**Biography**

My mother was born over sixty years ago, in a Kindred called Oderie in Ukhun –Ekpoma. Esan –West Local Government Area in Edo -state.

She was from the renowned Okojie family also in Ukhun .She sits at the first daughter position amongst all other siblings in the polygamous family.

She attended Ukhun Primary School where She had only her primary education. You would never know this because she always comports herself with grace and honour. Of course, she learnt as time went by. But today, as she always says:" *Her children will go to the school she didn’t attend*". She has produced Master degree holders and more who held prestigious ranks in their various professions amongst her six children. She is also blessed with Son-in laws, Daughter in-laws and grand –children who are professionals in their various fields making impacts all round Nigeria.

In 1974/75, she was set to be married. She had to meet her betrothed, late. Joseph Isesele Eguakhide shortly after her Primary education. This was the kind of norm then in the early years of Nigeria. Both families meet and fulfil the marital rites. She started her early family life in Ajegunle , Lagos state where she had her first child a son. Her husband later got a fantastic job in Port-Harcourt as a Chief-Accountant with ACE TOYS & PlASTIC, PH. This was like a major breakthrough for them. Her marriage and birth of the first child brought favour to her late husband and they both moved to Port-Harcourt where she birthed the rest children.

My mum lived in most areas in Port-Harcourt where she became a business owner. She started with shops in Ordu street in Ogunabali and in Fimie- Abuloma road. She also had a restaurant in the popular Rainbow town in Port-Harcourt back then. She also did larger trades in Etche and some villages in Imo-state. She was a skilful woman too; she knew how to bake and cater for people during occasions.

She was an industrious woman and her businesses thrived and were successful. These where part of what she did to support the education of her six children after the demise of her late husband in 2011. She was friendly, down to earth and a humble personality. She never had issues with people in the course of her life-time and in business, rather people meet her for counselling and encouragements. She was also a renowned member of the Esan Daughters Union (Port-Harcourt Chapter). This was like her social union.

Despite her busy schedule, she also had time for her home and served God. She was at the fore front of her children's education. She made sure we took our studies seriously and did home tutoring too. She disciplined us by way of speaking. She always refers to the consequence of every negative behaviour. Perhaps, that was part of the Christian upbringing which we are products of today.

Her Christain life was a great one, she severed in the Ushering department in Foundation Faith Church- Fimie branch in Port-Harcourt, where she was ordained as an Elder at the headquarters church by (the bishops name and year).She was also a member of Women of Grace fellowship in Just Jesus Assembly in Port-Harcourt.

As the years went by, when her strength could no longer carry her, she went to her children's houses to spend time with her grand –children, she was a praying mother and we loved to hear her past life stories, Esan proverbs which she usually tells us their meanings. She also lived by the scriptures daily until her dying day.

''Jesus baby!'' as we fondly call you, you will never be forgotten, your loving nature left an indelible mark in our lives. Here is not enough to pour out our hearts on how much you touched our lives. We longed to have heard your last words....... but you just smiled and transited into glory because you don’t deserve pain neither did you want us to go through further pain. Such a loving and great mother....

May God grant your soul eternal rest in Jesus name. Amen.