The Amaka Gazette

A Journal of CKC-AAA Inc. Twelfth Convention Edition, July 2008

75

Great Years of C.K.C. Pride And Ownership

- CKC-AAA What We Stand For
- CKC 2008 Sand Prints And Marble Etchings
- Prof. Chike Obi Remembered
- Decisions of 2007 Boston Convention plus CKC Tit-Bits and Information on

C.K.C. ONITSHA, AAA, Inc.
12Th Annual Convention & Fundraising Banquet
18-20 July 2008, Atlanta, GA

Souvenir: *All Proceeds Will be Used for the Improvement of C.K.C. Onitsha*

THE FAMILY

OF

DR. CLEMENT OBIEFUNA NDUKA (*IKENGA NRI*),
DR. CHINWE NDUKA *(MODEL*)

With their children

Ebele Chikaodili Nduka, Ijeoma Uju Nduka, Ifechi Obiora Nduka & Ugonma Udora Nduka

Gracefully Project Heart Full Of Gratitude With Three Cheers To

C.K.C Onitsha Alumni Association in America

On their 12th Annual Convention, in Atlanta, GA

18-20 July 2008

For Transcending Over All Despondencies, Thus Persist In Re-Establishing The Old Glory of

C.K.C. ONITSHA

MAY THE BLESSINGS FLOURISH

PRIMUS!

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Christ the King College (CKC) Onitsha, Nigeria is an all boy's high school. Its mission is to facilitate, nurture and instill in youths a thirst for ***goodness, discipline*** and ***knowledge*** based on Catholic moral principles, in preparation for life's journey to create a better world.

Irish missionaries founded Christ the King College Onitsha, Nigeria in February 1933, It is an academic institution dedicated to intellectual and personal growth of male youths within the context of well-rounded liberal arts education in a Catholic environment. It actively maintains its relationship with the Catholic Church despite being appropriated by the Anambra State Government in 1973 and temporarily renamed **Herrey High School**. The College provides equal educational opportunity for all qualified students without regard to race, religion, creed, color, age, and physical disability, national or ethnic origin.

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- **Mr. Chris Ayika - Member-At-Large**

Welcome to C.K.C. Onitsha, AAA 2008 Annual Convention Dinner/Fundraising Banquet Atlanta, GA

2008 Atlanta, GA Convention Mission Statement

"PRIDE AND OWNERSHIP"

"We the members of Christ the King College (C.K.C.) Onitsha, Alumni Association in America (CKC-AAA), gathered on the occasion of our 12th Annual Convention in Atlanta, GA, on **18-20 July 2008,** which also coincides with the 75th Anniversary of Alma Mater, have chosen as our Diamond Jubilee theme, the twin feature of ***"pride and ownership".*** We believe that as alumni of a great college, we are the ***pride*** of C.K.C. Onitsha and reflect the C.K.C. spirit in everything we do throughout the nation and around the world. We affirm that it is a deep sense of ***ownership*** that drives us to keep in touch and give back to the old school through our ideas, time, talents and financial support. Our commitment to CKC is rooted in the past, affirming the present and building a greater future."

---

75 Years of C.K.C.
Pride And Ownership!

CKC-AAA 2008 Convention
18th–20th July 2008,
Atlanta, GA

Provisional Agenda

Friday 18th July 2008

- **7a.m. –7 p.m. Arrivals**
- **8-11pm: Executive Session (Hilton Atlanta Northeast)**
- National Executives, Chairmen of Chapters, Standing Committees & Atlanta LOC

Saturday 19th July 2008

- **8-9 a.m.** Convention Mass (Rev. Fr. Ugo Arinze, et. al.)
- **9 a.m. - 6pm: Convention Plenary, Committee Sessions and Elections**

< Registration/Pick Up Convention Package
< Opening Prayers
< Welcome By Host Chapter and Host City
< General Introduction of Attendees/Roll Call
< **President's Opening Remarks**
< Reading and Adoption of 2007 Boston, MA Convention Minutes

- **Alumni Keynote Speaker: H. E. Gov. Peter Obi**
  C.K.C. Class of '78, Executive Governor Of Anambra State

(LUNCH BREAK)

< **Consideration of Reports:**
The State of the School Report
< The State of the Association Report
< **Election of Executives for 2008-2010**
Adoption of the Decisions of the Twelfth CKC-AAA Convention
< Closing Remarks
< Closing Prayers/Adjournment
< Group Photograph

7:30 p.m.-2:00 a.m.: Dinner/Fund-Raising Banquet

- **Guest Speaker: Ms. Obiagaeli Ezekwesili**
  Vice-President, Africa, The World bank
- **Keynote Speaker H. E. Gov. Peter Obi**
  CKC Class of '78, Executive Governor Of Anambra State

- **Donations and Pledges**
- **Appreciation Awards**
- **CKC-AAA 2008 "Exceptional Service Award"**
- **Swearing In of New Executives (2008-2010)**

Sunday 20th July 2008

- 9 a.m.-10:30 a.m. Incoming/Outgoing Executive Breakfast Session
- Dispersal/Departures

TAG Editorial

Pride and Ownership

On 22 February 1933, C.K.C. Onitsha commenced its long prideful and historical march and its consequent impact on many lives, the people of Onitsha and the contiguous towns and the Nigerian nation. After seventy-five years, it in incontestable that what C.K.C. Onitsha has been and is yet to become as represented by its many students –both males and female- (C.K.C. Onitsha had female students between 1968-69 and 1972-74), would not have been possible without the sustained "***pride and ownership"*** of its alumni. It is, therefore, fitting that we have adopted "***pride and ownership***" as the theme of the CKC-AAA 12th Annual Convention and our school's Diamond Jubilee Anniversary. On this auspicious occasion, it is also imperative that we reaffirm what our school stands for: ***Goodness-Discipline-Knowledge*** (*Bonitas, Disciplina, Scientia).*

However, the genesis and historical recall of Christ the King College (C.K.C.) Onitsha is recorded in *Foreign Missionary Background and Indigenous Evangelization in Igboland,* a book by Nkem Hyginuis M. V. Chigere. The author provides the reader with the historical context of the founding of C.K.C. Onitsha. A pertinent but poignant entry went thus: "*Having realized the grassroots education through the children with primary education schemes and structures, somehow the attention was turned to secondary education, not just for evangelization alone as in the case of St. Anthony's College, Igboariam. The provision would now be for life in general to provide able leaders for both the secular and religious society in the future. The story began with the inauguration of Christ the King College (C.K.C.) Onitsha in 1933 and later St. Charles at Onitsha in the 1940s. As the premier catholic grammar school, the establishment was not just rapid but successful as the need for academic excellence and indigenous services grew more and more in Igboland."* The recount was a tribute to the Irish missionaries that founded C.K.C. Onitsha and their vision, as well as an acknowledgement of their noble role and dedication to promoting academic excellence and grooming indigenous leadership and white-collar work force in colonial Nigeria. Beyond the virtues *goodness, discipline and knowledge,* they also instilled into early C.K.C. students the noble ideals of "***pride and ownership"*** in their alma mater.

The Irish missionaries who founded C.K.C. Onitsha went the extraordinary length to ensure its place in academia, as well as its role in providing a well-rounded education and grooming students to become able leaders. They imbued every child who passed through the portals of C.K.C. Onitsha with leadership qualities regardless of their social background. Hence, C.K.C. students being the best in everything they did, was an accepted fact. Being first among equal, *Primus Inter Pares*, was a doctrine, which the school inculcated into C.K.C. students as an everyday aspiration and reality. Soon, it became habit-forming. Excellence was hence, a niche made routine, in academics, sports, debate, socials, civic duties and handcrafts, along with other high priorities and values in preparation of life's journey of leadership and public service.

On this 75th Anniversary of C.K.C. Onitsha, it is fitting that as alumni of this great school, we should recognize **"The Architects**", who took the initial steps, the first being the school's founder, Archbishop Charles Heerey. Succeeding Irish Principals namely, Rev. Fr. W.L. Brolly, Rev. Fr. M. Flanagan, Rev. Fr. J. Keane, Rev. Fr. A. Callaghan, Rev. Fr. M. Flanagan, Rev. Fr. M Clifford, Rev. Fr. W. Butler, Rev. Fr. J. Keane and Rev. Fr. J. Fitzpatrick ran the school from 1933 to 1963. We must also place on record, our appreciation to other Irish priests who served as tutors in the early days of C.K.C. Onitsha and helped to carve the school's niche. They are Rev. Fr. Edmund Burke (1904-1983) a 1933 founding member of C.K.C. staff, who also served as a tutor and Director of Junior Seminarians in C.K.C. Onitsha. Rev. Fr. James C. Coolery (1920-1987), who he was appointed to Nigeria in 1949 and served as a tutor at C.K.C. Onitsha until 1953; Fr. Joseph Halpin (1911-1988), who was appointed to C.K.C. Onitsha in 1947 and three years later became head of the Teachers' Training College in Nsukka; Rev.Fr. William O'Meara, (1916-1995), who was appointed in 1946 and served in C.K.C. Onitsha, as a science tutor and coach for the athletics and hockey teams; Rev. John F. Roche, (1909-1979), who on his appointment to C.K.C. Onitsha also doubled as a local pastor before being asked by the bishop to proceed to Enugu initiate a secondary; and Rev. Fr. Redmond Walsh, (1919-1997), who came to Nigeria in 1960 and taught at C.K.C. Onitsha for one year, before moving on to teach philosophy and theology in Awo-Omamma Isienu Senior Seminary from 1961 to 1969.

Post-independent Nigeria yielded its share of indigenous principals, **"The Builders"** several of which were C.K.C. alumni. They include Rev.Fr. N.C. Tagbo, Chief A. A. O. Ezenwa, Rev. H. Chinweizu, Mr. P.E. Ezeokeke, Rev. Fr. N.C. Tagbo, Mr. M.N. Enemuo, Rev. Fr. V.A. Nwosu, Mr. J. E. Chukwurah, Mr. E. C. Umeh and the incumbent, Chief N.E. Olisah. Vice-Principal Robert Okagbue deserves honorable mention.

Another critical component of C.K.C.'s greatness is its alumni. As C.K.C. alumni, our responsibility is to promote ***goodness, discipline and knowledge*** in all and by all that we do; and our role is to seek for others that which we have earned for ourselves. Invariably, in its 75-years history, C.K.C. Onitsha has produced very eminent alumni. One may wonder then, what exactly it is that sets C.K.C. Onitsha alumni apart from the alumni of other good and great schools. To paraphrase Albert Einstein, at C.K.C. Onitsha, we were taught to "*try not to become men of success but rather to become men of value."* C.K.C. values are priceless; it is that difference and added value that we celebrate today. Diamonds are forever. At 75, C.K.C. Onitsha, a.k.a "Amaka" or "Varsity on the Niger" remains a rare gem. Three Cheers for C.K.C. Primus! –***Oseloka Obaze*** **[TAG]**

New York Chapter of CKC-AAA

Salute

OUR GEORGIA SISTER CHAPTER

On The Occasion Of Hosting

The 12th Annual CKC-AAA Convention
18-20 July 2008, Atlanta, GA

We share fully in the
"Pride and Ownership "

of our cherished Alma Mater,
Christ the King College (C.K.C.) Onitsha
as it marks its Diamond Jubilee

~ PRIMUS ~

Eugene Agbimson
President
CKC-AAA, NJ/NY/CT Chapter

WELCOME MESSAGE FROM HOST CHAPTER

C.K.C's Unbroken Tradition

Ben Ehirim & Larry Ozoh

Welcome to Atlanta, GA.

The Georgia Chapter of Christ the King College Onitsha, Alumni Association in America Inc. (CKC– AAA), is gratified to host CKC-AAA for the third time, since the founding of this association in 1997. On behalf of all our members, we welcome you all. This year's convention is particularly significant for several reasons. First, we were the first to host a CKC-AAA convention. Second, were challenged on short notice, to host the 2008 Convention, which was initially to have been held at Onitsha, and finally, we are not just hosting a convention, but also the celebration of the 75th Anniversary of our Alma Mater.

We are glad that we were able to pull this convention off, thus sustaining the unbroken tradition of holding an annual CKC-AAA convention, an event that increasingly finds its merit in unifying the alumni of a great school as we rally to its support.

Christ the King College (C.K.C.) Onitsha means different things to different people. Such a disposition – all positive, of course – dovetails with the theme of our 2008 Convention, "***pride and ownership".*** For many of us, Christ the King College, Onitsha, was the unyielding bastion for early personal growth, where youths were groomed and encouraged to begin thinking of big ideas, the value of service, accomplishment and purposeful leadership.

C.K.C. Onitsha was about academic excellence, but academics were just one aspect of a broad formal education and therefore, a key building block in the process of grooming well-rounded personalities. A fundamental ancillary was that the school encouraged a wide-ranging education, along with other extra-curricula activities, notably, sports; debate, theatre and even dancing. Etiquette and social grace was also accorded priority. Hence, C.K.C. was not a place of misfits. C.K.C. was unique.

As other alumni of C.K.C. would readily attest, our collective goal in CKC-AAA is simply to sustain past C.K.C. traditions and high honors that we knew, experienced and still cherish, but more importantly, to give back, no matter how small, to a great school that gave us so much and thus, assist the succeeding generation.

While we in Atlanta will continue to get credit for being the pioneer Chapter of CKC-AAA, we are cognizant that the accomplishments of our association, which are detailed in this journal, would not have been possible without the selfless contribution of others. As hosts of the 2008 CKC-AAA Convention and the C.K.C's. Diamond Jubilee celebrations, we wish to thank our sister chapters, our family members and friends for their steadfast support. We also wish to recognize and thank our competitors, alumni of those other great (*but never as great as C.K.C.)* schools, for their fraternal and collegial support. We collectively strive to empower our compatriots through good education.

As co-Chairs of the Atlanta 2008 Convention, we thank the CKC-AAA National Executives for the opportunity to host this convention. We are equally indebted to our indefatigable Atlanta LOC colleagues, Jerry Azih, Akosa Ozobia, Amechi Akosa, and Patty Ejike and others for the seamless planning and organization. As a team, we have accomplished much, but only so, because we exhibited the true C.K.C. spirit of teamwork. We want to assure CKC-AAA New England Chapter colleagues who hosted the 2007 Convention, that we have carried the baton they passed on to us with care and pride.

Finally, but most importantly, we wish to welcome our special guests and convention keynote speakers, **H.E. Gov. Peter Obi** and **Ms. Obiageli "Oby" Ezekwesili.** We thank them for honoring us. Similarly, we are grateful to those present with us today, for finding the time, despite what we know has been a very busy summer for us all.

As we reach back to touch those that follow our C.K.C path, including children yet unborn, we hope that our supporters will join us in keeping the C.K.C. flame alight and in sustaining our unbroken tradition of academic excellence. However, we ask you to be generous in your support of our efforts to continue our humanitarian venture on improving the standard of education in Nigeria one school at a time.

Welcome! Have a wonderful time!! Enjoy your stay in Atlanta!!! **[TAG]**

CKC-AAA - WHAT WE STAND FOR

The Association And Its Purpose

Christ the King College Onitsha, Nigeria has a present enrolment of 3,000 students in both the Junior Secondary School (JSS) and Senior Secondary School (SSS) levels (Grades 7- 12). Christ the King College Onitsha, is a seventy-two year old institution founded in 1933 by Irish missionaries. It is dedicated to the intellectual and personal growth of male youths within the context of well-rounded liberal arts education in a Catholic environment.

Christ the King College Onitsha Alumni Association in America (CKC-AAA), the body of the alumni of the school in the Americas, is committed to supporting the school in fulfilling its mission mandate "to facilitate, nurture and instill in youths, a thirst for *goodness, discipline and knowledge* based on Catholic moral principles, in preparation for life's journey to create a better world." In this context, CKC-AAA strives to give impetus to the school's effort to preserve quality education and values; promote academic excellence, sportsmanship, and good citizenship; and bridging CKC past students with the present and future students. CKC-AAA, a 501 (C) 3 non-profit and tax-exempt entity was formed in 1997 and is incorporated in the State of Georgia. It has its registered office in Decatur, Georgia.

CKC-AAA has chapters in nine states. Alumni of CKC Onitsha resident in the United States established Association for the purpose of promoting the noble, academic, moral and leadership ideals, which CKC Onitsha stands for. The Association is also committed to raising funds for sustaining, improving and developing the educational, physical and sports structures of the institution, which have fallen on hard times and eventually offering financial assistance to deserving but indigent students as well as rewarding industrious and committed academic staff of the school. CKC-AAA's sole objective is to promote academic excellence by developing the educational, physical and sports structures of the institution. Under the Provisions of the 1999 Los Angles Plan of Action for the Revitalization of Christ the King College, Onitsha, and the Washington DC Follow-Up Plan of Action, CKC-AAA has disbursed over N16 million Naira since 2000 for revitalization projects at the school. **[TAG]**

CONTRIBUTORS TO THE CKC DIAMOND JUBILEE TRUST FUND

At the CKC-AAA 2007 Boston Convention the following was decided and subsequently reflected in Section 2.2 of the Associations Bylaws:

> ***"Section 2.2 Life Member:*** *Any member who voluntarily donate $1,000 between July 2007 and 31 December 2008 towards the "**CKC Diamond Jubilee Trust Fund"** shall be considered to have a become a life member of the association and would, therefore, be exempt from all further annual membership dues at the national level for life."*

Since its establishment, the following CKC-AAA members have made full or partial contributions to the "*CKC Diamond Jubilee Trust Fund*".

$1,000.00	$500.00	$250.00	$100.00
Immanuel Uketui	Alexander Acholonu	None	None
Eugene Agbimson			
Oseloka Obaze			
Chris Ayika			
Larry Ozoh			
Cyril Enwonwu			

FROM THE PRESIDENCY

Prof. NT Izuchi

Celebrating 75 Years of Educational Excellence!

Dear guests, friends, family and great alumni of a great college, it is my profound honor and pleasure to welcome you to our 12th Annual Convention and 2008 Fundraising Banquet, which also coincides with the celebration of the Diamond Jubilee of our alma mater, **Christ the King College Onitsha.** It is mid summer and a traditionally very busy period. Therefore, we are exceedingly mindful that you have made a special effort by your simple gesture of being here with us today, as we celebrate 75 years of educational excellence dedicated to grooming able servants for our humanity.

We are elated to be in the warm and embracing City of Atlanta, Georgia. This city will always have a place on our hearts, for it is here that in November 1997, our association, Christ the King College Alumni Association In America (CKC-AAA) was founded. It is therefore, fitting that we has return here, to mark a critical juncture in the history of our school and our Association. We thank the Georgia Chapter of CKC-AAA for playing host to us for the third time.

We are honored to have as our 2008 keynote speakers, two inspiring and eminent Nigerians, who in every sense, require no introduction. **H. E. Mr. Peter Obi**, the Executive Governor of Anambra, is one of us – a proud and eminent alumnus C.K.C. Onitsha. **Ms. Obiageli "Oby" Ezekwesili**, Vice-President of the World Bank for Africa, is a household name. She fully understands and shares our collective passion for academic excellence, having only recently been Minister of Education for Nigeria. We are indebted to both for honoring our invitation.

The theme of this year's convention and indeed, for our Diamond Jubilee celebration is ***"pride and ownership".*** This should be understandable. C.K.C. Onitsha has numerous branches of old boys association in Nigeria and globally, of which CKC-AAA is just one. Although a chartered non-profit and independent association subject to United States laws, the Association raises funds, through membership drives, annual dues and annual convention, but the sole beneficiary is our alma mater. Concisely, our mission at CKC-AAA is to give back to a school that gave us so much in our formative years. Through our humble endeavors, we have been able to raise some N16 million for projects at the school since 2000. We will continue to rebuild and build so that posterity will benefit from our contributions.

Today, there are nearly 100,000 alumni of Christ the King College (C.K.C) Onitsha, dispersed across the globe. Each one is proud to have as a bragging right, the claim of attending a great school; and that is where our **pride** comes from. In return, we are required as custodians of the great legacy of ***goodness, discipline and knowledge***, to remain unified in our ***ownership*** mission of keeping alight the flame we received at C.K.C. and sustaining the fame of our college. The utility of alumni organizations such as CKC-AAA is that they retain a uniquely proprietary privilege and opportunity to serve as a medium for influencing the experience of current and prospective college students.

Nonetheless, the greatest gift any alumnus of C.K.C. Onitsha or member of CKC-AAA can offer to current and prospective students of the school is to serve as a role model and to offer them the enabling environment, where they can exercise their minds, intellect and potentialities without hindrance while they prepare for a life of service to humanity. In this context, we have contributed our humble due to rebuilding our school by supporting educational, motivational and extracurricular opportunities for C.K.C. students and staff. However, beyond altruism, fostering a sense of community and networking, our Association also serves other purposes; it enables us to turn long cultivated school-days relationships into life-long friendships and collective service for the benefit of our humanity. **[TAG]**

CKC-AAA NEW ENGLAND SAYS

Three Cheers For C.K.C.

And To

OUR GEORGIA SISTER CHAPTER

On The Occasion Of Hosting

The 12th Annual CKC-AAA Convention
18-20 July 2008, Atlanta, GA

We share fully in the
"Pride and Ownership "

of our cherished Alma Mater,
Christ the King College (C.K.C.) Onitsha
as it marks its Diamond Jubilee

~ PRIMUS ~

Charles Belonwu
President
CKC-AAA, New England Chapter

CKC-AAA AT WORK

Under the Provisions of the *1999 Los Angles Plan of Action* and the *2004 Washington DC Follow-Up Plan of Action* for the Revitalization of Christ the King College, Onitsha, CKC-AAA has spent almost N16 million Naira since Year 2000 on revitalization projects at the school. The breakdown is listed below:

2007

- **N2.3 million Naira (N2,300,000.00)** for projects on C.K.C. Onitsha campus linked to the Diamond Jubilee in 2008 and the hosting of the CKC-AAA 2008 Convention in Onitsha to service CKC-AAA Annual Motivational Award for the "Best Tutor" and "Best Student" in 2008; to service the School Principal's Unforeseen Emergency Expense Fund for 2008; and to offset CKC-AAA's annual dues to the NEC for 2005-2009;

2006

- **N3. million Naira (N3,000,000. 00)** for the Construction of a befitting "Diamond Jubilee" portal (primary entrance) for the school; to service CKC-AAA Annual Motivational Award for the "Best Tutor" and "Best Student" in 2007; and to service the School Principal" Unforeseen Emergency Expense Fund for 2007;

2005

- **N2. million Naira (N2,000,000. 00)** supplementary fund for the rehabilitation of the Block "C' and "D" for hiring two (2) qualified part-time teachers for English Language and Mathematics; to service CKC-AAA Annual Motivational Award for the "Best Tutor" and "Best Student" in 2006; and to service the School Principal's Emergency Fund for 2006;

2004

- **N2.5 million Naira (N2,500,000. 00)** for the rehabilitation of the School Dining Hall; for the rehabilitation of Tennis Court "B"; to service CKC-AAA Annual Motivational Award for the "Best Tutor" and "Best Student" ;and to service the School Principal's Contingency Fund.

2003

- **N2 million Naira (N2,000,000.00)** for purchasing a high-power standby electricity generating plant for the school; to service CKC-AAA Annual Motivational Award for the "Best Tutor" and "Best Student"; to service the School Principal's Contingency Fund;
- Six Computers **(valued at N750,000.00)** for the Administrative Offices and School Library.
- **$5,000. 00 (Five thousand dollars)** donation from the Coca-Cola Foundation for establishing a school clinic (infirmary).

2002

- **N2 million Naira (N2, 000,000.00)** for the rehabilitation of the Schools Administrative Blocks "C" & "D"; towards completion of the Students' toilet facilities; to service CKC-AAA Annual Motivational Award for the "Best Tutor" and "Best Student" in 2003; to establish the School Principal's Contingency Fund.

2001

- **N2.3 million Naira (N2, 300,000.00)** for the initial setting up of a school Computer Laboratory; rehabilitating the school campus roads, landscapes and courts; refurbishment of the school's library; for equipment for Blind Special Education Department; to service CKC-AAA Annual Motivational Award for the "Best Tutor" and "Best Student".

2000

- **N2 million Naira (N2, 000,000.00)** for the construction of a new student's toilet block at and the Rehabilitation of the Main Administrative Building Block "A" and "B" at CKC Onitsha. **[TAG]**

H.E. Mr. Peter Obi
Executive Governor Of Anambra State, Nigeria
2008 Convention Alumni Keynote Speaker

His Excellency, Mr. Peter Obi was elected the Executive Governor of Anambra State, Nigeria in April 2003. He had contested the gubernatorial elections in Anambra State and won convincingly, but the results were rigged against him. The contentious elections results became a landmark legal case and an underpinning factor in Nigeria's nascent democracy. Governor Obi fought bravely at the Courts and regained his mandate after almost three years.

Governor Obi had his early education at Christ the King College, Onitsha and was a member of the Class of 1978. He subsequently attended the University of Nigeria, Nsukka, where he obtained a B.A. degree in Philosophy in1984. His post-graduated courses include, Lagos Business School, Nigeria (Chief Executive Program); Harvard Business School, Boston, U.S.A. (Mid to Mid Marketing); London School of Economics "(LSE), Financial Mgt./Business Policy; Columbia Business School, New York U.S.A. (Marketing Management); Kellogg Graduate School of Management U.S.A. (Advanced Executive Program); and the Institute for Management Development (IMD), Switzerland (Senior Executive Forum).

An astute businessman and entrepreneur, Governor Obi belongs to various professional associations and organizations, namely; Nigeria Economic Summit Group (NESG); Nigeria Chartered Institute of Bankers; Commonwealth Business Council (CBC); West African Business Committee (WABC); British Institute of Directors (IOD); British Nigeria Business Council (BNBC) and Nigerian South African Chamber of Commerce (NSACC).

Prior to assuming his current position, Mr. Obi served in different capacities on the Board of various corporations. He was Chairman, Fidelity Bank Plc; Chairman, Guardian Express Mortgage Bank Ltd; Director, Guardian Express Bank Plc; Chairman, Future View Securities Limited; Chairman, Paymaster; Nigeria; Chairman, Next International (Nigeria) Ltd; Chairman, Chams Nigeria Limited; Chairman: Datacorp Limited; and Director, Card Centre Limited

Born on 19 July 1961 at Onitsha, his father, a strict disciplinarian was a former police officer. Governor Obi, a devout Christian is married with children. **[TAG]**

Ms. Obiageli "Oby" Ezekwesili
Vice President, (Africa) The World Bank Group
2008 Convention Guest Keynote Speaker

Ms. Obiageli "Oby" Ezekwesili, a Nigerian national, joined the World Bank, as Vice President of the Africa Region on May 1, 2007. Prior to joining the World Bank group, she was Nigeria's Minister of Education, where she was tasked with leading the country's on-going comprehensive reform strategy within the education sector. She has restructured and refocused the ministry for the attainment of EFA targets and MDGs, introduced Public Private Partnership models for service delivery, revamped the Federal Inspectorate Service as an improved quality assurance mechanism and introduced transparency and accountability mechanisms for better governance of the budget. Ms. Ezekwesili has a rich resume with hands-on experience and accomplishments in a unique mix of private sector, civil society and public sector positions. Her unique blend of first-hand experiences, especially in the more challenging and complex areas of energy sector reform and education, positioned her well to deal with the many challenges in Africa.

Ms. Ezekwesili began her career as an auditor and management consultant, where she focused on financial planning, SME financing, audit and regulatory compliance. From 1994 to 1999, she served as one of the founding members of Transparency International where she held the position Director, Africa. In 2000, Oby went on to serve as Special Assistant to the President of Nigeria on Budget Monitoring, and the Price Intelligence Unit, where she spear-headed institutional reforms through the establishment of due process mechanisms and strategies. In this capacity, Ms. Ezekwesili achieved previously unheard of success by markedly reducing both procurement costs to the Government and turnaround time for completion of Government projects, while improving transparency.

Ms. Ezekwesili subsequently served as Minister of Solid Minerals Development, with emphasis on reforming Nigeria's mining sector to internationally recognized standards, especially in the area of policy transparency, with the purpose of increasing levels of global investment, and investor confidence, in the sector. She provided leadership in the drafting of the Nigerian Minerals and Mining Act, establishing the Nigerian Mining Cadastre Office and opening up Nigeria's mining sector to private participation. Ms. Ezekwesili has also served as the Chairperson for the Nigeria Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative from 2004 and pioneered the voluntary sign-on of Nigeria to the EITI Principles, as well as the first ever audit of the oil and gas sector.

Ms. Ezekwesili holds a Masters in International Law & Diplomacy from University of Lagos, along with a Masters of Public Administration from Harvard University Kennedy School of Government. She is a chartered accountant. **[TAG]**

C.K.C. Anthem

Three cheers for Cee Kay Cee -- Cee Kay Cee
Three cheers for Cee Kay Cee -- Cee Kay Cee
May the fame of our college last forever
Three cheers for Cee Kay Cee -- Cee Kay Cee

Our colors are white and blue -- white and blue
Our colors are white and blue -- white and blue
May the fame of our college last forever
Three cheers for Cee Kay Cee -- Cee Kay Cee

C.K.C. Alumni Creed

Heavenly Father, You have graciously given us
the great gift of time on earth to know, love and serve You.
You have also given us the responsibility of answer to the call
of public service and charity with *Goodness, Discipline and Knowledge.*
Help us to cherish and use each minute well.

We are grateful for Your benevolence and the promise of
redemption, which our patron, Christ The King obtained for us on Calvary.
We are thankful for the opportunity to attend CKC.
Father, so many people and projects vie for our time
Many, including the needs of our alma mater are worthwhile.
So we ask our patron, Christ the King to guide and help us discern
What is really important and what we should do.

May we receive the Grace of responding to the needy
and make time in our lives for daily prayers. Assist us to dedicate
ourselves to continuing the work started by those before us and
to assist those who follow our path at Christ the King College
Onitsha. We ask this through Jesus Christ, Your Son, Who lives
And reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever
Amen.

The Uzoh Family of San Jose, CA Congratulates

CKC-AAA, INC.
On The Occasion Of the
12th Annual CKC-AAA Convention
18-20 July 2008, Atlanta, GA
and
The Diamond Jubilee of
Christ the King College (C.K.C.) Onitsha

The Honor Roll: CKC-AAA Exceptional Service Award Winners

The Executives of Christ the King College Alumni Association in America (CKC-AAA) at their quarterly meeting held on 1 June 2001 decided institute an annual award program to recognize all those members of the Association who had rendered *exceptional service* to the Association. The decision was ratified during the Plenary Session of the Fifth Annual Convention of CKCAAA held in Boston, MA from 13-15 July 2001. The ESA is given to the honorees, in acknowledgement of their ***loyalty, diligence, selfless service, dedication and contribution*** to promoting the cause of the Association, and to the end, the greater glory and welfare of our alma mater, Christ the King College Onitsha, Nigeria. They received the award on the strength of the secret votes cast by their peers. The most recent award was presented to four individuals at the Tenth Annual Convention of CKC-AAA held in San Francisco, CA on 28-30 July 2006. There were no awards in 2007. **[TAG]**

2006 [SAN FRANCISCO, CA]

- Prof. Alexander Acholonu (MS)
- Mr. Charles Mba (MA)
- Mr. Dominic Ezeani (MD)
- Dr. Clement Nduka (TX)

2005 [WOODBRIDGE, NJ]

- Dr. Ben Akanegbu (MD)
- Mr. Boniface Chibueze (MA)
- Mr. Obi Ene (NY)
- Rev. Ugo Paul Arinze (WI)
- Dr. Chris Moumah (GA)
- Mr. Oseloka Abadom (TX)

2004 [WASHINGTON, DC]

- Mr. EddyFunn Ikemefuna, (CA)
- Mr. Innocent Nwokeji, (MA)
- Mr. John Dureke, (MD)
- Mr. Anthony Machie, (TX)
- Mr. Ben Ehirim, (GA)

2003 [HOUSTON, TX]

- Mr. Chris Ayika, (MN)
- Mr. Nonso Emecheta, (Canada)
- Mr Okey S. Ezeani, (MD)
- Mr. Chris Inoma, (TX)
- Mr. Stanley Okey Ofomata, (CA)

2002 [ATLANTA, GA]

- Dr. Immanuel Uketui, (MO)
- Prof. Ntohm Izuchi, (MA)
- Mr. Patrick Ejike, (GA)
- Mr. Fidelis Atuegbu (CA)
- Mr. Eugene Agbimson, (NY)
- Mr. Emmanuel Onua, (IL)

2001 [BOSTON, MA]

- Dr. Kingsley Nwosu, (NJ)
- Mr. Charles Okoye, (IL)
- Mr. Larry Ozoh, (GA)
- Dr. Francis Asokwu Sea, (NJ)
- Mr. Oseloka Obaze, (NJ)

The Obaze Family
of Iselin, NJ
SALUTE

CKC-AAA, INC.
On The Occasion Of the

12th Annual CKC-AAA Convention
18-20 July 2008, Atlanta, GA
and

The Diamond Jubilee of
Christ the King College (C.K.C.) Onitsha

We Congratulate our
Husband and Dad
Oseloka Obaze
National Secretary, CKC-AAA, Inc.
For His Dedicated Service
To His Alma Mater

THREE CHEERS FOR CKC PRIDE AND OWNERSHIP

Ofunne Omo Obaze, MD
& Family

C.K.C. Alumni Notes

HRH Obi Prof. Joseph Chike Edozien
Asagba of Asaba

HRH Obi Prof. Joseph Chike Edozien, CFR, JP, the Asagba of Asaba, is the traditional ruler of Asaba, Delta State, Nigeria. He was born on July 28, 1925 in Asaba. His father was Nathaniel Okafor Edozien a direct descendant of Nnebisi the founder of Asaba, and one of the most senior indigenous officials of the Nigerian Coal Corporation in Enugu. His mother, Nwakuso Edozien nee Odogwu, was the daughter of a prominent Asaba chief, and a notable trader. His father sent him at an early age to live with an uncle who was a schoolmaster in Warri, Delta State, Nigeria. He attended the Catholic School in Warri from 1933 to 1937. He attended the famous Christ the King College, Onitsha for his secondary education from 1938 to 1942. In 1942 he attended Higher College Yaba before proceeding to Achimota School, Accra, Ghana.

His university education began with an admission to the University College, Dublin, Ireland in 1944. He completed his BSc with honors in Physiology from the National University of Ireland in 1948, MSc in Physiology in 1950, Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Chemotherapy (MBBCh) in 1954. He won several academic awards in the process. His academic career began with an appointment as a Lecturer in Clinical Biochemistry in Middlesex Hospital Medical School, University of London in 1951. In 1952 he was appointed as a Senior Lecturer in Chemical Pathology at the University College, Ibadan. He returned to Ibadan after further studies in Ireland.

In 1955 he married Modupe Smith a radiographer at the University of Ibadan teaching hospital. Her father was one of the first indiginous managers if the United Africa Company and her maternal grandfather was Herbert Macaulay, Nigeria's first surveyor and one of the principal actors in Nigeria's independence movement. The late colonial and early independence period were exciting times in Nigeria. Educated Nigerians rapidly occupied positions of responsibility in politics, commerce and academia. Everyone's hopes were high that in a short time the country would bridge the gap with the more developed countries of Europe and North America. The euphoric mood permeated the University of Ibadan, and Edozien's groundbreaking research in nutrition helped win it a reputation as a rising academic center. He was appointed a professor in 1961 and became the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine in 1962.

Edozien's career at Ibadan ended in 1967, a casualty of the political crisis that ended the euphoria of the late 50's and early 60's and resulted in the coups of 1966 and eventually led to the Nigerian Civil War. In 1967 he was instrumental in the efforts to establish the University of Benin in the newly created Midwestern Region of Nigeria. He was also implicated in the plots that resulted in the Biafran invasion of the Midwestern Region at the beginning of the civil war and was forced to flee the country. After a period as a refugee in France, he was appointed as a professor of Nutrition at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA. In 1971 he became a professor and head of Department of Nutrition, of the School of Public Health of the University of North Carolina. In 1990 Edozien was appointed the Chairman of the Nigerian Institute for Medical Research. Shortly thereafter, the he was selected to become the 13th Asagba of Asaba. He retired as a Professor Emeritus of the University of North Carolina and returned to Nigeria in 1991.

Edozien's tenure as the Asagba of Asaba has coincided with dramatic changes in the character of the town. When the government of President Ibrahim Babangida created Delta State out of the old Bendel State, Asaba was chosen as the capital. Its new status as the seat of the state government has brought much of the chaotic development associated with contemporary Nigerian urbanization. The population of the town has grown and the influx of non-Asaba indigenes has strained the traditional institutions of the town.

A central theme of Edozien's tenure as the Asagba has been the challenge balancing rapid development, modernization of traditional norms and institutions with preservation of the positive aspects an moderating influence of traditional values. Several on-going initiatives such as the Asaba permanent palace and civic center and the documentation of the town's traditional laws and customs have sought to balance these concerns. Edozien remains an important figure in modern day Nigerian affairs. President Olusegun Obasanjo conferred the national honor of Commander of the Federal Republic (CFR) on him in 2003. He is also the Chancellor of the Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta. **[TAG]**

FROM THE LONE STAR STATE
THE TEXAS CHAPTER

Doff Its Hats To

OUR GEORGIA SISTER CHAPTER

On The Occasion Of Hosting

The 12th Annual CKC-AAA Convention
18-20 July 2008, Atlanta, GA

We share fully in the
"Pride and Ownership "

of our cherished Alma Mater,
Christ the King College (C.K.C.) Onitsha
as it marks its Diamond Jubilee

Primus Inter Pares!

Anthony Okay Machie
President
CKC-AAA, Texas Chapter

TAG Humor

Why Are You Married?

You have two choices in life: You can stay single and be miserable, or get married and wish you were dead.

- At a cocktail party, one woman said to another, 'Aren't you wearing your wedding ring on the wrong finger?' 'Yes, I am. I married the wrong man.'
- A lady inserted an ad in the classifieds: 'Husband Wanted'. Next day she received a hundred letters. They all said the same thing: 'You can have mine.'
- When a woman steals your husband, there is no better revenge than to let her keep him.
- A woman is incomplete until she is married. Then she is finished.
- A little boy asked his father, 'Daddy, how much does it cost to get married?' Father replied, 'I don't know son, I'm still paying.'
- A young son asked, 'Is it true Dad, that in some parts of Africa a man doesn't know his wife until he marries her?' Dad replied, 'That happens in every country, son.'
- Then there was a woman who said, 'I never knew what real happiness s was until I got married, and by then, it was too late.'
- Marriage is the triumph of imagination over intelligence.
- If you want your spouse to listen and pay strict attention to every word you say -- talk in your sleep. Just think, if i t weren't for marriage, men would go through life thinking they had no faults at all.
- First guy says, 'My wife's an angel!' Second guy remarks, 'You're lucky, mine's still alive.'
- 'A Woman's Prayer: Dear Lord, I pray for: Wisdom, To understand a man, to Love and to forgive him, and for patience, For his moods. Because Lord, if I pray for Strength I'll just beat him to death' .

Blindly Tongue In Cheek

Husband and wife are waiting at the bus stop with their nine children. A blind man joins them after a few minutes. When the bus arrives, they find it overloaded and only the wife and the nine kids are able to fit onto the bus. So the husband and the blind man decide to walk. After a while, the husband gets irritated by the ticking of the stick of the blind man as he taps it on the sidewalk, and says to him, 'Why don't you put a piece of rubber at the end of your stick? That ticking sound is driving me crazy.' The blind man replies, 'If you had put a rubber at the end of YOUR stick, we'd be riding the bus, so shut the hell up.'

Church *Vs.* Bar

In a small mid-western conservative rural town (USA), a new bar started constructing a building to open up their business. With petitions and prayers the local Baptist church promptly started a campaign to block the bar from opening. Work progressed, however, right up till the week before opening, when a lightning strike hit the bar and it burned to the ground. The church folks were rather smug in their outlook after that, till the bar owner sued the church on the grounds that the church was, through its prayers and that of the congregation, ultimately responsible for the demise of his building, either through direct or indirect actions or means. In its reply to the court the church vehemently denied all responsibility or any connection to the building's demise. As the case made its way into court, the judge looked over the paperwork at the hearing and commented: 'I don't know how I'm going to decide this, but as it appears from the paperwork, we have a bar owner who believes in the power of prayer, and an entire church congregation that doesn't !

Our Lesser Lessons

We are in the 21st Century but things are getting less and less by the day. Below are some:
Our economy is economizing; Our Communication – Wireless; Our Dress – Topless; Our Telephone – Cordless; Our Cooking – Fireless; Our Youth – Jobless; Our Food – Fatless; Our Labor – Effortless; Our Conduct – Worthless; Our Relationships – Loveless; Our Attitude – Careless; Our Feelings – Heartless; Our Politics – Shameless; Our Education – Valueless; Our Follies – Countless; Our Arguments – Baseless; Our globe shrinking; and Our Emails – useless.

Words of Wisdom

On Ignorance: *"I have never met a man so ignorant that I couldn't learn something from him"* ~~ ***Galileo Galilei***
On Talent: *"I have no special talents. I am only passionately curious."* ~~ ***Albert Einstein***
On Knowledge: "*Whoso loveth instruction loveth knowledge but he that hateth reproof is brutish"* ~ ***Proverbs 12:1***
On The Mind: "*Man's mind, once stretched by a new idea, never regains its original dimension"* ***~ Oliver Wendell Holmes***
On Experience: *"Experience is a hard teacher because she gives the test first, the lesson afterward"* ***~~ Vernon Law***
On Teaching: *"I cannot teach anybody anything; I can only make them think"* ***~Socrates*** **[TAG]**

We the Georgia & Pioneer Chapter of CKC-AAA

And Host

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For Their Support

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of our cherished Alma Mater,
Christ the King College (C.K.C.) Onitsha
as it marks its Diamond Jubilee

~ PRIMUS ~

Patty Ejike
President
For CKC-AAA, Atlanta Chapter

Book Review

*Oseloka Obaze**

Saving Bekyah

Caroline Omoifo

(ISBN: 978-0-9712781-7-2; Sun Rose Publisher, East Orange NJ, USA, 2007, p.316, Price, $22.95)

Available at: http://www.ebay.com

Caroline Omoifo's just published and fifth book, ***Saving Bekyah: Confronting Female Circumcision, Sexuality and Womanhood***, is a fictionalized memoir and reprise of a drastically changed life. It a story that began on a dreaded and haunted day in her Nigerian village when, in fulfillment of a cultural tradition, she underwent the gruesome shearing of her anatomy in fulfillment of an ancient cultural tradition, called *Ureh* or female circumcision, aka female genital mutilation (FGM). The book is a passionate effort to explore, dissect and analyze the nexus between female circumcision and some human and socio-cultural themes that continue to fixate general interests, but are broadly unattended to or discussed, because such social customs present as taboos.

In ***Saving Bekyah*** Omoifo weaves her fictionalized account around the not-much-talked-about ancient custom of *Ureh,* and its debilitating impact on the lives of its victims and unwittingly to many, on their sexual relations with the men in their lives. The negative impact of the custom is stretched to its logical conclusion, and linked to marital indiscretion, breakups and the unintended consequence of mental torture. A custom that is perceptibly good to its practitioners is proven in reality, to be most harmful to the victims; yet the custodial natives would fight hard to hold on to the quaint practice that is widely acknowledged to have no benefit to life and a woman's overall wellbeing.

Set in modern day Nigeria, Spain and the United States, ***Saving Bekyah*** explores the negative and devastating impact of the ancient custom many deem controversial, for indeed, they are. The attending controversies, however, are offshoots of mindsets and cultural values; thus, what may be easily acceptable and tolerable in Africa and parts of Asia may be anathema in the United States or other western countries. However, there are many strands of shared values and commonalties, of which human sexuality and personal relations are not by any means, the least important.

Ms. Omoifo did her homework well. Noting that an estimated 130 million women have undergone circumcision worldwide and 6 million girls annually, she sought the views of those likely to be least affected by the procedure - men – to support her research into the subject matter. Pointedly, she asked the men "*if they've had sexual relationship with a circumcised woman and how the procedure may have affected their sexual fulfillment.*" Their varying and revealing responses formed the basis of some of the key characters in the book.

Any reader, who passes up an opportunity to read ***Saving Bekyah*** due to its sub-theme, would have lost an invaluable insight into the dynamics of human relations, human sexuality and the adverse impact of female genital mutilation (FGM). They would have preemptively opted out from understanding the compelling force behind such archaic local traditions, which were rooted in *"the era of ignorance",* and the length to which the adherents would go to preserve them. The raging discourse about FGM, its utility, and its being of no benefit is universal. The debate also dominates dogmatic discourse within major religions, just as it straddles the lines between social, tribal and religion customs, especially in Africa, the Middle East, and Far East. It is noteworthy, however, that in most cases FGM happen for non-therapeutic reasons.

Cultures and people who favor FGM do so in the controversial but doubtful belief that it guarantees chastity. Within Christianity and Islam, the value, authenticity and credibility of female circumcision is inconclusive, hence the ongoing debate is still much entrenched. Those opposed to FGM on religious grounds believe that it amounts to desecration of the body; and Women's Leagues worldwide, equate it to the ancient practice of male castration, which produced eunuchs for royal courts. However, practice of *Ureh*, may have been sustained unwittingly by the importance societies attach to virginity and chastity – hence the notional application of the *Ureh* as deterrence to promiscuity by curbing the desire for sexual intercourse. While this latter point is scientifically unproven, it forms the basis on which Bekyah Tage must undergo the *Ureh* procedure of being circumcised in her native Nigerian village of Ologne. *"Could she be saved? The village would fight any interloper in order to preserve their traditions."*

Enter Candice Zakeih a US-based Nigerian. A woman in the business of saving other women in social crisis, and haunted by her own painful experience of the Ureh and being in a polygamous marriage, Candice confronts on her kith and kin, immediate family and the villagers in an unrestrained fashion, by singularly pushing for the abolishment of the *Ureh*. To save Bekyah Tage, she employs her American associates, to the extent that, some of them voluntarily engage in "conversion" sexual liaisons with the locals. The challenges and mind games that ensue are not pretty or for the feint hearted. In the end, Candice finds the most unlikely allies for her cause. Paradoxically, Candice began to appreciate the passion and sexual fulfillment that had eluded her due to her circumcision, only after a unique sexual encounter with her boss, Kesson Davone, during an unplanned tryst in Madrid left her utterly contented and reeling with a redemptive "*liberating glaze in her eyes*".

Supported by her cousin Tessa, Candice's encounter with the Ologne village council is the dramatic highpoint of the novel. Hardly the forum for the open discussion of sexuality in its "*physiological, pshychological and spiritual context*", the tough meetings would prove manifestly productive. When the villagers are confronted with the reality that *Ureh* has no social, religious or scientific redeeming value beyond creating sexual dysfunction, including painful sexual intercourse (despareunia), childbirth complications, anxiety, depression and a feeling of incompleteness for the woman, they yield, but not easily. Omoifo's collaborative negotiation and ownership strategy used in coercing the collective consent from the villagers is simply brilliant.

Saving Bekyah is serious, sometimes dark, variegated and yet jocular book that transports the readers into the complex realm of some women's torturous life and decimated psyche brought about by female circumcision. The undertone of a clash of civility, cultural, religious and scientific values pervades the entire book. It is an engrossing and continuously troubling, but very informative and explosive book, which is creatively crafted, introspectively grounded, and convincingly rendered. Across board, ***Saving Bekyah*** is a roller-coaster ride into the finer, intricate, alien, and spiritual dimensions of human sexuality and proclivity, without being cavalier about this serious subject matter. It is a compelling, perfectly pitched, albeit, sexually graphic page-turner that unmasks the blinkered, society-induced indignities, pain, loss, loneliness, trauma, alienation and overall flagellation associated with female genital mutilation.

Omoifo writes exquisitely, so much so, that the richness, conviction, reality, love and other emotions of her characters are palpable and livable. ***Saving Bekyah*** is an extremely powerful advocacy against FGM and a clarion call to save succeeding generations from a demeaning life-scarring custom. It is equally provocative, educative, and illustrative of the depth of the prevailing debate surrounding one the most controversial health issues of our time. This is a universal book for every woman and a must read for every man.

Caroline Omoifo may have written her magnus opus. Since the theme of the book is a cause célèbre with many passionate advocates, ***Saving Bekyah*** may very well be for Omoifo, the rewarding celebrity door opener that every aspiring writer craves for – her launch pad to literary stardom. **[TAG]**

***Mr. Oseloka Obaze** is a founding member of the Kwenu.com Book Review Forum, which is dedicated to the promotion of books with Igbo and Afrocentric themes. This copyright review is reprinted with the permission of Kwenu.com. where it first appeared on 2 February 2008.

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New Jersey Chapter of CKC-AAA
[The Garden State]
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Christ the King College (C.K.C.) Onitsha
as it marks its Diamond Jubilee
~ PRIMUS ~

Francis Asokwu Sea
President, Ad Interim
CKC-AAA, New Jersey Chapter

HONOR ROLL
CKC PRINCIPALS
1933 to 2008

"We are here to add what we can to, not to get what we can from, Life."
~~Sir William Osler

"Experience keeps a dear school, but fools will learn in no other."
~~Benjamin Frankin

"Only the educated are free"
~~Epictetus

The Architects

1st	Rev Fr. W.L. Brolly	-1933-1937
2nd	Rev. Fr. M Flanagan	-1938-1941
3rd	Rev. Fr J. Keane	-1942-1943
4th	Rev. Fr. A. Callaghan	-1943
5th	Rev. Fr. M. Flanagan	-1943-1948
6th	Rev. Fr. M. Clifford	-1949-1953
7th	Rev. Fr. W Butler	-1953-1954
8th	Rev. Fr. J. Keane	-1955-1956
9th	Rev. Fr. J. FitzPatrick	-1956-1963

The Builders

10th	Rev. Fr. N. C. Tagbo	-1963-1972*
11th	Chief A.A.O. Ezenwa	-1973-1974*
12th	Rev. H. Chiwuzie	-1974-1975
13th	Mr. P. E. Ezeokeke	-1975-1976
14th	Rev. Fr. N.C. Tagbo	-1976-1985*
15th	Mr. M. N. Enemou	-1985-1987
16th	Rev. Dr. V. A. Nwosu	-1987-1996*
17th	Mr J.E. Chukwurah	-1996-1997*
18th	Mr. E. C. Umeh	-1997-2000
19th	Chief N. E. Olisah	-2000- date*

** CKC Onitsha alumnus*

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Present & Past

(Current Executives)
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President	-Prof. Ntohm IZUCHI
Vice President	-Mr. Ben EHIRIM
Secretary	-Mr. Oseloka OBAZE
Financial Secretary	-Mr. Eugene AGBIMSON
Treasurer	-Mr. Larry OZOH
Public Relations Officer	-Dr. Francis ASOKWU SEA
Agent	-Mr. Patrick EJIKE
Chaplain	-Rev. Fr. Ugo Paul ARINZE
Webmaster	-Dr. Kingsley NWOSU
Ex-Officio	-Mr. Fidelis ATUEGBU

2002-2004

President	-Mr. Fidelis ATUEGBU
Vice President	-Mr. Emma ONUA
Secretary	-Mr. Oseloka OBAZE
Financial Secretary	-Mr. Eugene AGBIMSON, CPA
Treasurer	-Mr. Larry OZOH
Public Relations Officer	-Dr. Francis ASOKWU SEA,
Agent	-Mr. Patrick EJIKE
Webmaster	-Dr. Kingsley NWOSU

2000-2002

President	-Mr. Fidelis ATUEGBU
Vice President	-Mr. Emma ONUA
Secretary	-Mr. Oseloka OBAZE
Financial Secretary	-Mr. Eugene AGBIMSON, CPA
Treasurer	-Mr. Larry OZOH
Public Relations Officer	–Dr. Francis ASOKWU SEA
Agent	-Mr. Patrick EJIKE
Webmaster	-Dr. Kingsley NWOSU

1997-2000 (Pioneer Executives)

President	-Mr. Fidelis ATUEGBU
Vice President	-Mr. Emma ONUA
Secretary	-Mr. Vincent ONYEBUCHI (1997-98)
Secretary	-Mr. Oseloka OBAZE, (1998-00)
Financial Secretary	-Mr. Larry OZOH,
Treasurer	-Dr. Kingsley NWOSU
Public Relations Officer	- Dr. Francis ASOKWU SEA, Esq.
Agent	- Mr. Patrick EJIKE
Webmaster	-Dr. Kingsley NWOSU

We Serve With A Deep Sense

Pride And Ownership

ETHEL and CHIKE MOMAH

Respectively Of
Archdeacon Crowther Memorial Girls Secondary School, Elelenwa
And
Government College, Umuahia

SEND COLLEGIAL GREETINGS AND CONGRATULATIONS TO

OSELOKA OBAZE

And The
Christ the King College Alumni Association in America (CKC-AAA)
On The Occasion Of The Association's
Twelfth Annual Convention, July 18-20, 2008
And On Its Diamond Jubilee Of C.K.C. Onitsha (1933-2008)
We Also Salute
Prof. NT Izuchi, President CKC-AAA
And The Executive Officers Of The Association

ETHEL MOMAH (Arunne)
CHIKE MOMAH (Nnabuenyi)
Arlington, Texas

Boston 2007: Painful, Instructive, Yet Productive in some ways…

Oseloka Obaze

What was supposedly meant to be celebratory of CKC-AAA's "***one decade of service"*** to our alma mater nearly turned into a droll and bemoaning session. Understandably, deep concerns were expressed about the fate of the association. The lackluster participation, which I had anticipated was manifest in threefold. The 2007 Boston Convention (20-22 July) was painful, instructive and yet productive in some ways.

Boston was **painful** since some of the movers; those who have always done the heavy lifting were noticeably absent. These included national and chapters executives and committee chairmen. Missing in action were, Okoye, Ofomata, Ehirim, Onua, Ene, Ayika, Ikemefuna, Sea, Acholonu, Enwonwu, Uzoh, Nduka, Arinze, Machie, the Ezeanis and others. Their collective absence this year, as if by design, was palpable. I need not say more. I had felt the extremely weak pre-convention pulse and said so severally. Eugene Agbimson thought I was being alarmist. But the reality in Boston proved my point and concern.

The pain of the depressing attendance was most felt at the chapters' representational level. The headcount was as follows: California, 2; Connecticut, 0; Georgia, 1; Illinois, 1; New England 13; New Jersey, 1; New York 2; Texas, 0; and Washington DC MD/VA, 0. To say that the overall showing was dismal, would be understating the fact. The reasons for such showing are even much less obvious. Inertia, perhaps!

Perhaps, some felt that the folks in Boston (New England) needed to be taught a lesson in the essence of collaborative effort. Clearly, since the Chapter hosted the 2001 convention, not one single member, except for NT Izuchi and Fr. Jude Onuchukwu had ventured out to attend a convention elsewhere or send a goodwill message. Hence, it seemed the message was; if you folks don't travel to support others, then don't expect support from other chapters. It should be obvious and I hope it was to our New England colleagues, that reciprocity is a two way street.

Without meaning to bash the Host Chapter, the tendency toward insularity is not easily understandable; certainly, not when they have proven proactive personalities, like Charles Belonwu, Nnamdi Onubogu, Eke Okeke, Eugene Owunaka and Chuba Bonney Chibueze within their ranks. "Akwa Stagger" Emeka Nwokeji, despite his situation remains a motivational stalwart.

Perhaps, as IG Nwanekezi had pointed out, New England Chapter has a unique problem being that a large part of its membership is comprised of Onitsha indigenes, but they are hardly involved. Indeed, not one showed up for the Executive and Plenary Sessions, but at least three showed up for the banquet. This presents a paradox.

Evidently, some non-Onitsha indigenes in the Boston area are no longer active in CKC-AAA on the grounds that the Onitsha indigenes on whose home the school was situated were not sufficiently engaged. This is an ironical paradox, in that those of us who support the revitalization of CKC do so, mindful of the fact that our parents sent us to Onitsha despite the secondary schools in our respective communities, be it in Allor, Adazi, Ihiala, Afikpo, Calabar, Lagos, Benin, Enugu or Katsina. So in essence, we do what we do for ourselves and for posterity, not necessarily for others. After all, many are called but few are chosen!

From my first hand experience in being involved in the planning of all CKC-AAA conventions since 1998, I can say with certainty from my distant interaction with them; Charles Belonwu and Nnamdi Onubuogu undeniably lifted beyond their weight to get things on the roll. I am sure others chipped in too. But one fact is obvious and I hope the Boston folks will see it as constructive criticism and a point for lessons learned; because they have not been actively involved in past conventions, they are unaware of how some issues are handled.

Fact 1; we lost ample valuable time over lunch. While we are exceedingly grateful for the sumptuous lunch provided by the Belonwu's we could have easily settled for a working lunch of pizza and soda.

Fact 2; Dr. Uketui's novel and on-the-floor proposal to have anyone who paid $1,000 over twelve months made a life member without further obligation to pay annual dues received broad support, but without due consideration of its impact on the bylaws and the dearth of membership that we have now. Only two people, Charles Belonwu and I opposed it on grounds of principle. But it should have been clear that those who had not paid up their $500 in assessed EFund contributions, or their annual dues, which since 1997 had amounted to $500, would not rush to pay $1,000. Well intended as the proposal was, with the aim being to raise a huge sum using the School's 2008 Diamond Jubilee as the trigger, it begged the question and realities on the ground.

Fact 3; Despite Fidelis Atuegbu's dexterous management of the plenary session, we lost time in the evening. Lateness in beginning the banquet meant rushing everything and almost risking not raising the desired funds. Traditionally, "haste makes waste" – and we almost became victims! Indeed, the fundraising process would have been a disaster due to shortness of time, but for the deft handling of the situation by MC's Larry Ozoh and Jerry Nwosu (a non alumnus). Thankfully, I am informed that some CKC-AAA members who did not show up did send in their checks. Another issue that has become critical is the engagement of the CKC-AAA leadership. The point was made severally, but need not be flogged *ad nauseam*. The time has come for other CKC-AAA members to step up to the plate. If not, we risk becoming victim of our success. This should be **instructive!**

All said, Boston 2007 still made **productive** strides. There are, I hope, lessons learned from it by all. First, we approved additional **N2.3 million** for CKC in 2008 and agreed to release the **N3 million** approved for 2007 for the Diamond Jubilee Gate. Also the Convention took a bold move in deciding not to approve the ***Exceptional Service Award*** on the grounds that no one had met the award criteria in 2007. The message is that those who wish to be so recognized must become activist. Second, being engaged locally is good but being involved nationally is even better. Third, while striving to raise the much needed funds for CKC-AAA is advisable, planning and coordination that is seamless, will never happen in a vacuum.

Emma Onua's reflection on the 2005 New Jersey Convention is vastly pertinent here *(See The Amaka Gazette Vol. 7 or www.ckconitsha.net)*. Bostonians who came out to support CKC-AAA might have felt cheated. They, mingled, eat, listened to two splendid speeches by keynote speakers, **Prof. Pat Utomi** and **Chief Chike Momah,** gave generously and were sent home without being given time to dance. (*Naturally, they were part of the problem having mostly arrived late for the event.)* It needs to be said that **Prof. Pat Utomi** and **Chief Chike Momah** spoke eloquently from the heart and gave renditions that struck notes that resonated with CKC-AAA members and their guests.

One thing that was not missing throughout the convention was the usual **Amaka** conviviality, which with apologies to "Alacrity" Onua, is really why we rally every year. Francis Asokwu Sea calling in from Nairobi and Eddyfunn Ikemefuna and Stan Ofomata being able to speak to the plenary session during lunch from California counted for something. Similarly, more out of state spouses - Mrs. Uche Agbimson, Mrs. Ngozi Uketui, Mrs. Chinwe Offor and Mrs. Ofunne Obaze- showed up for this year's convention. Spouses of the Boston LOC members were also out in full force: Mrs. Izuchi, Mrs. Nwokeji, Mrs. Belonwu, Mrs. Onubugo, Mrs. Okeke, Mrs. Nwanekezi, and Mrs. Onwunaka, et al. Mrs. Ethel "Arunne" Momah was also there beside her husband. We thank them all for being so supportive and allowing us the space to do what we do for our dear old school.

Finally, Rev. Fr. Jude Onuchukwu may have said it all when he called CKC-AAA "**a ministry of salvation"** set up "**to do good and assist posterity**". Nothing else needs to be said about our Association's mission except to observe that the notion ties in very well with "***Pride and Ownership,*** the theme the 2007 Boston convention proposed for the CKC Onitsha Diamond Jubilee in 2008. Despite the gloomy bent of this reflection, the positives bound to come out of it makes its worthwhile. We are extremely thankful to our CKC-AAA brothers in Boston for their hospitability. **All roads lead to Onitsha in 2008!** Primus! **[TAG]**

ILLINOIS CHAPTER OF CKC-AAA

[THE LAND OF LINCOLN]

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OUR GEORGIA SISTER CHAPTER

On The Occasion Of Hosting

The 12th Annual CKC-AAA Convention
18-20 July 2008, Atlanta, GA

We share fully in the
"Pride and Ownership "

of our cherished Alma Mater,
Christ the King College (C.K.C.) Onitsha
as it marks its Diamond Jubilee

~ PRIMUS ~

Charles Okoye
President
CKC-AAA, Illinois Chapter

All Not Lost In Boston: There Might Be A Silver Lining
Boston Convention Post Mortem

Eugene Agbimson

Despite some shortcomings, the Boston Convention had a few bright spots and might well go down as the single event that finally turned things around for our Association or at least produced the impetus for some surge of sorts in our membership ranks and hopefully financial fortune.

Membership: The membership committee headed by Dr. Emma Uketui reported on its efforts.
We heard a variety of reasons why membership interest is waning. Questions were asked why, for example, previous alumni keynote speakers who reside in the US have not attended subsequent conventions or why in Boston for instance, more than 50 percent of members who were active in the 2001 convention failed to participate this time. The concept of Local Chapter Initiative was endorsed by convention attendees, whereby volunteers from existing chapters would actively seek to re-engage inactive members and recruit new ones. For Chapters absent from the convention they need to communicate to the National Secretary or the President who their local volunteers are and would receive leads on known old boys and particularly any senior old boy who might be residing in their state. Conversely, the in-state volunteers or any one for that matter, should also alert the National Office of any senior old boy in their State or elsewhere, so that appropriate channels could be opened either from National or from the Senior Old boy's contemporary who is familiar with the work of CKC-AAA.

Finance /Endorsement Trust Fund: Dr. Emma Uketui related to the attendees his experience in a Club he belongs to. Specifically how each member contributed $1,000 for a total of about $100,000., and how over the years, the average yield have been between 10 - 15 thousand dollars per year. He suggested that such a fund would be beneficial to our Association. The idea was welcomed by almost everyone. Additional suggestion was made by attendees that since we are about to enter the Diamond Jubilee year, the trust fund contribution could be tied to this event and that members or any old boy for that matter who makes the $1,000 contribution by December 2008 shall receive a free life membership of the Association and therefore exempt from annual membership dues at the National Level for life. A motion/resolution was introduced to that effect and by a vote of 13 to 2 the motion was passed. To me, this was a momentous and monumental decision by the Association. We shall finally have a fund that benefits the school in perpetuity.

Since part of the theme for the Diamond Jubilee Celebrations is ***"ownership",*** what better way to be a stakeholder than to invest in a fund that you know that long after you are gone, your fund is still supporting the good old school. I would add that newer members or those that could not afford to pay the $1,000 or more, could pay $500 by the deadline but may not be entitled to fee life membership. Everyone should keep an open mind about this endeavor.

Background: In 1999 the Association adopted the Los Angeles plan, which was initially a quinquennial (five year) project, to raise $250,000 for rehabilitation and revitalization of the school, given its condition then. The life of the Los Angeles plan was extended in Washington DC in 2004. Based on published reports, it appears we have only been able to raise about $100,000 to date. AMAKA BOYS CAN DO BETTER! The proposed Trust Fund does not eliminate or subsist the Los Angeles plan, which will continue to be funded largely from annual convention proceeds, dues and other contributions. The beauty of the endowment trust fund is that the corpus (principal) remains intact in perpetuity while all or other part of the earnings could be expended annually for designated projects.

If 50 percent of our memberships are committed to this effort coupled with some fund raising I have no doubt that the goal could be exceeded by the target date of December 31, 2008. Just think of what the annual earnings alone could do for the kids in the school. Less than 50 percent of the annual earnings could fund 2 or 3 supplementary salaries for science teachers @ $2,500 per year per teacher to ensure that the school retain the best teachers around and guarantee the quality and quantity of passing grades in Science.

The last School Certificate result reviewed at the Convention showed a precipitous drop in Chemistry and unacceptable level of passes in some other subjects especially the sciences. My recommendation is that all Chapters should start collecting the contributions and plan local fund raising if possible, connected with the 75th Anniversary events. A separate money market account should be opened for the funds where they shall be held until a National Brokerage Account is opened for the Endowment Trust Fund. For non-chapter members anyone who send their funds directly to National, a separate money market account should be devoted for the funds in the interim. FOLKS WHAT WE HAVE HERE IS A TIME SENSITIVE ACTIONABLE RESOLUTION AND THE TIME TO ACT IS NOW.

75th Anniversary Events: We are fortunate to have the CKC 75th Anniversary events at this juncture in our Association's existence. It presents a rare window for mobilization, rededication and re-evaluation. While planning for the next convention at the home campus, probably in December 2008, we should not fail to use the period of the 75th Anniversary to raise public awareness and mobilize resources here, in the States. The New York Chapter, plans to kick-off the 75th Anniversary Events by formally launching the Chapter later this fall. Probably around the feast of Christ the King weekend (November 2007).

Lessons from Boston: I cannot conclude without thanking our National President, NT Izuchi and New England Chapter President Charles Belonwu for all their efforts in hosting us in Boston particularly during the preconvention Executive meeting Friday night. However, for future conventions it is important to allot enough time for entertainment during the grand evening affair.

I am sure that everyone who brought their spouses to Boston Banquet Reception received an earful from their spouses in the hotel rooms. We cannot expect our spouses to sacrifice their weekend and stay in the Hotel room all day Saturday waiting for the evening outing only to be treated to about six minutes of dancing time. **[TAG]**

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AMAKA TALK BACK

President-General Frank Mbanefo speaks

Architect Frank Mbanefo is the President-General of the Christ the King College (C.K.C.) Onitsha National Old Boys Association, a post he has held for the past six years. An eminent old boy of C.K.C. Onitsha, he belongs to the C.K.C. Class of '48 Under his leadership, the alumni of C.K.C. has contributed to no small measure, in rebuilding their Alma Mater, spending close to N100 million to that end, in the run up to the school's Diamond Jubilee in 2008. Rallying the forces and ex-CKC students in the Diaspora has been an arduous task, but one he has accomplished with great tenacity. As part of the Diamond Jubilee celebrations and the 12th Annual Convention of CKC-AAA, President-General Mbanefo shares his views with "The Amaka Gazette" (TAG) on issues pertaining to C.K.C. Onitsha, the role of the alumni, education in Nigeria and his expectations for the renowned school.

***The Amaka Gazette:* Congratulations on the seventy-fifth anniversary of C.K.C Onitsha. You must be elated to be at the helm of affairs during this landmark celebration. What is the singular thought that encapsulate your overall feelings on this joyous occasion?**

Frank Mbanefo: My singular thought is to return the college back to the missionaries! Those of us who are very sensitive to the fame of C.K.C., are those who passed through the hands of Irish Missionaries. The decadence in the academic performance and environmental state of the college were all results of the government taking over the management of the school after the war. Therefore, it has become a driving force for us to see C.K.C. once more as one of the leading, if not *the leading* secondary school in Nigeria. During our time, in the 1930s-1950s, C.K.C. was one of the three most famous schools in Nigeria. One cannot imagine how it pained me during the Petroleum Trust Fund exercise in the mid to late 1990s, when the State School Board rated C.K.C. as no 7! in performance in the state – speak less of the nation. Today, my biggest dream is to get C.K.C. returned, in every respect, to its former glory, recognized for academic excellence, and for moulding young minds in to dynamic leaders. We are hopeful that returning the school to the Catholic Mission will ensure that we bring back the purity and drive of the college.

***TAG:* For starters, take us back to your time at C.K.C. Onitsha. What was it like under Irish priests- all work and no play?**

Frank Mbanefo: (Laughs!) No, it wasn't all work and no play. I would rather put it this way: we were made to *work hard and play hard*! The Irish priests were great disciplinarians! We were made to appreciate the meaning of our college motto, *bonitas, disciplina, scientia*, by projecting to the outside world our keen sense of moral upbringing, our humble respect of fellow human beings and the environment (bonitas), as well as our high consciousness of law-abiding citizenry (disciplinas). We tried to learn and improve our academic achievements through an extensive school curriculum (scientia). Generally, we also strived to win as many laurels as possible in the field of sports.

***TAG:* Like many other schools. C. K.C. fell on hard time after the civil war and is yet to recover fully. However, you and your fellow alumni have risen to revitalize the school back to its old glory. How has the journey been so far including the handover to mission campaign?**

Frank Mbanefo: So far, we have made great strides as we have renovated about 60% of the academic buildings (including classrooms, labs, and multi-purpose rooms) – but much still needs to be done. It has been a challenge mobilizing the Old Boys but we are gaining momentum. Regarding the handover to the mission campaign, we have done as much as possible by bringing our fight to the missionary authorities, who have to make further pleas to the government for the return of the school.. We have made many petitions to government authorities, including the Executive Governor of the State, who also happens to be an Old Boy of C.K.C. We have also worked with the Arch-Bishop Valerian Okeke of Onitsha, who will eventually become the patron of the school when it is returned to the mission. We have made petitions to the Arch-Bishop of Abuja for the unification of C.K.C. Onitsha and C.K.C. Abuja (the latter was founded by an ex-student of C.K.C., Cardinal Dominic Ekandem), who intended to replicate C.K.C. in the nation's capital.

***TAG:* As president-general what do you see as the next steps and the challenges, and what is your relationship with the C.K.C. alumni in the Diaspora?**

Frank Mbanefo: Our next steps are two fold: firstly, to restore a high level of academic standards in the school, and ensure that this is

matched with discipline, and secondly, to complete the renovations of the dormitories and administrative buildings which is an urgent priority to ensure that both teachers and students are in a conducive learning environment. My relationship with the C.K.C. alumni in the Diaspora has always been very cordial, and I believe that we need to depend on our Old Boys abroad to help facilitate academic scholarships, raise funds for continued renovations and management of the school campus and facilities, and ensure that the school develops a competitive edge in the area of technology, laboratory sciences and equipment, as well as excels in sports.

***TAG:* the C.K.C family recently lost some eminent old boys—James Ene Henshaw and Chike Obi—to name a few. What is being done to immortalize these C.K.C icon?.**
Frank Mbanefo: So far, we have not made any concrete plans. But I am hoping that in the near future, we shall establish a Hall of Fame in the college, where some of our famous old boys who are now late, can be celebrated as part of our national and school history. We should really remember our great sons to inspire future generations – people like Dr. Pius Okigbo, one of our greatest economists, Justice Ambrose Allagoa, the late king of Nembe, Philip Umezoke, one of Nigeria's pioneer broadcasters, Robert Okagbue, a great Geographer, and many more.

***TAG:* We don't wish to speculate, but C.K.C. has produced senators, governors, judges, professors and even a presidential candidate; in your estimation how long will it be before C.K.C. produces a Nigerian president?**
Frank Mbanefo: I don't know, but the time is ripe!

***TAG:* Archbishop Charles Herrey of blessed memory founded C.K.C. Onitsha. Also Cardinal Dominc Ekandem a C.K.C. alumnus founded C.K.C. Abuja. What is the relation between the two schools, if any?**
Frank Mbanefo: So far, the relationship has not been very cordial, but I have initiated moves to improve the situation by appealing to both Catholic Archbishops of Onitsha and Abuja who have both promised me to do whatever is possible to achieve a vibrant partnership.

***TAG:* Let's return to education, is there any hope of returning to the heydays when schools government and mission schools competed keenly and as such pushed schools to seek perfection?**
Frank Mbanefo: Yes, I certainly hope so. Nigeria needs to invest heavily in education because over the past 30+ years, we have allowed education to de-generate to an abysmal level in every respect. This has gravely affected the quality and standards seen now in Nigeria's labour market. Today, graduates are unemployable because they lack both educational discipline and depth of analysis and knowledge, as well as general social graces and etiquette. In days past, Nigerian institutions were recognized the world over for producing first class students who could compete anywhere. It will take undivided dedication and a huge amount of resources over the long- term from all sectors of the economy (government, private and civil society) to restore Nigeria's ailing educational sector. But we must always live with hope!

***TAG:* And C.K.C and DMGS is the competition still as fierce?**
Frank Mbanefo: In the past, C.K.C. and D.M.G.S. were the best schools in the east – and we did everything together – we played together, competed against each other, and even sat exams in the same hall. But today, I am not sure if this fierce and brotherly competition still exists…. but I suppose schools will always compete….

***TAG:* C.K.C. reportedly has over 100,000 alumni in all walks of life. How have you engaged these ex-students? In your mind, who are the most proactive that deserve your honorable mention for their commitment to the old school?**
Frank Mbanefo: This is a tough question. There have been many individuals over the years, who have made great contributions to reviving the school. We have also received great support from alumni chapters in America, Lagos, Enugu, Benin and Awka, to name a few. My executive team and, of course, the principal of the school have also given selflessly of their time and resources.

***TAG:* You have been involved with C.K.C for most part of its seventy-five year history. What is your vision of C.K.C. seventy-five years hence?**
Frank Mbanefo: My vision of C.K.C. 75 years from now is to see it develop from a mere secondary school, in to a polytechnic. I see C.K.C. benefiting from a partnership with a leading institution of higher learning, so that students have a long-term vision of their educational and career goals. This will ensure that the college motto, which we are so proud of, will be projected far beyond secondary school, and act as a guiding principle for students' throughout their education and careers.

TAG: Thanks immensely for your time and views and God bless. **[TAG]**

Dr. Ike Ukeje And Family

COLLEGIAL AND FRATERNAL GREETINGS
AND A WARM WELCOME FROM

A Proud Umuahian to

Oseloka Obaze
And
Other Distinguished Alumni of CKC And Members of

Christ the King College Alumni Association in America (CKC-AAA)

on the occasion marking the
Diamond Jubilee of their Alma Mater and their

TWELFTH ANNUAL CONVENTION

18-20 July, 2008
Atlanta, GA

Support For Quality Education And Academic Institutions Remain
An Invaluable Contribution Of
All Well-Meaning Alumni Of Great Schools Like CKC Onitsha And Government College Umuahia.

Dr. Ike Ukeje

Ex –President Government College Umuahia Old Boys Association
Atlanta, GA

CKC ONITSHA- 2008 Sand Prints & Marble Etchings

- "**Christ the King College Onitsha** was one of a triumvirate of schools (with Government College, Umuahia, and Dennis Memorial Grammar School, Onitsha), that might have been the best thing that happened to the Eastern Nigerian school system at the time." ~~ *Chief Chike Momah, 2007 CKC-AAA Boston Convention Keynote Speaker.*

- "I wish to thank all old Boys who had continued to contribute to recovering our past glory. I also invite those who have not shown interest to please do so. The re-vitalisation of our alma mater [**CKC Onitsha**] should be a joint effort of all of us. Don't be left out. ~~ *C.K.C. Principal Nzemeka Olisah in his 2007 State of the School Report.*

- "Sir Isaac Newton, a celebrated scientist, who worked extensively on gravity, optics, and calculus once said to his colleagues and admirers that his success in scientific exploration was "due to his determination and solid education". He declared, "If I have seen farther than others, it is because I have stood on the shoulders of giants." Same can be said for every **CKC** student." ~~ *Charles Belonwu, President New England Chapter of CKC-AAA in his 2007 Convention Host Chapter Welcome Address.*

- "[**CKC**] admitted only the most talented… young boys… I mean, if you went there[i.e. CKC], you were pretty much entitled to walk with a pretentious swagger" ~~ *Amaka Uzoh, Daughter of a CKC Alumnus in her Article in The Amaka Gazette of 2007.*

- "Since part of the theme for the **[CKC]** Diamond Jubilee Celebrations is "ownership", what better way to be a stakeholder than to invest in a fund that you know that long after you are gone, your fund is still supporting the good old school" ~~ *Eugene Agbimson, in 2007 Boston Convention Reflections.*

- "Rev. Robert Fisher made several significant achievements during his reign (1929-1939) including: Starting an Inter Schools Football Competition later to be known as Fisher Cup **(CKC Onitsha** invariably came out tops). ~~ *Eugene C. Ibe, Government College Umuahia Alumnus, Class of 1955.*

- "Christ The King College Gwagwalada, Abuja is the brain child of His Eminence, Dominic Cardinal Ekandem of Blessed memory. The late Cardinal and Formal Proprietor of CKC was inspired to incarnate in the Federal Capital Territory of Nigeria the motto of his famous Alma Mater, **Christ The King College Onitsha**, namely excellent moral, excellent academics, excellent discipline and excellent relationship. His eminence collaborated with **the** C.K.C. Onitsha boys in Abuja and made the new C.K.C. Gwagwalada, Abuja a realized dream. So, on the 24th of November, 1991, on the eve of Feast of Christ The King, C.K.C. Gwagwalada was founded in its temporary site at St. Paul's Catholic Church premises, phase 3, Gwagwalada, Abuja" ~~ *http://ckc-abj.net/index.html*

- "On the January 2, 1942, C.I.C, started with an intake of only 46 students. Fr. J. Roche was quickly assisted by a new Irish Priest, Rev. Fr. Mcmahon. The first set of tutors, who were dispatched to C.I.C Enugu, were merely seminarians and ex-students of **C.K.C. Onitsha** headed by indomitable Dr. George Akabuogu assisted by Mr. Benard Amasike, Mr. Okeke and Mathias Ezea." ~~ *Chief Clement C. Onyeama, JP. K.S.M, http://www.cicenugu.com/*

- "I have one wife- the woman I married. I have one passion – **C.K.C. Onitsha**."
  ~~ *Oseloka Obaze, Secretary, CKC-AAA.*

- "In the past, the elite government schools and religious-run schools provided discipline and rigorous comprehensive curricular instructions. **C.K.C. Onitsha**, St. Patrick's Calabar, Government College Umuahia in Nigeria are but a few of such institutions. The majority of the students did not pass through such schools. They went through city and municipal schools" ~~ *Charles Okeke, Nevada, USA on BBC.Com*

- Awolowo was not socialised; he was not a good mixer because he did not have the opportunity, which the secondary school offered. Such secondary schools as CMS Grammar School, Methodist Boys High School, Kings College, Baptist Academy, St Gregory College, Igbobi College, (all in Lagos), Baptist Boys High School, Abeokuta, Government College Ibadan, DMGS Onitsha, **C.K.C. Onitsha**, Government College Kaduna and Hope Wadel Training Institute Calabar etc, all had Nigerians of all tribes: Igbos, Yorubas, Hausas, Effiks, Itsekiris etc and all mixed and socialised with one another." ~~ *T. O. S. Benson in Nigeriavillagesquare.com*

- "The greatest gift any alumnus of C.K.C. Onitsha or member of CKC-AAA can offer to current and prospective students of the school is to serve as a role model and to offer them the enabling environment, where they can exercise their minds, intellect and potentialities without hindrance while they prepare for a life of service to humanity." ~~ *Prof. NT Izuchi, CKC-AAA President welcome Address to 2008 Atlanta Convention.*

- "As other alumni of C.K.C. would readily attest, our collective goal in CKC-AAA is simply to sustain past C.K.C. traditions and high honors that we knew, experienced and still cherish, but more importantly, to give back, no matter how small, to a great school that gave us so much and thus assist the succeeding generation." ~~ *Ben Ehirim & Larry Ozoh, Co-Chair of Atlanta 2008 Convention in the Host Chapter Welcome Message.*

- "A football match with the first eleven of Christ the King College, Onitsha, usually drew a large crowd from Onitsha community and invariably turned into a denominational contest between the Catholic and Anglican communities in the town. Such rivalries helped to add some spice to the society of the period." ~~ *Prof. E. Chukuka Ezekwesili, in "A History of The Dennis Memorial Grammar School, Onitsha. [1925-1975]"*

- "As CKC alumni, our responsibility is to promote goodness, discipline and knowledge in all and by all that we do; and our role is to seek for others that which we have earned for ourselves" ~~ *Oseloka Obaze, in the editorial of the 2008 Atlanta Convention edition of The Amaka Gazette.*

- "But down the road – vagaries of Nigerian politics upturned the table of goodness, discipline, and knowledge at CKC. That trend began after the end of the civil war, and specifically in 1972, when the East Central State Government of Nigeria took over private schools in the state. From then to present - 35 years in all, CKC was left to rot and the rot is something idiosyncratic and difficult to comprehend in this era of enlightenment and Nigeria being a super oil producer." ~~*Charles Belonwu, President New England Chapter of CKC-AAA in his 2007 Convention Host Chapter Welcome Address* **[TAG]**

CKC-AAA

SALUTE C.K.C. ONITSHA AT 75

1933-2008

FROM THE NATION'S CAPITAL

CKC-AAA WASHINGTON DC, MARYLAND & VIRGINIA CHAPTER

Salute

OUR GEORGIA SISTER CHAPTER

On The Occasion Of Hosting

Peter Ayika * Paul Ayika * Chris Ik Ayika * Dom Ayika †

Alex Ayika* Patrick Ayika * Lawrence Ayika † * Charles Ayika

Dr. James Agbasiere † *Francis Agbasiere * Engineer Alex Anaduaka

We share fully in the
"Pride and Ownership "

of our cherished Alma Mater,
Christ the King College (C.K.C.) Onitsha
as it marks its Diamond Jubilee

~ PRIMUS ~ Up Cee Kay Cee ~

Okey S. Ezeani
President
CKC-AAA, DC/MD/VA Chapter

The CKC Boys From the Families of

Ayika - Enugwu-Ukwu

Anaduaka – Enugwu-Ukwu

and

Agbasiere - Eziama, Uli

† = Deceased

Congratulate CKC Onitsha Alumni Association of America on its Twelfth Annual Convention At Atlanta, GA

May CKC-AAA, Through Christ, Achieve All her Inception Goals!!!

Up Cee Kay Cee!

For The Record

Celebrating C.K.C. And Its Alumni

Keynote Address by Chief CHIKE MOMAH
To the Christ the King College, (CKC) Onitsha Alumni Association of America,
11th Annual Convention, Boston, MA, July 21, 2007

The President of the CKC-AAA, Professor Ntohmchukwu Izuchi; [Prof. Patrick Utomi…other dignitaries]; my wife, Ethel (ARUNNE); Distinguished Alumni of CKC here present; Ladies and Gentlemen. All protocols observed! I love the feel of the names of the past CKCAAA convention speakers, as they roll off my tongue: *(in alphabetic order)* Hon. Yahaya Abubarka, Prof. Alex Acholonu, His Eminence Francis Cardinal Arinze, H.E. Prof. Ibrahim Gambari, H.E. Chief Arthur Mbanefo, and Chief Chike Ofodile. I espied my friend Chinua Achebe at your 2005 Convention in New Jersey and, though I do not recall if he spoke on that occasion, I have to add his name to the distinguished list.

Onye ka'mbuzi? Who am I to be counted among this elite roll call? That was why, when I received Mr. Obaze's exploratory letter about my availability to be your guest speaker at this year's convention, I quickly grasped the opportunity before anyone could say "CHIKE MOMAH?" Thank you all for this singular honor! And thank you, Oseloka Obaze. Our friendship, I suspect, is the principal reason I stand today before this august assembly of CKC alumni. And thank you, Mr. President, for accepting my acceptance of the honor!

The theme for this, your 11th Annual Convention, 2007, is: "ONE DECADE OF SERVICE". But before I touch on that subject, please allow me a moment or two to reminisce about the old times. I am whatever I am today – good, bad or indifferent – not just because a gentle soul, Sidney Richard Chukwukezie Momah married a somewhat tougher Grace Nwamalubia Maduike, and bore me, along with nine other children. I am what I am today, at least partially, because my six years in my distinguished alma mater, the Government College, Umuahia, contributed immensely to my formation, and did so at what I consider the most malleable, the most delicate, phase of the development of my character and my personality.

I believe the same applies to every one of you. By 'the same', I do not mean that you are products of Government College, Umuahia. To each, his own! In his article in your 2006 convention brochure, Chinua OBAZE, Oseloka's son, said (and I quote): "I believe my father is who he is, because he went to CKC, Onitsha. Indeed he tells us so, always." Like Oseloka Obaze, your path of development took you to, arguably, *the most renowned, most prestigious Roman Catholic secondary school in Nigeria, in the three decades before the Nigeria-Biafra Civil War, 1967-1970*. I contributed an article to the brochure of one of your earlier conventions, in which I alluded to Christ the King College as one of a triumvirate of schools (with Government College, Umuahia, and Dennis Memorial Grammar School, Onitsha), that might have been the best thing that happened to the Eastern Nigerian school system at the time. And, incidentally, these three schools were set up within about eight years of one another (DMGS 1925, GCU 1929, CKC 1933)"

My friend Oseloka knows that I bear CKC a deep and long-standing grudge, and I suspect he would be astonished if I did not refer to it in my talk. In 1948, unless my memory serves me ill, your CKC soccer team trounced mine (Government College, Umuahia). The score, if you can believe it, was 10 goals to 1. That soccer match reverberates in my head to this day. However, if the stories I have heard are anything to go by, perhaps my school exacted some sort of a revenge on CKC, years later. But I doubt that the score could have been anything close to 10 to 1?

We all naturally like to claim primacy for our schools over all rivals. To me, Government College, Umuahia, was the nonpareil among Nigeria's secondary schools in the decades before the civil war. I have heard some of you make the same claim for CKC. The Old Boys of your notable Onitsha rival, DMGS, with just as much rationale, assert the preeminence of their school over all others. One thing is clear: those decades, before the civil war, were the best and most prosperous years for a great many Nigerian schools, including yours and mine. Sadly, what we have in our country today is a catastrophic decline of the Nigerian edifice and, with it, the decay of the infrastructure in all its ramifications: economic, medical, educational – you name it! If there are any schools with anything approaching the facilities available in the schools of the pre-war years, they must be the handful of private – and very expensive – secondary schools that dot the immense landscape of Nigeria.

Alumni associations, the world over, and especially in the more developed countries, certainly fund the development of aspects of their alma maters. But this is usually done in an atmosphere of relatively relaxed assistance, to perhaps set up a prestigious project, or further nourish what is already in existence. THERE IS NOT THAT ANXIOUS FRENZY, AS COMMONLY EXPERIENCED BY YOUR ASSOCIATION AND MINE, TO RESTORE WHAT WE HAD, BUT WHICH HAS BEEN ALLOWED, BY NEGLIGENCE OR FUND STARVATION, TO DECLINE TO ITS PRESENT STATE OF UTTER DECAY!

It was truly a PRIVILEGE to go to high school and, especially, to university in those pre-civil war years! I use the word 'privilege' advisedly because, especially in the colonial years that ended in 1960, what my renowned townsman, Prince Abyssinia Akweke Nwafor Orizu described as the *perpendicularity of education in Nigeria,* meant that only the few were *privileged* to receive education beyond the elementary, and particularly beyond the high school levels. Nwafor Orizu made it his mission in life to do his utmost to rescue Nigeria and Nigerians from the pernicious effects of what he called PERPENDICULAR education, typically British, and therefore COLONIAL – as opposed to HORIZONTAL education, typically American. In America, he would say, education is horizontal, and therefore available to the masses.

In the last three decades, Nigeria has certainly witnessed a marked increase in the numbers of schools and school enrollments. But unfortunately, concomitant with this increase, there has been a perplexing drop-off in the quality of education. *There is some irony in all this. And there are questions that need to be asked, even though there are no easy, no uplifting, no satisfactory, answers!*

___Is it not rather strange, I ask, that at a time when Nigeria's national wealth has multiplied perhaps a thousand-fold from what it was just forty years ago, our schools and colleges – like all other institutions in the country – have suffered unimaginable decline? Physical structures decay, laboratories lack sustaining equipment, libraries have few books and journals, power is sporadic, and water supply seems to depend mostly on tankers and boreholes.

___Why is it that at this time of stupendous national wealth, alumni associations have little or no option but to scurry around, raising funds anyway they can, just simply to get their alma maters back to being – perhaps at best – half as well furnished and equipped as the schools were in their happier years, two or more generations ago?

___How did our country degenerate to the point where several of our leaders, "elected" to be the trustees of our nation's wealth, have instead – and with brazen impunity – pillaged our national and state treasuries?

___How does a simple farmer, a military or police officer, or a permanent secretary – who had only a modest life before getting into a government position – acquire such gargantuan wealth as boggles the mind, and that he cannot even begin to explain to God or his fellow man?

___How did Nigeria sink to the point where, reportedly, the World Bank once reckoned that just a half-dozen Nigerians could have paid off Nigeria's burgeoning foreign debt from their very own private pockets?

Like my old school GCU, like DMGS, like Hope Waddell Training Institute in Calabar, your school CKC has suffered the consequences of the truly monumental fraud that has left our country flat on its collective belly. Lamenting the pervasive environment of moral decay in Nigeria, Justice Chukwudifu OPUTA has been quoted as saying: "We are now living in the age of *RASCALDOM*, and our value system has gone berserk." Your association therefore deserves the highest kudos for the effort you have made, and are making, to the tune of about *N16 Million (sixteen million naira)*, to resuscitate your ailing alma mater, not only structurally but in furnishings and equipment.

But more importantly, as Prof. Ibrahim Gambari said, in his keynote address to your 2005 convention, "by rebuilding your alma mater, you are already helping to rebuild Nigeria." I whole-heartedly endorse that statement. Chief Joe Ekwunife, President of your Lagos Branch in 2004, had this to say at the launching of your N200 Million Endowment Fund drive (and I quote): "You will weep for CKC when you go there. It is not the same CKC of old. Students sit on the bare floor…" That plaintive cry from the heart must surely have been now, at least partially, assuaged by the work of rehabilitation your association has already accomplished. I am not aware of any other alumni association that has done better, perhaps not even my own alumni association. And God knows that the Government College Umuahia Old Boys Association is striving its hardest to ameliorate conditions in our old school.

There are shining alumni from all our schools. My school has its Chinua Achebe. We have my other great friend, Prof. Vincent Chukwuemeka Ike, a writer, and the first Nigerian Registrar of WAEC. We have our late, lamented Christopher Okigbo who, for the sheer beauty of his poetry, is probably unparalleled among Africa's poets. Okigbo will be honored in a September 2007 gathering of international scholars in this very Boston and in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Christ The King College has its Francis Cardinal Arinze, close to being the highest Prince of the Roman Catholic Church, bar the Pope himself. CKC has its Philip Emeagwali, credited with developing the world's fastest computer and, several years ago, voted by the *New African* as Africa's greatest scientist, for his work on supercomputer development. Who does not know the name Chike Obi, a renowned mathematician, or Justices Chukwudifu Oputa, Chuba Ikpeazu, and A.N. Aniagolu, all CKC alumni. Cyprain Uzoh was honored as "the 2006 Inventor of the Year" in New York, and has over 150 patents worldwide in semiconductor technology. Prof. Cyril Enwonwu, I believe, is still professing Biochemistry and Molecular Biology in the University of Maryland, in Baltimore. Who can forget Dr. Pius Okigbo, a CKC alumni, and elder brother of GCU's Christopher Okigbo. Pius Okigbo was a giant among economists the world over, and his expert advice was much sought after by successive Nigerian governments, civilian or military? Your Alumni keynote speaker, Prof. Pat Utomi, of the class of 1967, is a distinguished academician, and one of this year's Presidential candidates to succeed Baba OBJ. On the lighter side, I know one or two ladies, in our diaspora, who were so struck by his good looks they swore they would vote for him, if they had the vote.

CKC has its Governor Peter Obi, who has been a beacon of light in the dark and festering political wilderness of Nigeria. His overarching principle of a patient and dignified pursuit of his people's mandate has been an object and salutary lesson to Nigeria's anarchist governments and politicians. As the writer Okey Ndibe said in a recent piece, Peter Obi (and I quote) "has demonstrated that adherence to principles trumps the recourse to expediency. *Nigerian political scientists ought to commence studying the 'Obi factor' in Nigerian politics*… Obi's example stands as a sharp rebuke to those who, cheated out of their mandates, lapse into lethargy." [End of quote.] We hope and pray that he will remain a shining light in his governance of his State. For me, Amaka Uzoh said it all. The second daughter of Cyprain Uzoh, he of the semi-conductor fame, Amaka wrote in her article in your 2006 brochure (and I quote): "[CKC] admitted only the most talented… young boys… I mean, if you went there [i.e. CKC], you were pretty much entitled to walk with a pretentious swagger." [End of quote.] Then glorying in the fact that her grandfather and her father were CKC alumni, she asked: "Logically, that would suggest that there is a piece of CKC in me, correct?" To which the unequivocal answer, Amaka, is *'YES'! 'YES'!! 'YES'!!!"*

I would like to end on a note that should bring smiles to your faces as the alumni of a great institution. In a 2003 listing of the 100 BEST SECONDARY SCHOOLS, and another list of the 100 BEST HIGH SCHOOLS (I did not understand why the compilers had two such lists), *Christ the King College came top among Nigerian schools in both lists, placing 36th and 33rd respectively.* My GCU was way down in both lists, placing 76th and 66th respectively, even though, among Nigerian schools, it was second to CKC in one list, and 3rd in the other. Kings College and St. Gregs, both of them highly touted Lagos schools, placed lower than GCU in both lists. So the alumni of CKC are certainly entitled to bragging rights among the schools of Nigeria. *But even you might be willing to concede that it is a sad commentary on the deplorable state of our schools today that the top Nigerian secondary or high school placed as low as the thirties in the grading of African schools.*

The criteria for the rankings will surely resonate among the assembled alumni here today. Chief among these, other than the school's academic excellence and extra-curricular activities (particularly sports and the performing arts), were *"the strength and active reach of the old boys and old girls associations, … financial donations to the schools… [and] the reputation, achievements, and high profile of the school's current and past students,* [since] the crowning achievement of a school – its very reason for being – is to produce *students and alumni who impact society in a meaningful way*."

It is therefore with deep sincerity that an old boy of Government College, Umuahia, says to the alumni association of a rival school: "WELL DONE!! YOU HAVE BEEN COLLECTIVELY AN EXCELLENT REFLECTION OF ONE OF THE GREAT SCHOOLS OF NIGERIA, in particular, and AFRICA, in general."

CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR 10 YEARS OF SERVICE TO YOUR ALMA MATER!!!

Thank you all, and may God continue to bless your efforts on behalf of Christ the King College, Onitsha. **[TAG]**

DECISIONS TAKEN AT THE CKC-AAA ELEVENTH ANNUAL CONVENTION, AT BOSTON, MA 21 JULY 2007

We, the members of the Christ the King College Onitsha Alumni Association In America, Inc. (CKC-AAA), a 501 (c) 3 non-profit, tax-exempt entity, meeting at their Eleventh Annual Convention, in Boston MA on 20-22 July 2007,

1. ***Having considered*** the Report on the State of CKC-AAA, and the Implementation of the 1999 *Los Angeles Plan of Action* and the 2004 *Washington DC Follow-Up Plan of Action* submitted jointly by the President of CKC-AAA and the Chairmen of the Finance and Endowment Fund and the Project Implementation and Management Committees, and the 2006 State of the School Report by Mr. Nzemeka Olisah, Principal C.K.C. Onitsha:

2. ***Reaffirms*** our commitment to the motto of Christ the King College, Onitsha: *Bonitas, Disciplina Scientia* and to keeping the school's claim and aspiration to remain P*rimus Inter Pares*, (first among equals); and the values espoused by our convention theme and mission statement, "***One Decade of Service";***

3. ***Pay tribute to and commend***
   a. The founders, builders and departed staff and alumni of Christ the King College, (C.K.C.) Onitsha;
   b. The President Ntohmchukwu Izuchi and Officers of CKC-AAA for their service, dedication, commitment and leadership;
   c. Arc. Frank Mbanefo, President-General of C.K.C. Onitsha National Old Boys Association, Members of the CKC Old Boys NEC and NAPOC and Principal N. E Olisah, for their cooperation with CKC-AAA;
   d. **Prof. Patrick Utomi,** our 2007 Convention Alumni Keynote Speaker and **Chief Chike Momah** our 2007 Convention Guest Keynote Speaker; and
   e. Our hosts, CKC-AAA New England Chapter; and the City of Boston for their warm hospitality;

4. ***Resolves*** that no one has met the criteria for the award of the CKC-AAA 2007 ***Exceptional Service Award*** (ESA) and therefore not to make such an award in 2007;

5. ***Calls Upon***
   a. CKC Onitsha alumni resident in the Americas to join in the efforts of CKC-AAA and to contribute generously to the CKC Revitalization Endowment Fund;
   b. CKC Onitsha alumni in the Diaspora, to join and support ongoing efforts aimed at fully restoring the luster and infrastructure of CKC Onitsha; and
   c. To participate fully in the activities marking the Seventy-fifth Anniversary of our Alma Mater in 2008;

6. ***Approves***
   a) That CKC-AAA Executives continue implementing their mandate in accordance with the spirit and letter of the Los Angles Plan of Action, the Washington DC Follow-Up Plan of Action , 2007 Convention Mission Statement and these decisions;
   b) The disbursement during FY 2008 of N2.3 Million Naira **(N2,300,000. 00)** as follows:
      - Two Million **(N2,000.000)** for projects on C.K.C. Onitsha campus linked to the Diamond Jubilee in 2008 and the hosting of the CKC-AAA 2008 Convention in Onitsha;
      - One Hundred Thousand Naira **(N100,000.00)** to service CKC-AAA Annual Motivational Award for the "Best Tutor" and "Best Student" in 2008; and
      - One Hundred Thousand Naira **(N100, 000.00)** to service the "School Principal's' Unforeseen Emergency Expense Fund for 2008;
      - One Hundred Thousand Naira **(N100, 000.00)** to offset CKC-AAA's annual dues to the NEC for 2005-2009

7. ***Confirms*** our collective commitment to hold the 2008 and our Twelfth Annual CKC-AAA Convention at Onitsha, Nigeria in 2008 and therefore decide to meet in the City of Onitsha Nigeria tentatively on 14-16 December 2008, subject to confirmation with the Steering Committee on the Diamond Jubilee of Christ the King College C.K.C. Onitsha (C.K.C.) Onitsha.

8. ***Requests*** CKC-AAA Executives to liaise with the National Executive Committee (NEC) of the CKC Onitsha Old Boys Association and the CKC Onitsha Diamond Jubilee Coordinating Committee on the dates and activities of the Diamond Jubilee of CKC Onitsha, and

9. ***Also Requests*** CKC-AAA Executives to continue discharging the mandate given to them by selflessly serving the Association; and to report to the 2008 Convention progress made on implementing the 2004 *Washington DC Follow-Up Plan of Action* and particularly, the mandate in paragraph 5, 6 7, and 8 above. **[END]**

FROM THE WEST COAST

CALIFORNIA CHAPTER Of CKC-AAA

Salute

OUR GEORGIA SISTER CHAPTER

On The Occasion Of Hosting

The 12th Annual CKC-AAA Convention 18-20 July 2008, Atlanta, GA

We share fully in the
"Pride and Ownership "

of our cherished Alma Mater,
Christ the King College (C.K.C.) Onitsha
as it marks its Diamond Jubilee

~ PRIMUS ~

Eddyfunn Ikemefuna
President
CKC-AAA, California Chapter

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Salute

The Distinguished Alumni of C.K.C. Onitsha And Members of
Christ the King College Alumni Association in America
During their
The 12th Annual CKC-AAA Convention
18-20 July 2008, Atlanta, GA

Chris Omogbai
President

The Omogbai Family

Of Franklin Park, New Jersey
Salute
Oseloka Obaze
And
Other Distinguished Alumni of CKC Onitsha And Members of
Christ the King College Alumni Association in America
(CKC-AAA)
on the occasions of the Alma Mater's Diamond Jubilee and
Twelfth Annual Convention
18-20 July 2008, Atlanta, GA

Chris & Meme Omogbai

Experiencing the C. K.C. Values in America

By Nwaamaka Obaze

Unlike my parents, I will never know what it is like to have gone to a boarding school in Nigeria. But my siblings and I have lived that experience vicariously, that is to say through my dad, an alumnus of C.K.C. Onitsha. Our home is a C.K.C. household, complete with C.K.C. souvenirs and values too. Since we never had to experience of "attending a great school", as my father would say repeatedly, we got the next best thing. From kindergarten, through grade school and high school, my father insisted on all of us attending Catholic schools. "At least they make you wear uniforms", he would say.

This fall, I will head off to St John's University, New York –another Catholic school- to join my elder brother. I feel quite prepared for the challenge ahead, since I will take along with me the C.K.C. values imbued in my siblings and me by our dad. When I wrote my college admission essay from which this piece is adapted, and throughout my High School days, all I did was think of all the C.K.C. values I had heard about and adopted as my own values. Why not, after all I have been a CKC-AAA volunteer since 1998, photocopying and stuffing envelopes, etc. I have also been to two CKC-AAA Convention banquets; New Jersey in 2005, Boston in 2007 and this year's in Atlanta will be my third. I have also visited the C.K.C. campus. So, how has C.K.C. Onitsha and its motto *Goodness, Discipline and Knowledge* influenced my life? Well, we live the C.K.C. values daily. No day goes by in my house, without a phone call that begins and ends, with "Primus"! Then, there is that song; "Three Cheers for C.K.C." before and after the teleconferences.

At C.K.C. as my dad always say, students learned that, "It is far better to be a well-rounded person, than focus on one aspect of one's life". He expected us to learn the same; and we did, even though I never understood what he meant, initially. However, he made us read vastly, serve mass, volunteer at school and church, engage him in debate, conversations and sports, make our beds, observe table etiquette, polish our shoes and obey our seniors. Initially, I thought I loved playing basketball and my friends so much, that I tended to put them ahead of everything. But as I got older, I realized that sports and friends didn't define me. Instead, my conduct, family, integrity and honesty defined me. I also learned that teamwork applied not just to sports, but to life in general, with my family being my main team and anchor. Incidentally, my dad always spoke of the C.K.C. family, so I learned that one's family went beyond the nuclear family, and included those with whom one shared affinity and values.

I have the unique advantage of having immigrant parents with different professional backgrounds and worldview. That has shaped my perspectives on life. In addition to this unique viewpoint and orientation, my parents have each taught me important lessons in life that have defined my personality. My mom, an honorary member of CKC-AAA, who has attended every convention since 1998, grew up in Asaba, Nigeria, in a family of six children. She worked very hard, studied medicine and then came to Howard University to do her residency. It took her a long time to get to where she is now; therefore, she takes nothing for granted, especially, family values, integrity and hard work. She has instilled in my siblings and me, these same values. For instance, whenever we go to the grocery store and the cashier totaled our purchases incorrectly, my mom would insist on going back and correcting the mistake. She would give back to the cashier what she was not owed or speaking politely but firmly, demand her fair change. Thereafter, she would say to us, "It wasn't the money, it was the principle." Now, I look on proudly as she attempts to correct the wrongs of the world, one receipt or one dime at a time, and I endeavor follow in her footsteps.

My father also grew up in Onitsha, a big city in Nigeria in a family of six children. He worked hard and went to Christ the King College, one of the best high schools in Nigeria, before coming to the United States for the undergraduate and graduate studies. Today, he is an accomplished diplomat and well-traveled man devoted to world peace and security. My dad values leadership-by-example, good decision-making, integrity and hard work and never tires in saying, "Every action has a consequence." My dad stresses the need for a balance in life, being strong and standing up for one's values in every situation. He also stresses the need to give back to society and to those who are less fortunate. He instilled in us the understanding that though we may have friends, teachers or coaches, whom we can depend on, family, should always be the priority. "Friends come and go, but the family will always be there". I am who I am, because of values that my father has imbued in me. Whenever he picks me up from somewhere, I proudly say; "that's my dad." On the other hand, I could very well say that is my "C.K.C. dad"?

It is often said, "Children are a reflection of their parents". My parents continue to play a major role in my life. They are my role models. Through their actions and accomplishments, they taught me to be well rounded, levelheaded and respectful. They inspire me daily to be who I am and not who society or peers want me to be. They have also taught me not to allow anyone or situation distract me from realizing my dreams. As my dad would say about himself, "At C. K.C. we were taught that we could be anything we wanted to be". I feel exactly that way, too. I guess C.K.C. has rubbed off on me. I hope I can continue to emulate my parents, their values and C.K.C. values. Should all else fail, however, I have an eternal link with C.K.C. Onitsha; we share the name --**Amaka.** That ought to count for something.

Nwaamaka Obaze, *18, is the daughter of C.K.C. alumnus Mr. Oseloka Obaze. She graduated from Cardinal McCarrick High School, South Amboy, NJ, in June 2008. She will attend St. John University, New York, in the fall.*

Registering for Membership & Payment of Dues

There is a one-time registration fee of $50:00 and an annual membership due of $50:00. To register and pay your membership due, use the form below. Send it to the address indicated. Upon receipt and processing of your payment, a membership identification card will be mailed to you. In addition, you will be informed by surface mail or electronically, about some of the current membership benefits, which include the **Amaka Gazette** (a bi-annual publication of the organization), a WWW e-mail address, events and occasions announcements. If you are paying your dues with registration, then send the information requested below with your payment to the national Financial Secretary (please make checks, money orders, etc. payable to CKC Association) and send to:

The Financial Secretary
CKC Onitsha AAA Inc.
P.O. Box 1433
Snellville, GA 30078

Name:_____
Address:_____
Phone:_____**(home)**_____**(office)**
E-mail:_____**Fax:**_____
Year Left CKC:_____
Employer:_____

CKC Revitalization Fund" Contribution Remittance Form

Please find enclosed herewith, my contribution to the above fund as checked off below:
( ) $500 for 1999-2003 First Phase
( ) $100 for 2004
( ) $100 for 2005
( ) $100 for 2006
( ) $100 for 2007
( ) $100 for 2008
( ) $500 Full Payment for the five year period 2004-2008 (Second Phase)

I should be grateful if you could acknowledge receipt of the enclosed amount and send me the pertinent tax-exempt document. Thank you.

CONTRIBUTION TO THE CKC DIAMOND JUBILEE TRUST FUND

At the CKC-AAA 2007 Boston Convention the following was decided and subsequently reflected in Section 2.2 of the Associations Bylaws:

"Section 2.2 Life Member: *Any member who voluntarily donate $1,000 between July 2007 and 31 December 2008 towards the "**CKC Diamond Jubilee Trust Fund"** shall be considered to have a become a life member of the association and would, therefore, be exempt from all further annual membership dues at the national level for life."*

Please find enclosed herewith, my contribution to the above Trust Fund as checked off below:

( ) $1,000 Full Contribution ( ) $500 Half Contribution ( ) $250 Quarter Contribution ( ) $_____ Other

I should be grateful if you could acknowledge receipt of the enclosed amount and send me the pertinent tax-exempt document. Thank you.

Congratulations!
Dr. Nneka Lillian Offor

Ada Offor,

Congratulations for graduating from Cornell Medical School and matching for residency in Ophthalmology at UMDNJ. Your hard work and perseverance has paid off throughout the years, carrying you from your undergraduate experience at Princeton University up through your medical degree. It is a true blessing to have you, and we pray for your happiness in all future endeavors.
Keep the flag flying!

Love,

Daddy, Mommy, Onyi, Chinny, and Junior

Signed:

RIVERSIDE MEDICAL CENTER

CONGRATULATES

Oseloka Obaze

and the

C.K.C. Alumni Association in America

on the occasion of the Association's

TWELFTH ANNUAL CONVENTION

July 18 – 20, 2008

&

DIAMOND JUBILEE OF C. K. C. ONITSHA

1933 - 2008

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Tributes

A Monody For Professor Chike Obi

(*Oku Na-Agba Ozala*)

1921-2008

By Oseloka Obaze*

It is the heft of great indifference and mother of all ironies that when eminent nationalist and mathematician, **Professor Chike Obi** passed away on 13 March 2008, at the age of 87, the Nigerian media did not recall exactly what he looked like. Several media houses therefore, mistakenly passed off the a wrong photograph and middle name of Prof. Chike Edozien, the Asagba of Asaba, who is still very much alive, as that of the deceased Chike Obi. Coincidentally, both men, professors in different fields and eminent Nigerians in good standing, shared more than their first names. They were both classmates at Christ the King College, Onitsha.

It is even a greater irony that Chike Obi, a man who in his political heydays was a firebrand, fondly known to his political and academic peers by his a sobriquet, *Oku Na-Agba Ozala,* which literally translates to *"the fire that scorches the desert*", would pass away with a whimper rather than a bang. Such an honorific was in testimony to his academic acumen, sharp wit, great political insight, sagacity and accomplishments. Regrettably, in Nigeria such accomplishments are increasingly meaningless.

Chike Obi was unique in many ways. He was an enigma without a middle name anyone knew or remembered. He was also one of the last of the surviving founding nationalists. These facts notwithstanding, Nigeria sadly forgot Chike Obi before his call to eternal glory, just as it has forgotten its many illustrious sons and daughters. Such happening, speaks to our national failing in recognizing our most valued national asset – our people and human resources. Even so, a nation without heroes is in time reduced to naught.

As a child, I remember Chike Obi as an occasional, but well regarded and warmly received visitor to my maternal grandmother's house in Onitsha. They were both kith and kin from the Ogboli Olosi Village in Onitsha. I last met Prof. Chike Obi in early 2003 at Onitsha while on a visit to Nigeria.

Our chance meeting was for me very auspicious and as I had suspected then, one for the history books. For almost three hours, we talked politics and about the waning glory of our beloved alma mater. Since we shared the same alma mater, Christ the King College Onitsha and his son Mustafa had been a class ahead of me and given what I had heard from the old man, I was convinced that his reminiscences about the old school had to be shared with other alumni. I seized the moment and invited him to be the keynote speaker at our alumni association's annual convention scheduled for Houston, Texas that summer.

My attempt to lure him failed as Prof. Obi politely but firmly declined my entreaty, citing the burden of his age (82), the challenging rigors of inter-continental travel and the fact that he was *"retired although not tired*". Though, in his words, he was *"now relegated to attending funerals and activities of the Agbalanze Society"* of Onitsha, having himself taken the *ozo* title and the name, "*Nnabuenyi,*" I could sense his melancholy, not necessarily for himself, but for Nigeria and black Africa and their behemoth of missed opportunities; for what should have been. His hometown Onitsha was, as he noted, *"a ghost of its vibrant past*". Yet, it was to that erstwhile and embracing homestead that he retired and set up his research foundation, the Nanna Institute of Scientific Studies.

Throughout our discussion, Prof. Obi was unhurried. His overall demeanor was one of keen interest. He seemed further reinvigorated by my casual announcement that I had several years back read his 1950s treatise, ***Our Struggle – A political analysis of the problems of peoples struggling for true freedom.*** In addition, my recount of the efforts of our alumni association in America to assist in rebuilding our old school gingered him up. I could sense that those two issues rekindled a familiar fire and passion in his bold eyes, which peeked at me from behind the hallmark black frame of his glasses. For his part, the erudite professor recalled how Irish missionaries identified and groomed Nigerian youths for leadership at C.K.C. Onitsha. "*I was a beneficiary",* he said, as if a summation or to dispel any doubts.

He then spoke of the enormous damage done to Nigeria by unschooled bureaucrats and politicians who fiddled with the educational system, destroying what we had without improving on it. They were those who coveted the so-called *"self-government" but knew nothing of how it worked*". His greatest concern, however, was that our leaders were pathologically lazy in learning from their predecessors' best practices and mistakes. Indeed, having gone back to peruse his book, he had addressed this exact point thus: "*This tendency not to learn from predecessors – ancient predecessors and contemporary predecessors is the bane of African political and intellectual leaders. Unless removed, we shall never go ahead…"* How prescient?

As our conversation wore on, he spoke of Nigeria's collective lack of national vision and the fact that during his political days some Nigerians had ignored his warnings of the dangers ahead and some had even branded him "*a strange mathematician.*" It was also at that point that he offered what is believed to be his favorite quotation and the basis of everything he did; *"The belief that there is only one truth and that oneself is in possession of it seems to me the deepest root of all that is evil in the world."* Clearly, this quotation related to his search for the sum of truth. I remain unaware, until this day, if it was his original coinage, or a philosophical model he adopted to guide his mathematical and other endeavors.

Chike Obi was an iconoclast and a maverick. Whereas his genius and phenomenon was in the realm of mathematics, he was simply brilliant in all he did, and as such found his niche as an author, mathematician and politician, perhaps in no particular order. He was equally a gifted philosopher as can be attested from his various books. He was cerebral, eloquent and fond of routinely buttressing his points and argument with the translation of an Igbo, Hausa or Yoruba adage, as if to underscore his Nigerianess and belief in our common destiny as a nation. Perhaps, there was no reason for him to do so, having already given Yoruba and Hausa names to his first two offspring – Balogun and Mustafa. As his widow, Belinda Nwanyife Chike Obi had acknowledged several years earlier, "*They were given those names because Prof. Obi believes in one Nigeria.*"

THE SAGE AND POLITICAL ACTIVIST

At heart, Chike Obi was a social democrat. His vision of Nigeria and the political platform that he advocated were in tandem with his overall thinking. Although "*a rebel with a cause*", he was also a prophet seemingly without recognition at home. Besides his scholarly enterprise, Obi was a political activist - with many publications on mathematics and the Nigerian political system.

It is almost paradoxical that Chike Obi was well ahead of his times. What seems difficult to grasp, is how it could have eluded him -- for it could hardly have been folly for a person of such immense knowledge and worldview-- not to have deciphered that in the African political realm where opposition meant enmity, that it would be hard to make any political headway by being so strangely blunt. As Thérèsa Nweke, who wrote the preface to ***Our Struggle***, opined, "*Chike Obi, who even when considered "strange' in his bluntness and uncompromising quest for the truth, must be stood and counted when Nigeria's political history is correctly written."* Those old enough to remember, will readily recall his stormy activities in the post-independent Nigeria Parliament. Once, rather than listen to him filibuster, his parliamentary colleagues had him physically carried out of the chamber. Many more, remember him as the celebrated defendant in 1963 sedition litigation, *DPP vs. Chike Obi.*

Born on April 7, 1921 at the age of 30 he founded the Dynamic Party, which was in the true Arian fashion of dynamic symbolism, inaugurated in Ibadan on his birthday on April 7, 1951. Obi was set to buck history. His party was one of the earliest in colonial Nigeria to present a well thought out manifesto, which in several ways, advocated independence but was reserved about the rush to self-government. Premised on what Chike Obi termed ***Kemalism*** - a middle ground between totalitarianism of the left and right; he modeled ***Kemalism*** on his innate belief that "*no country is perfectly democratic and no country is perfectly dictatorial*".

Chike Obi was not one to dodge issues, even if controversial. He took on the nationalist masters including Dr. Nnamdi Azikiwe and Chief Obafemi Awolowo. Of the former, he challenged his National Convention of Nigerian Citizens (NCNC) party within his core constituency at Onitsha. A believer in principles rather than in cult of personalities, Chike Obi parted ways with Azikiwe (after signing a resignation letter before the assumption of party office). Not one to be cowed, in 1961 he fielded an ally, the late Chief Philip Green Umeadi of Agukwu Nri, as the Dynamic Party candidate for the Onitsha Federal Constituency, against his fellow Onitsha indigene, Barrister Emma Araka (now a retired Justice) of the NCNC. Araka won, but Chike Obi had made his point to Zik and NCNC and had garnered a large following among the Igbo electorate, who readily began to identify with his party's Arian symbol - the Ram.

Chike Obi's challenge of Awolowo's Action Group was ideological and premised on a critical political consideration. He was not against self-government per se, but felt that the rush to independent by the Action Group, did not take into account the needs of the economically, developmentally and politically laggardly parts of Nigeria, especially the North. In addition, he felt that the quest for a nationalist government had been based on factors that excluded national unity as a key variable and had erroneously overlooked partnership with Europe and America as a *sine qua non* for national stability, consolidation and development.

When the nationalist masters and his counterparts did not pay heed to Chike Obi, he published his 1961 political dissent pamphlet, "**The People: Facts You should know.**" The Balewa government promptly arrested and charged him with sedition and public incitement. A critical part of his grouse with the government went thus: "*Down with the enemies of the people, the exploiters of the weak and oppressors of the poor. The days of those who have enriched themselves at the expense of the poor are numbered. The common man in Nigeria can today no longer be fooled by sweet talk at election time, only to be exploited and treated as dirt after the booty of office has been shared among the politicians."*

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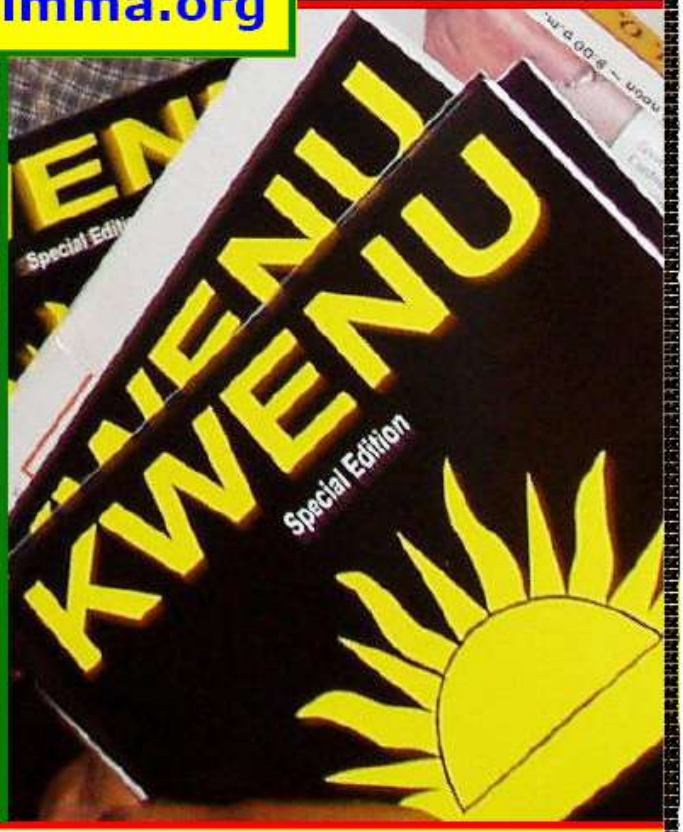

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OSELOKA OBAZE

Obaze is the chief critic and a founding member of the Kwenu.com Book Review Forum, which is dedicated to the promotion of books with Igbo and Afrocentric themes. He is also a supporting Member of the African Writers Endowment (AWE). From 1999 to 2005, he served on the editorial board of *INYEAKA*, the journal of Songhai Charities, Inc., a New Jersey community-based charity founded and run by Nigerians based in New York Tri-state area in the United States, first as its founding Publisher and later as the Editor-at-Large. He is also on the editorial board of *The Amaka Gazette*, the journal of the Christ the King College, Onitsha Alumni Association in America. His collection of poems, "**Regarscent Past:** A Collection of Poems" was second among the top three finalists in the poetry category in the African Writers Endowment Publishing Grant Program for 2004. His novel, "**Happy Eulogy**" will be published soon. He reviews books and arts strictly as a hobby.

Continued from page 51

As time has shown, Chike Obi was only saying then, what has become a refrain in Nigeria's forty-seven years of independence. Chike Obi was equally prescient. Well before Nigeria's independence in a policy paper he wrote for his party, which was published in 1959, he advocated the formation of ECOWAS. He based his reasoning on the fact that, "*the best strategy for any country for reducing the number of her enemies actual and potential, to minimum is for her to organize as many countries around her as possible into a closely knit political union of which she must be a member".* Furthermore, he urged that in its best national interest, "*Nigeria's foreign policy should aim at the ultimate creation (the earlier the better) of a political Union of West African republics".* In addition, as if he foresaw the ills that the oil boom would bring to Nigeria, he cautioned, *"Nigeria will indeed be criminally foolish to pace her trust only on the weapons of diplomacy, propaganda, and economic influence inn the form of financial restrictions.*" In this respect, Chike Obi was clairvoyant.

Chike Obi was not one to pander to sectional interests. When in 1998, he proclaimed to have solved one of mathematics' most complicated problems, Fermat's Last Theorem; he rudely shocked the academic world by announcing that he had done so without the assistance of a computer. His claim and success, threw the mathematical world into a quandary and a tailspin, from which it is still to fully recover; a fact which also speaks more to the internecine politics of international academia when success comes from least or unexpected quarters.

Prof. Chike Obi was a winner of the Ecklund Prize from the International Centre for Theoretical Physics for original work in Differential Equations, and pioneering works in Mathematics in Africa. The Nigerian Government recognized him belatedly, with the high honor of Commander of the Order of the Niger (CON) in 2000. He started his early education at St. Patrick's Primary School, Zaria; then returned home to attend the famous Christ the King College, Onitsha, before going on to Yaba College of Technology (then Yaba Higher College) and eventually to the University of London, as an external student. In 1950, he obtained his Ph.D. from the Pembroke College of the University of Cambridge.

As was the fate of most Onitsha indigenes, Biafra did not fully utilize Chike Obi's talents, given the negative fallout of Major Ifeajuna's sabotage saga during the Nigerian civil war. On leaving partisan and active politics after the Nigerian civil war, he returned to the academia as an Associate Professor of Mathematics at the University of Lagos in 1970, thus continuing his professional calling, which started as a lecturer at the University College, Ibadan (now University of Ibadan) in 1959. He eventually became a full Professor in 1971, Dean of the Faculty of Science in 1980 and Emeritus Professor of the University in 1985.

Chike Obi's passing was in several way's a testimony to our national failings. Forty-seven years after independence, Nigeria continues to fly her leaders abroad for medical treatment; a fact that contrasted very much with the 1950s, when those who were seriously sick were taken to University College Hospital Ibadan. Reportedly, despite the willingness of the Anambra State government to fly him abroad for treatment, he was too weak for such extended travel. He consequently passed away.

Chike Obi is a known legend, who bucked the notion that *"the less that is known of a person, the more there is room for legends."* His pedigree, naturally, coupled with his God-given talents complemented his accomplishments. During our meeting, I recall his remarks to the effect that Nigeria will continue to wobble and waffle politically, insofar as charlatans ruled the country and tried to fool the people. He was unconvinced that these leaders could fool Nigerians indefinitely and underscored this point with a Hausa proverb; *kafin ka gem biri, biri ya gem ka* – before you see the monkey in the bush, the monkey has already seen you.

In his lifetime, Prof. Chike Obi was role model to many in Nigeria, Africa and beyond. Long before the word "whiz kid" entered the Nigerian lexicon, those considered brilliant or those who excelled in mathematics and the sciences were nicknamed "Chike Obi". Hence, it was common to hear kids exhorted to strive to become brilliant and famous like Chike Obi. That was the measure and influence of the man. Such unflagging influence would linger well beyond Chike Obi's lifetime.

Alas, *Oku Na-Agba Ozala* may be gone. Nevertheless, his legend lives on.

***Mr. Oseloka Obaze,** an aspiring writer, is a founding member of the Kwenu.com Book Review Forum, which is dedicated to the promotion of books with Igbo and Afrocentric themes. This tribute is reprinted with the permission of Kwenu.com Book Review Forum., where it was first published, in March 2008. © Copyright 25 March 2008.

TAG POETRY

Death, Be Not Proud: A Tribute to My Grandfather, Michael A. Uzoh [The Last Surviving Member of C.K.C.'s Pioneer Class]

By Nwamaka Agbomma Cypriana Uzoh*

Michael A Uzoh, CKC Class of 1933

Death, be not proud
That my grandfather Michael Agbakaekwu is dead.
Though some may call you mighty and dreadful,
You are not so when you encounter Michael Uzoh.
Death, you think you have him in your grasp
But Agbakekwu has triumphed over you.
You may have his body,
but it is not you who has a bridle over
his legacy, his spirit
his soul or his essence.
These are out of your control because
Papa passed them on to me.
Not just to me, but this inheritance is a treasure that
I share not only with his children and my fellow grandchildren.
But with all those he rubbed off on when they were touched by his life.

Death, be not proud
Papa is determination
Yes, *is* not *was*.
Foremost, he had physical and mental
fortitude in the face of all threats,
The disciplined determination fostered in his boyhood by his parents
And his instructors as a member of
The pioneer class of 1933, Christ the King College, Onitsha.
A fortitude that manifested itself in his young adulthood
As he fought in World War II, foreign man's
And again in his fatherhood
As he kept the family together
In tumultuous Biafra, his compatriot's war.
And yet again, in his old age as you chipped away at his health

Death, wipe the smirk off your face
You sure didn't break my grandfather's spirit when you really tried to ruin his life
Almost 20years ago
When you took away his beautiful wife Gladys.
Yes, times were rough,
But luckily for him,
He still had six boys, and four girls
To prove that his lovely matrimony
Had be more than just a dream

Then you thieved him of two able sons
Onuora and Christian.
Yes, times were rough.
But he proved even more resilient to your bullying
My grandfather didn't crumble like Job,
He maintained his poise, esteem, and faith.
Papa, it was your example that showed us to do the same

Death, be not proud,
Because Papa outsmarted you even in his most tender trials
As he reached the end of his life.
All that you slowly took away:
The memories, the strength, the elasticity of his skin

Papa didn't try to take them back.
Instead, he remained forever innovative--
Inventing his own set of stories and memories
To fill the bothersome void
(Tall tales, actually
Sometimes containing only a gram of truth,
But cushioned with kilograms of smile)

Death, how easily you forget
How Papa was constantly one step ahead of you.
Pretending he was strong enough,
to make the trek back and forth to church,
Back and forth...to morning Mass
Back and forth ...to church.
You may have bent his back,
But he still trudged on, no matter how stooped his posture
And how shaky his cane.
Miracles do exist, as does irony
Because he arrived on time, Every time
To open his hymnal book before those with straight backs
Even made it through the door.

You thought he would become irritable as the sun beat upon
His head speckled, bald and leathery
But no, Papa had poise, pragmatism, and swagger
In true Papa fashion,
No matter how slowly, he walked,
He remained one step ahead of you, Death
And brought a hat when he went out, Always.

Death, don't flatter yourself
Thinking you are the victor just because
My grandfather's physiological self is finally in your arms.
His sweetest and ripest fruits are his brilliance and his values
But unfortunately for you, Death
It appears that those too have escaped you.
Veritas, Filios, Pietas, Educare, Modestia
Honesty, Familial love, Piety, Education and Modesty,
To name a few
Unfortunately, you cannot even get a pinch of his brilliance
Because it is mine now,
In my blood, where it sparkles like glitter
And his values, are treasures
Those reside deep in my bones
It is indeed a most lofty inheritance that I share in.

Dear Death,
Unfortunately for you,
It looks like your futile grasp over
Papa has proved too weak and too late.
So Death, dare to correct me,
Though I doubt you will.
Nwamaka Uzoh
By virtue of his legacy,
My grandfather has obtained immortality.
In accordance with my logic...
In the event of the passing of my Grandfather Michael Agbakaekwu Uzoh,
Death, I pronounce you dead.
I really do.

*__Nwamaka Agbomma Cypriana Uzoh,__ *18, is a 2nd year undergraduate at Harvard University. Daughter of Cyprian Emeka Uzoh '71, Niece of Ubaka Uzoh '73 and Okechukwu "Bengoal" Uzoh '75*

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The C.K.C. Onitsha AAA wishes to thank all its members, supporters, patrons and advertisers for supporting our efforts. What we have each become today is a testimony to the work ethics, educational, social and religious grounding that we received at C.K.C. May the flame never burn out. May the blue and white flag continue to fly high and may the tradition and high ideals we have been imbued with be passed from one generation to the other.

--- TAG Editorial Team

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CKC-AAA 2008 Fundraising Banquet
7:00 p.m.
Saturday 19 July 2008

Program

- **Introduction of the Master of Ceremony**
- **Opening Prayers CKC-AAA Chaplain, Rev. Fr. Ugo Arinze**
- **C.K.C School Song "Three Cheers" - Led By Mr. Larry Ozoh**
- **Host Chapter Welcome – Mr. Patty Ejike, President**
  Georgia Chapter/Atlanta 2008 LOC Chair
- **Remarks By Prof. NT Izuchi, President, C.K.C. Onitsha AAA**
- **DINNER (with light music)**
- **Fundraising Appeal/Donations/Video Presentation of CKC**
- **Convention Keynote Address By : Ms. Obiageli Ezekwesili**
  Vice-President, (Africa)
  World Bank Group.
- **Diamond Jubilee Keynote Address By : H.E. Gov. Peter Obi**
  Executive Governor of
  Anambra State
- **Fundraising Appeal**
- **CKC-AAA Appreciation Awards - Prof. NT Izuchi**
- **CKC-AAA 2008 Exceptional Service Award - Prof. NT Izuchi**
- **Swearing In of New CKC-AAA Executives (2008-2010)**
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