her new contract on July 15, 2024.

By the grace of God, Iya received the long-awaited call for a donor kidney on July 3, 2024, just as she was transitioning between jobs—a clear sign of divine orchestration! The following day, July 4, she underwent her second kidney transplant and was discharged from the hospital on July 9. On July 10, less than 24 hours after discharge from the hospital, Iya tragically passed away.

Iya Isanga Bekondo-Granatella leaves behind a powerful legacy of unwavering strength, remarkable resilience, unyielding bravery, and relentless perseverance.



Iya and her beloved Mummy “Fair Lady”.

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Iya, the Scholar

Education and Professional Qualifications

- Presbyterian Youth Center (PYC)
- PNEU Limbe for nursery and primary school.
- 1993-2000: Government High School (GHS) Limbe, GCE “O” and “A” levels.
- 2002-2008: Middlesex College, NJ-USA Associate degree, Biology.
- 2008-2009: Kean University, NJ-USA, BSc. Biotechnology,
Member of Beta Honor Society and Biology club.
- 2012-2015: New Jersey Institute of Technology,
MSc. Pharmaceutical Systems Management.
Member of the International Society for Pharmaceutical Engineering.
- 2016-2018: New Jersey Institute of Technology,
MBA in Information System and Management.

Professional Licenses and Certification

- Scrum Master Certified (SMC)
- Oracle Business Intelligence Foundation Suite 11g (Certified Implementation Specialist)
- Bloomberg Market Concepts.

Iya, the Professional

Employment and Career Growth

- June 2023 – death: Senior Quality Assurance Specialist – Field QA
- March 2023 – June 2023: Senior Quality Assurance Specialist – Greenlight Biosciences
- March 2018 – March 2022: Quality Assurance Specialist – Dr. Reddy’s Laboratories
- September 2018 – September 2021: Lecturer – Kean University
- August 2013 – March 2018: Marketing Associate – BeneCard PBF

Iya, the Philanthropist

Iya's vision was to educate, raise awareness, and ensure early detection of chronic kidney disease in the African community. Her nonprofit organization, the Iya Foundation (TIF), focuses on the following core areas:

- Kidney Awareness and Organ Donation
- Fundraising and Events
- Early Detection
- Community Partnerships
- Education and Training

Selected Recognitions

- In April 2022, the Iya Foundation was recognized by the US House of Congress for outstanding service to the community.
- From 2017 – Death, Iya served as an American Association of Kidney Patients (AAKP) Ambassador for New Jersey and Massachusetts.
- On August 13 2014, Iya was invited to the National Press Club in Washington DC, where she called on President Obama to engage more with the African immigrant community in the US and highlighted the high risk of kidney disease in the African/black community.

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Iya Foundation Highlights

The Iya Foundation executed numerous projects that had significant impact, some include:

1. Tombel Hospital Restoration Project: Renovating medical infrastructure and improving patient care in the Tombel municipality, partnering with the Sumediang Women Association (SWA). The project successfully raised \$12,557 (7,621,094.44 CFA), contributing significantly to the restoration of Tombel Hospital, a testament to Iya's passion for humanity and community development.

2. Green Campaign: Conceptualized and launched in 2013 by Iya, this is an ongoing annual campaign to wear green in the month of March (world kidney awareness month), to raise awareness on kidney disease and organ donation. For over 11 years today, the wear green campaign for kidney awareness has grown in publicity and is gaining traction like the pink campaign for breast cancer. This is thanks to a robust social media campaign where everyone is challenged to wear green and post on social media. Organizing the month-long campaign also includes community health screenings and educational seminars with sensitization through media outlets like the Cameroon Radio Television (CRTV), billboard advertisements, and social media. With partners like the Bony Dashaco Foundation, African Women Entrepreneurship program (AWEP), Geriatric Care and Vulnerable Support Initiative (GCVSI), My Kidney, My Life Foundation, USA, Atanga Kidney Foundation, USA, Biaka University Institute of Buea, among many others, Iya extended her outreach to the CEMAC regions, Nigeria, Ghana, Sierra Leone, South Africa and Kenya, further solidifying her role as a leading advocate for kidney awareness.

3. Humans of Kidneyville: This project involves sharing personal kidney health stories to raise awareness. This project played a key role in bringing to light the sufferings, plight and needs of End Stage Renal Disease patients through sharing their personal kidney health stories and experiences.

4. Dialysis Blanket and Socks Drive: This project aimed at providing blankets and socks to dialysis patients to keep them warm during treatment. Iya worked tirelessly to alleviate the pain and suffering of those affected by kidney disease. Having lived the experience herself, Iya knew that during dialysis treatment, the body temperature of many dialysis patients drops. With this in mind, Iya through her foundation provided hundreds of blankets and socks to soothe and provide warmth to kidney patients on dialysis both in the US and in Cameroon.

5. Financial Assistance Program: Launched in 2015, this project is aimed at supporting low-income and uninsured kidney patients with financial assistance and fundraising. During its inception, the Iya Foundation donated over \$10,000 (about 5 million FCFA) to Cameroonians with kidney failure in the US. Amongst those who benefited from the project are Denis Mbianda, Ethel Ekole, Helen Ndifor, Junior Agbortoko, Mama Anna Biaka and many many more. Since its launch, over 30 other kidney patients have since benefitted from the program usually and mostly funded by Iya's personal funds.

6. Kidney Sundays: Visiting places of worship and other gatherings to educate and raise awareness on kidney disease. During her lifetime, over 30 churches, student groups and community organizations benefitted from this initiative.

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7. Global Dialysis Initiative - Flagship Project of Iya: This initiative was primarily aimed at supporting kidney failure patients in developing countries, with a focus on Vascular Access Surgery. One of the notable achievements of this initiative occurred in 2016 in Buea, Cameroon. Iya through her Foundation, TIF, donated \$8,200 (5,000,000 CFA) to the Buea Regional Haemodialysis Clinic to support the local Vascular Surgery Program. This donation specifically benefited ten kidney failure patients who required crucial Vascular Access Surgery and dialysis therapies. The success of this project was made possible through collaborations with individuals such as Mr. Elvis Wepngong (OGCEYOD), Mr. Trypheana Ndifor (Project Coordinator), Dr. Mbome (Regional Health Delegate), Mr. Tambe George (late kidney patient), and Dr. T. Thanks to their collective efforts, the following patients successfully received their AV fistulas, facilitating their life-saving haemodialysis treatments and significantly improving their quality of life: Ngala M., Tabukum P., Kumfa E., Norman T., Itoe M., Njie J., Kulu N., Lanseh P., Baiye S., Agbor L.

The Iya Foundation also donated funds to supplement Epogen administration to patients at the BRHC. Approximately sixteen (16) patients have benefitted from this multi-million francs cfa project.

8. Kidney Disease Awareness and Early Detection Program: Launched in 2011 this project was aimed at raising awareness among minority groups especially Africans/Blacks who are more susceptible to heart disease and diabetes which are comorbidities of kidney disease. A standout initiative of this project was the Patient Support Group Meeting where attendees discussed and shared ideas on how they could best help themselves cope with kidney disease.

9. Food Donations to Kidney Patients: Launched in 2021 following the outbreak of the COVID pandemic, this project provided food items to kidney patients in Cameroon through the Iya Foundation's Kidney Resource Centre every quarter (every three months, four times a year). Food items provided included rice, beans, washing soap (savon), eggs, garri and palm oil with about 80 kidney patient beneficiaries.

10. Fish Fridays Campaign: This campaign was the pioneer initiative and birth of the Iya Foundation. Launched in March 2011 to raise funds through the sale of grilled fish, the proceeds benefitted low-income patients with end-stage renal disease. Hundreds of people responded to this campaign, and as a result of this campaign and many others, The Iya Foundation was able to issue grants for five (5) recipients who received funds ranging from \$250 – \$1000 in 2014.

Farewell, Iya Isanga Bekondo-Granatella: Kidney Warrior

Iya's death is a profound loss for all who knew her. She transformed her personal battle into a powerful mission, raising awareness and educating the world about kidney disease. Her unwavering advocacy for kidney health has etched an indelible legacy that will continue to illuminate the path of hope, resilience, and compassion which she so boldly and gracefully embodied.

Iya leaves behind her beloved mother, "Fair lady" Mummy Rose, along with her four maternal siblings: Sharon Menze Romero-Ekiti, Fred Alobwede Makembe, Prime Kevin Bekondo, and Annie Dibeme Bekondo. She is also survived by her devoted partner, Kevin Kemembin; 13 paternal half-siblings, including the oldest, Dr. Mercy Bekondo Akwo Esambe, and the youngest, Iya Emeri Bekondo (Coco); as well as aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, cousins, many other relatives, and countless dear friends, all of whom deeply mourn the loss of her radiant presence. In her memory, her family calls upon everyone to prioritize kidney health and honors the relentless spirit of kidney warriors like Iya, who never give up.

Iya's strength, faith and boundless generosity, has reverberated worldwide, evoking heartfelt tributes from all and sundry. Her spirit lives on in the lives she touched and the awareness she championed for kidney health. Her life's work and unwavering passion will never be forgotten.

May the soul of our beloved Kidney queen, Iya Isanga Bekondo-Granatella rest in perfect peace.

FUNERAL PROGRAM - USA

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2024

VIEWING

10:00 am – 12:00pm

St. Charles Borromeo
Catholic Church
176 Stage Coach Rd
Sicklerville, NJ 08081

FUNERAL MASS

12:00 - 2:00 pm

St. Charles Borromeo
Catholic Church
176 Stage Coach Rd
Sicklerville, NJ 08081

Officiating Priest

Rev. Fr. Wilfred Epie Emeh

Pall Bearers

- Fred Alo Makembe
- Prime Kevin Bekondo
- Joseph Atabe Alobwede
- Tyrolt Alo Ngole
- Elvis Mukete
- Kermitt Bekondo

Protocol

Ruth Caspa Foleu
Senge Elong

WAKE

3:00 pm – 12:00 am

Exquisite Events Resort

755 S Whitehorse pike
Hammonton, NJ 08037

MCs

Jackie Jua
Nico Kang

Entrance

- **Song:** *People Like You* by Gramps Morgan
- Casket and Pall Bearers
- Family
- Priest

Father Venerates the Altar (Please Stand)

Greetings

Introduction

Lord, Have Mercy

Opening Prayer

Liturgy of the Word (Please Seat)

- **1st Reading:** Wisdom: 3:1-9
Dr. Maureen Muke
- **Inspired Song/Psalm:**
Iya's friends led by Lilian Akpe
- **2nd Reading :** Romans: 8:31-39
Rachel Senge Metuge (Cousin)
- **Gospel Acclamation**
- **Gospel :** John: 15:9-17
- **Homily**
- **Prayers of the Faithful**
Kyle Antonio
Melissa
Kiara Ashley
Lydienne Wunze
Kalen Alo
Samantha Ashley
Cheyenne

Offertory (Please Seat)

Josering Mbole Alobwede & Estella Muma

Prayers after Offertory

Song by Nieces

Communion

Commendation prayers/Blessing the Casket

Biography

Dr. Wele Elangwe

Acknowledgement & Announcements

Prime Kevin Bekondo (Brother)

Concluding Rites

- Final Blessing & Closing Prayer
- Songs

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL - USA

Celebrant

Brothers and Sisters, by his death and resurrection, Jesus, our Savior, conquered death and restored life; let us present our needs before him with faith and confidence that he will hear our plea for mercy on the dead and consolation on the bereaved family

1. We pray for the church and her leaders; that they may be ever faithful in their mission of bringing the gospel of salvation to all God's children.

We pray to the Lord, Lord hear us.

Response: Lord graciously hear us

2. Many people die by violence and war each day; show your mercy to those who suffer so unjustly these sins against your love, and gather them to the eternal kingdom of peace.

We pray to the Lord, Lord Hear us/R

3. In baptism, Iya Isanga Bekondo-Granatella received the light of Christ. May Christ who called her be merciful in judging her and grant her a place of refreshment, rest, and peace in his heavenly kingdom.

We pray to the Lord, Lord Hear us/R

4. We pray in thanksgiving to God for Iya Isanga Bekondo-Granatella's life, her love, kindness, and dedication to the Faith. May her good deeds go with her, and may our prayers on her behalf be acceptable before the throne of God.

We pray to the Lord, Lord Hear us/R

5. For the family of our deceased daughter, sister, aunt and friend, may the words of Christ resound in our hearts today: "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God and trust in me for there are many rooms in my Father's house."

We pray to the Lord, Lord Hear us/R

6. We pray for all who mourn the passing of loved ones; that they may be consoled by their faith in the Risen Lord and the assurances of hope and peace in the eternal kingdom of God where there will be no more pain or sorrow. We also pray for all deceased family members especially Pa Daniel Bekondo, Ma Senge, Pa Elias, Ma Julie, Auntie Lovelyn, Pa Ivo, Pa John, Ma Lydia and all departed family members and friends.

We pray to the Lord, Lord hear us/R

7. For all of us gathered here, teach us to know the shortness of life so that we may strive daily to love one another, forgive each other, and work for peace and unity in our communities.

We pray to the Lord, Lord hear us/R

8. For journey mercies on all travelers, especially those here present; that the good Lord may keep us safe and grant us journey mercies to our various destinations.

We pray to the Lord, Lord hear us/R

Celebrant:

Lord God, giver of peace and healer of souls, hear the prayers of the Redeemer, Jesus Christ, and the voices of your people, whose lives were purchased by the blood of the Lamb. Forgive the sins of all who sleep in Christ and grant them a place in your kingdom.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

FUNERAL PROGRAM - CAMEROON

Friday, September 20 2024

6:30 am

Removal of Corpse
Bota District Mortuary

10:00 am - 12:00 noon

Laying in state
The Presbyterian Church
Down Beach, Limbe

1:00pm

Funeral Service
Presbyterian Church Down Beach, Limbe

Private burial to follow immediately after service

4:00pm

Reception
SS Club Bota, Limbe

Officiating Ministers

Rev. Dr. Mokoko Simon Elive
Rev. Ngalle Simon
Rev. Patience Emade Ngole
Rev. Igie Loveline Ndeleyen
Rev. Abah Emmanuel

Officiating Groups

Messiah Choir
BAPRESCA Choir
Restoration Choir
C.W.F.

Pall Bearers

Fred Alo Makembe
Prime Kevin Bekondo
Marla Bekondo
Etta Bekondo
Enang Alobwede
Africa Alobwede
George Nana

ORDER OF SERVICE - CAMEROON

PROCESSION

THE SALUTATION

Min: In the name of God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit

Cong: Amen

Min: The Grace of God and Peace of God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

Cong: And also, with you.

THE OPENING SENTENCE

And I heard a voice from Heaven saying "Write this: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord henceforth. "Blessed indeed, says the Spirit," that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds follow them!"

OPENING HYMN: CHB 487, CH 698 - I Am Not Skilled to Understand

OPENING PRAYER

THE RESPONSIVE PSALM (Psalm. 39)

Min: "Show me, Lord, my life's end and the number of my days. Let me know how fleeting my life is.

Cong: You have made my days a mere handbreadth; the span of my years is as nothing before you. Everyone is but a breath, even those who seem secure. [b]

Min: "Surely everyone goes around like a mere phantom; in vain they rush about, heaping up wealth without knowing whose it will finally be.

Cong: "But now, Lord, what do I look for? My hope is in you. Save me from all my transgressions; do not make me the scorn of fools. I was silent; I would not open my mouth, for you are the one who has done this.

Min: Remove your scourge from me; I am overcome by the blow of your hand.

Cong: When you rebuke and discipline anyone for their sin, you consume their wealth like a moth— surely everyone is but a breath.

Min: "Hear my prayer, Lord, listen to my cry for help; do not be deaf to my weeping. I dwell with you as a foreigner, a stranger, as all my ancestors were. Look away from me, that I may enjoy life again before I depart and am no more."

Amen.

SONG

BAPRESCA Choir

EULOGIES

- Biography
- Family Head
- Friend
- Iya Foundation
- President of Dialysis Centre
- The Alobwede Family
- Congregation

HYMN: CHB 363 - He Knows My Thoughts

SERMON

SONG

Messiah Choir

FUNERAL OFFERINGS

Songs by CWF

FAMILY THANKSGIVING

Songs by Restoration Choir

PRAYER FOR THE FAMILY

DEDICATION OF OFFERINGS

HOLY COMMUNION

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ORDER OF SERVICE - CAMEROON

HYMN: CHB 352, CH 529 – Courage, Brother!

THE COMMENDATION

THE DEPARTURE

Min: Lord, now let your servant depart in peace

Cong: According to your word.

Min: For my eyes have seen your salvation

Cong: Which you have prepared in the sight of every people

Min: The light to enlighten the nations

Cong: And the glory of your people Israel

Min: Glory be to God the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit

Cong: As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Min: Let us now in the hope of joyful resurrection bring our departed sister to her resting place; for there is no permanent home for us here on earth; but we are looking for the one in the life to come.

AT THE GRAVESITE

THE SALUTATION

Min: Our help is in the name of the Lord.

Cong: Who made Heaven and Earth

OPENING SENTENCE

The Lord brings to life and takes it; He brings down to the place of the dead and raises up.

THE COMMITTAL

Min: Let us pray: Almighty and eternal God, your blessed son Jesus Christ who was laid and did rest in a grave and thereby you sanctify the grave to be a bed of hope to your people. Bless, we pray this grave to be a resting place for the body of our departed daughter and sister, who we believe is at rest in Jesus Christ your Son, our Lord.

Cong: Amen

Min: As it has pleased the Almighty God to call from this life and to take to himself our sister, Iya Isanga Bekondo-Granatella, we therefore commit her to the ground from which he was made, in sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life and looking to the infinite mercy of God in Jesus Christ, our Judge, who died, was buried, and rose again for us and now is alive, and who will make new our earthly bodies according to His mighty power. Thus says the Lord, who created you out of the ground: You are dust, and to dust you shall return.

Min: Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord;

Cong: And let perpetual light shine upon her.

Min: May she and all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

Cong: Amen.

Min: Peace be with you from God the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

THE LESSON OF RESURRECTION HOPE

Min: We hope in Jesus Christ who says "Because I live, you will live also."

BENEDICTION

RECESSION

HYMNS

(In Alphabetical Order)

BLESSED ASSURANCE, JESUS IS MINE

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine
Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
Born of His Spirit, washed in His blood

Chorus: This is my story, this is my song
Praising my savior, all the day long;
This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my savior, all the day long.

Perfect submission, perfect delight,
Visions of rapture now burst on my sight
Angels descending, bring from above
Echoes of mercy; whispers of love

Perfect submission, all is at rest,
I in my savior am happy and blest
Watching and waiting, looking above
Filled with his goodness, lost in his love.

COURAGE, BROTHER! - CHB 352, CH 529

Courage, brother! Do not stumble,
Though thy path be dark as night;
There's a star to guide the humble:
"Trust in God, and do the right.

Let the road be rough and dreary,
And its end far out of sight,
Foot it bravely; strong or weary,
Trust in God and do the right.

Perish policy and cunning,
Perish all that fears the light!
Whether losing, whether winning,
Trust in God and do the right.

Some will hate thee, some will love thee,
Some will flatter, some will slight;
Cease from man, and look above thee:
Trust in God and do the right.

Simple rule, and safest guiding,
Inward peace, and inward might,
Star upon our path abiding, –
Trust in God and do the right.

HE KNOWS IT ALL

He knows my thoughts, my ways, my deeds,
My Jesus knows it all.
Ev'ry part in me his hands hath made
He knows, He knows it all.
He knows it all, my total heart, (He knows)
Nothing is hidden from my Lord,
He knows, he knows it all.

In the darkness or bright daylight,
He knows, He knows it all.
In depths beneath or heights above,
He knows, He knows it all.
What e'er I do, what e'er I say,
He notes and takes into account,
What e'er I do or say.

He plans my ways, He directs me,
He knows, He knows it all.
In time of woe, in time of joy,
He knows, He knows it all.
His plans for me, is in his hand,
He plans and controls everything,
Yes, Jesus knows it all.

My life on earth, my Jesus knows,
His hand provides me strength,
If I should leave this earthly home,
Jesus has one for me,
Jesus loves me, beyond compare,
I am the sheep of His pasture,
He loves me this I know.

I AM NOT SKILLED TO UNDERSTAND

I am not skilled to understand
What God hath willed, what God hath planned;
I only know at His right hand
Is One who is my Savior!

I take Him at His word indeed:
"Christ died for sinners," this I read;
And in my heart, I find a need
Of Him to be my Savior!

HYMNS

That He should leave His place on high
And come for sinful man to die,
You count it strange? So once did I,
Before I knew my Savior!

And oh, that He fulfilled may see
The travail of His soul in me,
And with His work contented be,
As I with my dear Savior!

Yes, living, dying, let me bring
My strength, my solace from this spring;
That He who lives to be my King
Once died to be my Savior!

I NEED THEE EVERY HOUR

I need Thee every hour,
Most gracious Lord;
No tender voice like Thine
Can peace afford.

Refrain: I need Thee, oh, I need Thee;
Every hour I need Thee;
Oh, bless me now, my Savior,
I come to Thee.

I need Thee every hour,
Stay Thou nearby;
Temptations lose their pow'r
When Thou art nigh.

I need Thee every hour,
In joy or pain;
Come quickly and abide,
Or life is vain.

I need Thee every hour;
Teach me Thy will;
And Thy rich promises
In me fulfill.

I need Thee every hour,
Most Holy One;
Oh, make me Thine indeed,
Thou blessed Son.

IT IS WELL WITH MY SOUL

When peace like a river, attendeth my way
When sorrows like sea billows roll
Whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say
It is well, it is well, with my soul

Chorus: It is well (it is well),
With my soul (with my soul)
It is well, it is well with my soul

Tho Satan should buffet, tho' trials should come
Let this blest assurance control
That Christ has regarded my helpless estate
And hath shed His own blood for my soul

My sin, oh, the bliss of this glorious thought!
My sin, not in part but the whole
Is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, o my soul!

And Lord, haste the day when the faith shall be sight
The clouds be rolled back as a scroll;
The trump shall resound, and the Lord shall descend
Even so, it is well with my soul.

MY HOPE IS BUILT ON NOTHING LESS

My hope is built on nothing less
than Jesus' blood and righteousness;
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,
but wholly lean on Jesus' name.

Refrain: On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand:
All other ground is sinking sand;
All other ground is sinking sand.

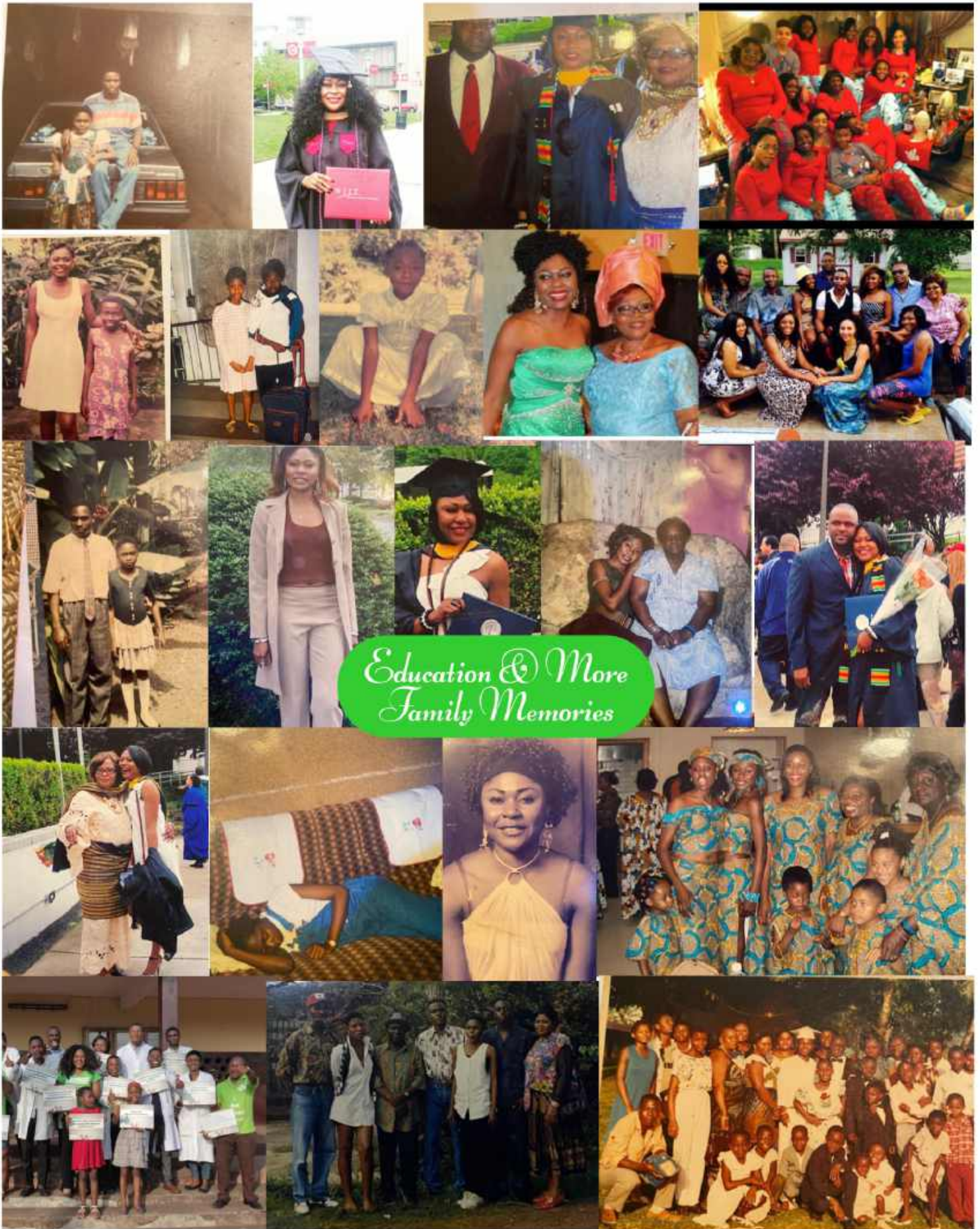
When darkness veils his lovely face,
I rest on his unchanging grace;
in every high and stormy gale,
my anchor holds within the veil.

His oath, his covenant, his blood,
support me in the whelming flood;
when all around my soul gives way,
he then is all my hope and stay.

When he shall come with trumpet sound,
O may I then in him be found:
dressed in his righteousness alone,
faultless to stand before the throne.



Childhood and Family Memories



*Education & More
Family Memories*



Memories with Friends

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Iya as a Professional & Philanthropist



TRIBUTES

My Handbag, you left your Fair Lady...

Weeeee E-E, I can't imagine me writing a tribute about you, trembling. As I am doing this, my heart is bleeding and will continue to bleed till my own day comes. My handbag, my EE, you know all our plans and past journey yet you just left your fair lady in the middle of the road? Only God knows why he preserved you from the age of seven years until the tenth of July, when he decided to snatch you from us. You did what he wanted you to do yet He decided to take you. I pray you intercede for us so that we can continue your legacy by grace. EE, I pray to God to put you in a better place where you will continue your good work you started.

Iya Isanga, I love you, but God loves you more, Waka fine my baby. You will ever remain in my heart. Rest in perfect peace in Jesus' name.

Ekag Bwam E-E Isanga!

Rose Bekondo (Mother "Fair Lady")

Limbe, Cameroon

My tribute to Miss Iya Isanga Bekondo.

Daughter, my heart is bleeding. EE, as I fondly called you, I am still in denial that you are gone forever. I can't thank God enough that the many times we were together were fun and joyful moments despite your health condition. To my greatest dismay, it's now that you're gone that the family is realizing that you were the Star of the family. You inspired so many worldwide during your short life. Wherever a beautiful soul has been, there's a trail of beautiful memories. I am not one to be loss of words when it comes to putting pen on paper, but your sudden demise left me with a chronic case of writer's block that has taken me a month to dissipate. As I contemplate your passing into eternity, one word reverberates constantly on my mind: INTELLIGENCE. You exuded intelligence to your style, taste, gait, and diction. Paradoxically, this intelligence became even more apparent following your medical challenges. You spoke with a pitch, a tempo, and an intonation that conveyed purity of thought and intent, the sort of voice that captivated and charms the listener to agree with you without a second thought. I will live to remember that life is but a stopping place, a pause in what to be, a resting place along the road, to sweet eternity we all have different journey, different paths along the way, but never meant to stay. Our destination is a place far greater than we know. For some, the journey is quicker. For some, the journey is slow, and when the journey finally ends, we will make a great step forward and find an everlasting place as our special reward. Although my heart is still bleeding, I am rest assured that it's not the years in a life that counts; it's the life in the years. EE LIVED. I will personally deeply miss you.

GOODBYE EE.

Pa Metuge Alobwede (Uncle) & Wife, Mum Brenda

New Jersey, USA

TRIBUTES

My Little Sis, E-E,

I am writing this tribute with a flood of tears in my eyes; my heart bleeds grasping at the realization that I will never hear your gentle raspy voice again. I was angry at first for your sudden death but I understand God knows best. You fought a good fight. Fearless, faithful and passionate about your purpose. My life will never be the same because I was touched by my very special angel; My little sister, Iya. I will miss you every day in everything I do; but, I will NEVER forget you. Your joy, your kindness, your passion and selflessness, your love and devotion to your friends and most especially your family.

Ohh my heart aches and nothing can soothe it - You will remain forever in my heart♥.

Sharon Romero Ekiti (Sister)

Maryland, USA

My "Jammer",

After the post-surgery video call with you on Sunday, I was really looking forward to celebrating you in Canada on your birthday. Didn't know that would be the last time I'd see your pleasant and always smiling face. Can't wrap my head around how anyone could be so joyful amidst all the personal struggles. You are selflessness personified, putting everyone and everything else above self. Your voice still echoes in my head to this day when you whispered how you will "Jam" me if I break your sister's heart. Your skill in always giving people names earned me the nickname, "Big Sango". In 41 short years, you accomplished what many will not accomplish in 100+ years.

I am comforted by the Scripture in 1 Thessalonians 4 which says: Through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. I know you are in a great place, little sister. I will miss you my little Nyango. Rest-on my all-time Jammer.

Manga Ekiti "Big Sango" (Brother-in-Law)

Maryland, USA

In Loving Memory of my Wonderful Sister,

Of all the special gifts in life however great or small,

To have you as my sister, was the greatest gift of all.

May the winds of love blow softly and whisper in your ear.

I love and miss you sister and wish that you were here.

Deep in my heart, your life is kept to love, cherish and not forgotten.

There will be no more tomorrows that we can share but the yesterdays are always there.

A silent thought, a secret tear keeps your memory ever near in my heart forever.

Fred Alobwede Makembe (Brother)

USA/Canada

HYMNS

Old Quack, my Sister!

You were a sibling to whom I could share my sentiments; whether it was a good or bad day I was going through, you always assisted me by giving me a listening ear, a shoulder to lean on, and never complained. I will definitely miss you! Rest well my dear sister.

I am and will always be proud of you for you fought a good fight. Love you!

Prime Kevin Bekondo "Papa" (Brother)

New Jersey, USA

My Dearest Isanga "E-E" ...

I am deeply grateful for the love and support you have always given me. I admire your strength and kindness, and I appreciate how you were always there for me, Sis♥️. Your presence in my life made a huge difference. Your presence in my life has made an immense difference. You are a priceless gem and a genius to us, and I consider myself incredibly fortunate to call you, my sister.

Please know that I will keep you close in my heart, no matter where I go or what I do. May you find eternal rest with the angels in heaven. I want you to know that, I will keep you near me no matter where I go or what I do.

May you find rest with the Angels in heaven.

I will always love you.

Annie Bekondo (Sister)

Limbe, Cameroon

For her day had come (An unfortunate outcome)

My beloved and dearest Iya, my heart bleeds uncontrollably, beyond measure. I am on the brink of losing hope. Your death came so unexpectedly, in the twinkle of an eye. Your life ended without a chance for us to say goodbye. I am still hoping this is just a bad dream. Only memories we hang onto now. Your heart was golden and heaven has gained an angel. Fight no more sis (crying).

Now, you can rest.

We will miss you terribly (crying, crying, crying...). Love,

Mbole (Cousin)

Houston, TX

Dear Iya (Mucoy as we call ourselves),

I really can't believe that you are no more. Not enough words can describe what I am feeling about losing you. I have only our memories to hang on to. Your wonderful soul touched so many, and your beautiful raspy laughs/voice will be truly missed.

Skylar and I will miss you and your memories will forever remain with us. Love,

Senge and Skylar (Cousin & Niece)

New Jersey, USA

TRIBUTES

My Lovely Iya,

As we affectionately called each other, “honey”, the boys and I will forever hold you dear in our hearts. We miss you every day as it goes by. I find myself looking forward to family prayers, our birthday fun, your cooking, playing ludo, cards, road trips, attending church service every Sunday, dancing together, running around with Armani... Your son Armani won't stop mentioning your name. He says, ‘my Mimmie is in heaven”. Love you always. May your soul rest in peace. Until we meet each other again. I bleed every day. Thank you for the true love we both shared. But God loves you more. It's getting harder and harder every day without you. You fought a good fight and accomplished everything here on earth.

Our love will forever be in my heart ❤️.

Kevin Kemembin “KK” (Partner)

Boston USA

Iya Isanga,

Your passing is still a shock to me and I am still in denial. I will miss your uplifting and encouraging input during family meetings. I will miss reading your targeted text messages and jubilation to each sibling as their birthdays are announced. You brightened our lives in several ways even though you were hurting. As a sister, you were different and I am very grateful for the impactful time we enjoyed together.

I will miss you, but rest well.

Dr. Mercy Bekondo Akpo-Esambe (Oldest Sister)

USA

Beloved and Cherished Kid Sister

Though we are filled with consternation and shock, we find solace in the victory of our Savior, Jesus Christ, over death through His resurrection. The sting of death is thus rendered powerless. Praise be to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen. Your passing has left an irreplaceable void in our family and has been a significant loss to the community you dedicated yourself to improving. Positive in outlook and the quintessence of courage, determination, resilience and willpower, you fought on relentlessly like a spartan till the Lord Almighty decided that you go home. Dear sister, you will forever remain our shining star and icon.

Go in peace, Iya Isanga Bekondo, and may your gentle soul rest in perfect peace.

Justice Bekondo Burnett Enya (Brother)

Cameroon

TRIBUTES

An Icon has fallen oh!

What a great loss that has befallen us the Bekondo and Alobwede families. Iya Isanga Bekondo-Granatella, you were a force to be reckoned with. My dear sister, you represented our family to the world through your immense love for humanity and your tireless fight for the survival of kidney patients, a cause for which you were a true ambassador. You championed a mission that will always be remembered, leaving behind a legacy that marks you as a true champion. I write this with a heavy heart and tears streaming down my face as I picture your loving aura and the warm smile that was always present. Our deepest wish was for you to remain here with us, to fulfill the great and wonderful plans you had for the future. But the power of death took you from us, and though we cannot question God's will, He knows what is best. You will always remain in our hearts, and we love you dearly. May the Almighty God receive you into His kingdom, where we shall meet again one day. May your soul rest in perfect peace. Much love.

Namongo Merritt Bekondo (Brother)

Cameroon

Granatella

A call came ringing, O'er the restless green
A legate in need, the LORD's own lackey
Words of hope to the ailing masses
In pain, despair and hopelessness too
They're restrained from their forte
What a daunting task, to stand as bridge
Brave, prepossessing, beautiful like the sky
At the end Our renal muse did acquiesce
A Titan, a mastodon of faith, a heroine
Yet she gave more than received
O! the unbearable travails and pains untold
How onerous the oblation, the price she paid
With pride and decorum, she charged forth
And paced with burgeoning zeal and ceaseless ump
And like a swan she'd discharge a prance
Impacting with unending perorations
Then that forlorn call, the warrior's gone
The cries, the bawls, the matriarch wails
O! Tella, the world loves you, we'll always do
Now, Let the champion rest.

Marla BEKONDO Plunkett (Brother)

Cameroon

TRIBUTES

Your Last Words to Me

“Boyy, Happy Birthday to you, Happy Birthday to you, Happy Birthday, Happy Birthdayyyyyyy , Happy Birthday to you. God bless you with many, many, many, many amazing, healthy and happy and prosperous years. We love you from Massachusetts to Ohio. Tons of hearts and hugs. Happy Birthdayyyy!!!” Those were your last words kid sister. We were making plans for you to meet your nephews and their mother just this past June. We even joked about the driving distance from Cleveland, OH to North Andover, MA. I am really sorry that you never got that opportunity Iya. Rest well our champion.

Kermit Bekondo (Brother)

Cleveland, Ohio USA

My Warrior

Big sis I remember your beautiful and magical smile, your passion and dedication to humanity, your love for God and life , your gratitude to everyone and everything around you. Each passing day, it hits differently, to imagine that you have become a memory is so hard. If tears could bring you back then I would cry a river, God decided to call you back home because you have served humanity and your purpose here is done, thus we still give him thanks. I will miss you greatly my warrior like I fondly called you. Rest on big sis.

Iya Emeri Bekondo “Coco” (Baby Sister)

Cameroon

You Brought Joy and Happiness to the World

Sadly, though you are no longer here, you remain ever in my heart. I cherish the fond memories of you, my precious and beloved sister. You brought joy and happiness to the world, and you will forever live in my heart and mind.

Adeley Njume (Cousin)

Belgium.

You were an Incredible Person

Today, as we say goodbye to my beloved sister - EE, we also celebrate the incredible person she was. She may no longer be with us in body, but her spirit, her love, and her light will continue to guide us. She faced her health challenges with grace and courage. Even during the most difficult times, she never let go of her hope, her laughter, or her desire to live life to the fullest. The journey of her kidney transplant was a testament to her resilience and the immense love she had for life. She fought valiantly, always with a smile on her face, even when the days were dark. We will carry her memory in our hearts forever, and honor her by living our lives with the same grace, courage, and love that she showed us every day. Rest in peace, EE as we called you. You will always be our angel, watching over us from above. We love you more than words can express, and we will miss you every day. Until we meet again, may you find eternal peace in God's embrace.

Tyrolt Ngole (Cousin)

Minnesota, USA

TRIBUTES

To my dear little sister,

From the moment you came into our lives, you brought so much light and joy. Despite being the younger one, you have taught me so much about resilience, compassion, and the beauty of simplicity. Watching you grow into the incredible person you are today has been a privilege. Your strength in the face of challenges, your unwavering support during the darkest days, and your staunch belief in yourself have been my pillars of strength. As we continue this journey together, know that you will always have a special place in my heart. Your dreams are my dreams, your happiness my priority, and your well-being my constant concern. Thank you for being a wonderful sister. With all my love and admiration.

Joseph Atabe Alobwede (Cousin)

Canada

Death has Stolen You from Us

My heart is heavy with sorrow, and tears of pain stream down my face for you, my beloved sister. We never had the chance to meet in person, and that is another sorrow I carry. Just two days before your passing, I thought of you, realizing we hadn't spoken in a while. In response, I posted our Iya Foundation dance on TikTok, not knowing that it was your way of saying goodbye. Chai, Death has stolen you from us. Your greatness and vision will continue, but it will never be the same without you. Rest in peace, my beloved sister, until we meet again to part no more.

Terence Njitone (Cousin)

Cameroon

If Only Tears Could Bring You Back!

The exceptional recollections of you will always bring a grin to my face. If only by some stroke of good luck tears could bring you back to those days we could sit and talk once more? Your absence will constantly cause me torment but you will always remain in my heart. Rest well, Sis. Say hi to your favorite Aunty, Ma Senge, Ma Julie and the rest of the family members on that side of the world.

Isabelle Nayi (Cousin)

Maryland US

Oh, Death!

You caused a great pain in the garden of Eden, so many centuries ago and you still continue to roam, snatching our beloved ones. You have caused us another great and unbearable pain, folding our mouth not to ask questions.

Sister Senge (Cousin)

Kumba, Cameroon

TRIBUTES

Oh, Death!

It is still hard to believe that you have taken "Isanga" from us. Only the Almighty knows why. As a co-founder of the Alobwede Menze Family Forum, you were a cherished member. Rest in peace, God's angel. Adieu, petit soeur.

Ivor ALD (Cousin)

Cameroon

Oh! Death where is thy sting...

Dear Sis, we fondly called each other "Bonbon." Your passing was so sudden and unexpected. As we bid you farewell, we will carry forward the love and laughter you brought into our family and the world. Though you are no longer with us in body, your spirit will forever echo in our hearts. May you find eternal rest by the side of the Almighty Father. Adieu Iya

Ngome Bright-Hilda Sobeh (Cousin)

Cameroon

Mentor and Role Model

We all wish she had more time. Aunty Iya was beloved by so many and her presence always graced us with warmth and joy. She was a mentor, role model, inspiration, and much more to myself and others. And though we grieve her passing, we remember that she has found peace and her spirit continues to guide and bless us.

Kyle Antonio (Nephew)

New Jersey, USA

Thank you, Aunty

For all the laughs and fun times. Thank you for always encouraging me to become the best version of myself. I promise to make you proud. I love you, and I believe we will meet again.

Mellisa (Niece)

New Jersey, USA

My Dearest Aunty Iya,

I've prolonged writing this for as long as I could, hiding from the realization that this is my new reality; the pain and sadness of your untimely departure is juxtaposed by the comfort and peace I feel knowing you are in blissful presence of the Father Almighty. I spoke to Him asking that he send you as an angel to always be with me and guide me. He's returned specific memories of our times together; you asking for something sweet and crunchy, or a foot massage or inviting us for a mall stroll after school. I'll miss hearing you call me "gorgeous" and your random but always welcomed last minute visits to bring out a new excitement for the day. I could have never foreseen a world where you weren't going to see me married off or have kids or at the very least repay all the beauty, joy, light and comfort you've blessed me with all my life. My heart screams in anguish facing these hard truths but I know that you're back home preparing a place for us all.

I love you so so much and will miss you every day. Please visit me in my dreams.

Kiara Ashley "Gorgeous" (Niece)

New Jersey, USA

TRIBUTES

Wey Auntie Iya

I can't believe I have to write. I still don't believe this to be true. You always encouraged us to chase our dreams and now you will be our angel watching us pursue them. I wish you had more time with Abby. I wish I could hear you say "Ma" one more time. But I have faith in where you are now and I know one day we will all meet again. You can rest now. Love,

**Lydiene Wunze "Ma" and Abby
Nieces, Houston, TX**

Aunty Iya the Victorious

Aunty Iya was everything the world tried to stop her from being. Despite all her struggles and battles, she always persevered and came out on top. Even in the end, this last fight was won because she's been saved by Jesus Christ. Although we are not able to celebrate with her at this time, I take comfort in knowing God called her home. She is and forever will be by His and our side in heaven like she was on Earth.

**Kalen Alo "Pum Pum" (Nephew)
Maryland USA**

For Auntie Iya

Her beauty, intelligence, and unwavering strength made her the best role model I could have ever asked for. Though kidney failure took her away from us, her spirit and the precious moments we shared will forever be etched in my heart. I liked to think we looked alike, and I see her reflection in myself every day, reminding me of the incredible person she was.

**Samantha Ashley "Tam Tam" (Niece)
New Jersey, USA**

My Beautiful, Amazing Auntie

Aunty Iya was my beautiful, amazing auntie who looked after me throughout my childhood. I will miss her loving energetic spirit. The late nights either asking her to play candy land with me or enjoying fig newton bars while watching movies. I will never forget the amazing family memories we had together. God, please bless her in heaven with everlasting love for eternity.

**Cheyenne (Niece)
New Jersey, USA**

Oh, Aunty Iya,

I am deeply grateful for all the valuable lessons you imparted. You were always so strong and joyful, brightening every moment we spent together in Cameroon. You made sure we enjoyed every bit of our time together and never missed an opportunity to compliment my outfits, often saying, "JoJo, you look good, oh." Our hearts are heavy with tears, but we trust that God's timing is perfect. There are no goodbyes for us—wherever you are, you will always remain in my heart. Sleep on, Aunty Iya.

**Joryn Mesonge "My mother" (Niece)
Limbe, Cameroon**

TRIBUTES

Dear Aunty Iya,

Thank you for all the things you have done for me, all the good and sweet moments we had with each other. You taught me some aspects of life that I should never let my problems or worries overcome me. You told me that I just have to take it as it comes.

Thank you for being the most caring, loving person that you are. You always make me smile and not only me but many people in the world. You made people believe that their illness is not the end of the world. Wherever you are right now, may your soul rest in perfect peace. Sleep tight Aunt Iya. Love you but God loves you best.

Stacie (Niece)

Limbe, Cameroon

Honor to my Second Mom

For the sake of honoring a great lady who was so invested in my wellbeing, I will try this...who ever in no way had any biological relationship with this iconic lady, can only be grateful that they encountered greatness. Mommy Iya was a woman of faith, she loved me so much and she always called me Jim Jay. She always had my time. She is my everything.

Mommy Iya, known as my second mom, always showed me love and had such a genuine concern for me. For all that you have done for me, giving me gifts out of love and concern, I say, "Thank you Mommy Iya". I miss your love and I pray that you may rest in perfect peace.

May God bless and uphold your foundation you established before your departure. I love you so much Mommy Iya. Rest in perfect peace.

Kimyla Sharon "Jimjay" (Niece)

Limbe, Cameroon

Dear Iya

It was a shock to me that you departed so soon. I remember how I used to cook your food without salt, and you would ask me to eat with you so that you would have an appetite. Mommy would blend fruits together to help keep you healthy.

From a young age, you faced many health challenges with remarkable courage. I will miss you dearly, especially the stories we told each other during our fun times. It is clear that God had a plan, and now you rest peacefully with the angels in heaven.

Your memory shall never depart from us, Iya Issanga.

Therese (Nanny)

Cameroon

TRIBUTES

Your passing has left me bewildered!

Some things in life will never make sense, like me writing this farewell tribute for you Iya. We were supposed to be planning trips, opening businesses, celebrating new wins. Your passing has left me bewildered my dear sister. I will miss so many things about you, your smile, your voice, your laughter, your kindness, your love of mankind, your tiktok videos, your cooking, you, I already miss you. You came and left your mark my dear, a really significant one, I hope you are aware of that. Do rest in perfect peace. I love you dear. Your sister,

Jay Jua (Friend)

New Jersey, USA

Dearest Iya,

We thought of you with love today, we thought about you yesterday and we will be thinking about you tomorrow, the day after and forever. We think about you in silence, and we often speak your name. Now, all we have are memories of you, with which we'll never part. A truly beautiful soul you were, so loyal and so kind. Thank you for teaching us how to love selflessly.

Rest softly now our special sister, safe in the knowledge that we will never let your memory fade. God has you in His keeping, we have you in our hearts forever. You are sorely missed.

Estella Muma (Friend)

Maryland, USA

My Beloved Iya

Just one day after brightening my birthday with your song, we faced the heartbreaking reality of losing you. You were not just a friend; you infused my life with love, laughter, and wisdom—truly a sister to my whole family. Your kindness was boundless; any problem shared with you became yours to bear, a testament to your selfless nature. You were a gift to humanity, touching lives with your generosity and spirit. Beyond your immediate circle, you extended your compassion through The Iya Foundation, dedicating yourself to supporting those with kidney disease. Your commitment was so profound that you would go hungry to ensure your "kidney warriors" received the best possible care. Now, as we navigate the silence left in your wake, your legacy of love and selfless dedication continues to guide us. Rest easy, my sister. We mourn your passing and celebrate the light of your life that will forever shine in our hearts. I promise to do everything within my power to further The Iya Foundation, ensuring that your legacy persists and continues to bring hope. With all my love,

Ruth Caspa Foleu (Friend)

Canada

Your Memory is Engraved in my Heart Forever

We shared countless memories together and these memories are engraved in my heart forever. Rest in peace Iya, your legacy of love and kindness lives on in all of us who were fortunate to know you.

Senge Elong (Friend)

United Kingdom

TRIBUTES

My Dearest Bekssss,

It's still hard to believe you're gone. I've been in a trance for weeks now, but I know God gives and takes away. I'll always cherish our special conversations from GHS stories to relationships, career, family, parenting to the IYA Foundation and all our jokes after we both turned forty:)

Thank you for being a special friend and sister and for inspiring us with your kidney advocacy radiating positive energy even in your not so good moments. You were a true trailblazer and champion. Like always tell you, I'm so proud of you. I will always be. Though I've lost a sister, heaven has gained an amazing soul. Adieu sis. Your legacy lives on ❤️

Lilian Mbango Akpe (Friend)

Houston, TX, USA

A Tribute to Iya

Your life was a rhythm of purpose

From when you received Fair Lady's kidney.

Freed from earth's toil, now in sweet repose.

You embodied the lyrics of life lived in Victory:

A song of pain, a song of gain –

You taught us well how to swallow this bittersweet pill called LIFE.

Andin Joy “Besties” (Friend)

Hawaii, USA

Isanga

Writing this tribute to you is something I never imagined I would have to do. My heart is heavy as tears run down my cheeks. This is indeed a bitter pill to swallow. However, as the Bible instructs us to give thanks in every situation, who are we to question God? Thank you for everything, sis. I will forever cherish the moments we shared. I bless God for your life on earth and for always imparting something to everyone that came your way. You were truly a rare gem and irreplaceable. As the saying goes, good things don't last. Good night, Sis, until we meet again.

Bokeng (Friend)

Limbe Cameroon

To my Dearest Friend, and Sister! Iya

Your passing has left a gaping hole in my heart, but your memory will forever be etched in my soul. I'm so grateful for the time we shared, the laughter, the tears, and the countless moments of joy. Your sparkling eyes, your bright smile, and your infectious laughter lit up the world around you. Your kindness, empathy, and generosity inspired me to be a better person. Your unwavering support and encouragement helped me through life's ups and downs. I'll miss our late-night conversations, our silly jokes, and our deep talks. I'll miss your guidance, your wisdom, and your love. But I know that you're now in a place where there's no more pain, no more suffering, and only eternal peace. Rest in peace, dear friend. Your legacy will live on through me, and I'll carry you in my heart always. Farewell, but not goodbye.

Fati Samura (Friend)

Arkansas, USA

TRIBUTES

Tribute to Iya: A Lifelong Friendship

I met Iya at PNEU Bota when we were just six years old. Our friendship began during a difficult time as we both were hospitalized. Despite the adversity, our bond strengthened, and over the years, our friendship blossomed through numerous playdates and sleepovers at Iya's home in Lumpsum. I vividly remember our adventures around Lumpsum, stretching all the way to Milky Way, playing with friends like Therese Etoke, Lombe Ebong, Noella Pondja, the Titas, Junior, and Terry Shalo and Mah Walingjom. We spent our days playing games like "7 stone banga" from dawn to dusk, with occasional breaks for lunch when Mummy beckoned.

Throughout our schooling, we were academic rivals, always competing for third place in class behind Aju John and Benjamin Ewang in PNEU, Limbe. Despite the intense competition, we supported each other. Both of us took the common entrance exams and FSL in Class 5, and also attended evening classes at Government School down beach. Even when our paths diverged—me to boarding school and Iya to GHS Limbe—our friendship continued to flourish.

After our GCE A' levels in 2000, Iya moved to the US and I joined her there and we reconnected. In 2005, after Iya's first kidney transplant, we resumed our adventures. In 2010, she explored the idea of starting a foundation. What began as Fish Fridays evolved into the Iya Foundation. She honored me by inviting me to join her board of directors as a medical professional—a role that inspired me to pursue a career in medicine.

Our friendship was not without its ups and downs. We experienced the highs of joyful moments and the lows of disagreements and silent periods. Yet, after over 34 years, our bond remained unbreakable. Despite her occasional need for solitude, Iya always valued and respected our friendship and her caring, loving, and consistent nature was evident in everything she did.

Iya played a significant role in many of my life milestones, from college and medical school graduations to my bridal shower and white wedding in Cameroon. She supported me through the births of my daughters and even volunteered to create a slideshow for my grandmother's memorial. She visited Cameroon, bringing back kabas for my girls, and made time to visit with my family especially my beloved Big Mami. Iya's generosity extended to sending Iya Foundation T-shirts and memorabilia without charge. When she launched her Foundation, in sheer admiration and respect for her resilience and strength, my mother wholeheartedly supported Iya's efforts.

The news of Iya's passing is a profound loss. The impact of Iya's life is a testament to who she was. Iya was love, Iya was courage, Iya was resilience, Iya was living life on your own terms, Iya was brave, Iya was tenacity, Iya was fearless, Iya was selfless! I will forever cherish our final conversations, including a joyful video call celebrating her additional lease on life. The memory of our last WhatsApp call the day she died, is one I will hold close to my heart forever. Iya was not just a friend but a true sister and her legacy will continue to inspire us who knew her.

Rest in peace, Iya. Until we meet again.

Dr. Maureen Muke (Friend)

Maryland, USA

TRIBUTES

Tribute to Our Leader

Ma'am you have always been a leader and not a boss, despite your busy schedule and health. You have always been on top of everything that happens in the foundation. Your simplicity and zeal to see that everyone excels, even in their personal lives, was not felt by only the staff of the Iya Foundation, but right to the least volunteer that had the opportunity to interact with you. Together we impacted, not just the kidney community but communities in Cameroon and beyond, like people will always say "The kidneys are synonymous to The Iya Foundation". Only when we thought a new chapter of your story had begun, we never knew it was the end of the story. We can only say heaven needed an angel and God called on you. Your legacy will remain forever.

The Staff of Iya Foundation Kidney Resource Center

Buea, Cameroon

True Warrior

Iya was not only a dear friend but also a true warrior whose courage in the fight against kidney disease deeply inspired me. Our time together in Yaoundé, Odza, Buea, Limbe, and Douala was marked by a shared passion for raising awareness about kidney health. It was through the Iya Foundation that I discovered I was diabetic and subsequently changed my lifestyle. Your legacy will continue to impact lives in Cameroon and beyond.

Dr. Linus Enobi Akepe, (Friend)

Cameroon

Your Vision became My Passion

Contridges, as we fondly called each other, because we hailed from the same tribe (Oroko), you were more than a friend; you were my inspiration. You were my sounding board, full of wisdom and endlessly compassionate. Despite your battle with kidney disease, you never wavered in your mission to raise awareness and bring hope to others. I was honored to travel all over the US and Cameroon with you, championing your "green campaign" for kidney awareness, making your passion my own. I vividly recall our last video call, just 24 hours before you departed. You were your usual vibrant self albeit tired. We spoke of our upcoming birthdays—just three days apart—a time that always brought us shared joy, laughter, and love. We had a tradition of celebrating together, creating cherished memories. We also discussed the Green Campaign for 2025. You laughed heartily when I said, "We go kill them, Contridges. Them go hear we!"—your joy was infectious. In your words, "my healing has been nothing short of divine." I was overwhelmed with gratitude to God. Little did I know that it would be our last conversation.

Ah, Contridges, my love, as I fondly called you in homage to our shared love for Tata Kinge's song—now the words resonate more than ever before: "My love, where are you, sweetie where are you, I'm looking for you..." I miss you terribly my "dear darling". Your absence leaves a void that cannot be filled. You will always be a part of me, and I will forever cherish the moments we shared.

Rest in peace, Contridges. Your fight was not in vain. I love you; I miss you...

Dr. Wele Elangwe "Contridges" (Friend)

Maryland, USA

TRIBUTE

**To a Guiding Light - The Legacy of Iya Bekondo-Granatella
By**

Geriatric Care and Vulnerable Support Initiative Inc. (GCVSI)



"...to know even one life has breathed easier because you have lived. This is to have succeeded." Ralph Waldo Emerson

The bustling coastal city of Limbe, Cameroon, nestled between the lush greenery of Mount Cameroon and the serene waves of the Atlantic Ocean, colorful fishing boats dot the shoreline, and the charming hospitality spirit of its inhabitants slips into a state of reality, shock, and mourning to welcome the remains of their daughter, sister, aunty, friend, and most of all, a beacon of hope to kidney disease patients and their families across the length, breadth, and beyond Cameroon and indeed Africa.

GCVSI mourns the loss of a pioneer member and esteemed Board of Director, Iya Bekondo-Granatella, founder and CEO of The Iya Foundation Inc., New Jersey, USA. Iya was a cherished member and a guiding light within GCVSI from its inception. Her advisory role and unwavering commitment were instrumental in establishing GCVSI as a global humanitarian force. It was no surprise when the GCVSI board co-opted her as a board member, recognizing her invaluable contributions. Her foundation, The Iya Foundation Inc., has partnered with GCVSI numerous times to drive Kidney Disease Awareness Campaigns. As a pioneer member and esteemed board director, her influence and dedication have left an indelible mark on our organization's journey. Her last official engagement with GCVSI was on January 26, 2024, during our Annual Board meeting. Despite her busy schedule while at work, Iya actively participated, demonstrating her characteristic resolve for the growth of GCVSI. Her commitment extended beyond words; she was among the first to send in her Annual Board Membership registration fee, exemplifying her selflessness and dedication.

The Iya Foundation played a key role in providing counterpart funding for the Annual World Kidney Day and the Green Month Kidney Disease Awareness Campaign in Nigeria, for three consecutive years. During these times, GCVSI visited secondary schools for awareness campaigns, hosted radio talk shows to sensitize the public on kidney disease, and partnered with both Federal and State health facilities to conduct symposiums and free screening in their dialysis centers. Iya epitomized selflessness, reliability, transparency, resilience, and extraordinary humanitarianism. Her unwavering commitment to Kidney Disease Awareness and support through her foundation touched the lives of thousands, offering hope where it was desperately needed. Her visionary leadership and generosity have profoundly impacted our efforts and will continue to inspire us in the years ahead. Sometimes, in her conversation, Iya would tell her story, and one would immediately know where she drew her strength and commitment from, doing the amazing things she used to do even when it was tough on her, she would outlive the toughness like a 'sunshine in its moment.' All for humanity...a core humanitarian principle.

**The Global Humanitarian Community has lost a CHAMPION!
Iya, you Won the Race!! We pray you Join in the Numbers as the Saints go Marching on!!
At GCVSI...your Heroic Legacy will Forever Remain in our Hearts!!!**



Dr. Maduabuchi Pascal Umekwe
Board President

Amb. Dr. George Andreas Adikibe-nana
Global Executive Director & Board Secretary

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TRIBUTES

A Profound Void!

The passing of Madam Iya Bekondo leaves a profound void in the world of kidney health advocacy. Her life, however, was a testament to unwavering, dedication, compassion and a deep-seated belief in the power of advocacy. Her journey began with a profound understanding of the complexities of kidney disease born from a personal diagnosis. This personal experience fueled her passion to champion the needs of others facing similar challenges. Iya Bekondo embodied empathy, recognizing the emotional and physical toll kidney diseases takes on patients and families. Her tireless work focused on amplifying voices, advocating for equitable access to healthcare, regardless of the socio-economic background, ethnicity or location. Her advocacy work often intersected with blood bank and haemodialysis units seeking to bridge gaps and ensure everyone had access to proper healthcare. While her physical presence is gone, her legacy endures in the lives she touched, the voices she amplified and the progress she helped achieved. Iya leaves behind a legacy of tireless advocacy, compassion and unwavering hope for a future where kidney disease is no longer a devastating diagnosis. Her story serves as a beacon, inspiring others to carry the torch forward and continue the fight for a healthier future. We at the Buea Regional Hospital, count ourselves blessed to have met and worked with a heroine like Iya Isanga bekond-Granatella.

**Dr Martin Mokake D., Director, Regional Hospital
Buea, Cameroon**

Death of an Icon, Iya Bekondo

We, the members of this association, wish to extend our heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family. We are deeply disappointed and shocked by her passing. The glory of the Iya Foundation has been diminished by this loss; the guiding light of the Foundation is no more. How, then, shall we, the patients, carry on? The pain in our hearts leads us to believe that truly good people often leave us too soon. We find it difficult to accept and share the news that Iya Bekondo is no more. The memories of her good works will always remain fresh in our hearts, and we can't help but wonder who could possibly fill her shoes. She was a great provider, a wise adviser, and a generous giver. Above all, she was always with us. Whenever we called, she was ready to speak with the patients and offer support. May the Almighty God continue to bless her and grant us someone who can carry on her legacy. We will miss you dearly. Adieu, Adieu.

**Mr. Arrey Ojong, For all Hemodialysis Patients
Buea, Cameroon**

The Heroine and Fighter

Losing a heroin and a fighter like you is one of the hardest loses the society can experience. Your love for humanity and for your patients was something very special. You always went the extra miles just to make sure kidney patients never lack blood for their dialysis sessions. You were a strong woman full of a promising future but the Almighty God decided to call you to rest this soon. We the blood bank family will forever miss you and remember your works of altruism. Adieu Mme Iya Bekondo.

**The Blood Bank, Regional Hospital
Buea, Camereoon**

TRIBUTES

Tribute to Our Loving and Jovial Classmate

Iya Beks, the C-Class of Form One 1993 at GHS Limbe is deeply saddened and grieving over the sudden news of your passing. It is hard to believe that our loving, jovial, and intelligent Iya is no longer with us, especially after hearing of your speedy recovery. You played an active and supportive role in the C-93 group. You were not only a kidney warrior who fought hard to stay alive but also an activist who impacted lives and brought joy to many. Your tremendous and remarkable contributions to humanity will live on. We still remember our strong participation in your annual "Green Campaign," especially by wearing green in your honor. You were a powerful, strong, and influential woman, yet also a warm and easygoing person who offered comfort to everyone who came close to you. We, C-93, love you, but God loves you more. You will forever remain in our hearts. Farewell, Iya Beks, our loving and jovial classmate. Until we meet again, never to part.

"In the path of righteousness is life, and in its pathway, there is no death." - Proverbs 12:28

C-93 Class, GHS Limbe

Cameroon.

Dear God,

I thank you for the life, vision, and purpose you gave to Iya.

I thank you for giving her the courage, resources, and strength to impact lives.

I thank you for giving us Iya's family who shared their beautiful, fearless, and generous daughter with the world.

I thank you for blessing us with Iya, whose purpose brought together a community of voices to raise awareness on kidney disease.

I thank you for you are God who gives and the God who takes. Who are we, ordinary man, to question your will, oh God?

As we look up to you for healing and comfort, give us the strength 🙌 to continue this work and to forever keep the legacy of Iya Isanga Bekondo-Granetella written on the foundation of the universe.

This I pray through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen

Sylvia Dasi, CEO, Color of Roses Foundation

Maryland, USA

Bakossi Diaspora Women's Fund Gratitude to The Iya Foundation.

Our beloved Iya was a pioneer member of The Bakossi Diaspora Women's Fund. Iya graciously built a landing page for the Bakossi Diaspora Women's Fund on The Iya Foundation website to streamline our Fundraising efforts towards Tombel Hospital Restoration Project over the years. I have been privileged to watch Iya with chronic illness grow and blossom into an energetic, passionate, intelligent, very respectful and accomplished young woman. During one of her fundraising events, Iya was more eloquent completing my presentation on Chronic Kidney Disease and Mental Health.

The Bakossi Diaspora Women's Fund will forever be indebted to Our Gentle Giant, IYA.

Fare Thee well Our daughter.

Dr. Constance Ebong, Global Coordinator

The Bakossi Diaspora Women's Fund

IYA'S POETRY

Question Not the Path

-Unknown-

Each of us walk a path through life
Fashioned by the father's hand
Mountains valleys dip and turns
It is here we fall or stand

Oftimes, we become discouraged
As we look around us to see
How other's paths may be easier
Than one He chose for you and me

The Father in His great wisdom
Chose the path that we would need
To draw us ever close to Him
As we bow down on bended knee

His design for each mountain and valley
Is to make us unbroke and strong
A mountain to straighten our faith
And a valley where dwells a sweet song

If we never had mountains or valleys
No dips or no twisting turns
We would never become like the One
Of whom our heart desperately yearns

Question not the path that he gives
He deigned it especially for you
In His love and infinite mercy
God will be there to walk you through.

Favorite Poem

Given to Iya by her Big Sis,

Sharon Romero-Ekiti

To love and be loved

- Iya Isanga Bekondo-Granatella-

To love and be loved is a
beautiful thing. Get you a
Lover who loves you through
and through. In sickness and in
health. In down times and high
times. In poverty and in wealth.
Get yourself a compassionate heart.

A loyal one.

Optimistic one.

Forget those pakoro ones.
Especially the ones who try
To use your health conditions
against you.

Like they were store bought.
Forget them.

Or those ones who treat you
with contempt.
They use pity to be condescending.
Don't fall for it.

Compassion is not pity.

Empathy is not pity.

Love is not pity.

Love is understanding.

Relating.

Respect.

Love is Kind.

Cherish the ones who stand by you.
The real ones.
You will know.
Love them more.

Beks