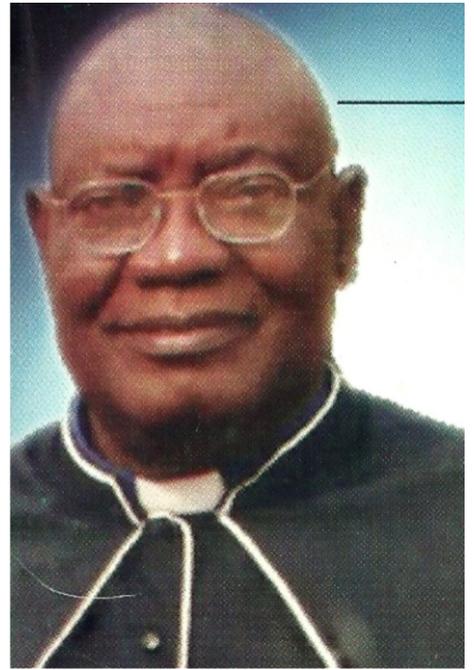


BHU Buries Former Visitor



Late Rev. Prof. C. Olowola: BHU Pioneer Visitor

The town of Ogori in Kogi State recently played host to high profile ECWA personalities, sons and daughters, serving and retired ECWA Pastors from across the country who defied long distances in exhibition of honour to a former Provost, Director and President of Evangelical Church Winning All, ECWA, Rev. Prof. Cornelius Abiodun Olowola who died in March this year at the age of 77 years.

Eldest son of the deceased, Ayodele John Olowola in an emotional laden tribute on behalf of his siblings, praised the

disciplinary and sacrificial virtues of the deceased to make his children, both biological, adopted and those of his relatives' better persons in life. As a leader and pastor, he said the late Olowola, dedicated his time to ensure standards that glorify God in all the places he served.

Dele particularly, gave kudos to his mother, for the wonderful partnership she had with her deceased husband (our father) in making their children know the basic truth of life.

In a sermon at the funeral service held at ECWA Church Aiyetoro, Kogi State, CAN

National Secretary and former ECWA General Secretary, Rev. Dr. Musa Asake described the deceased as "a practical Christian and a lover of God and humanity".

The three day funeral programme which began in Lokoja with a commendation service, was rounded up with a Christian wake-keep and thanksgiving service after the internment.

Speaking on the theme "Integrity: The Mark of Good Leadership", Asake declared that if



Mrs. Olowola (Middle) with her children on both sides



ECWA Executives (Serving and past) at the funeral service

there is one place where integrity ought to be found in our 'fractured society', it is in the local Church because Christians have been reconciled to God and united to one another hence people have the right to see integrity in the Church.

The cleric who drew scripture lessons from Psalms 12:1-2, stated that one among the many challenges facing the Church unfortunately is the integrity crisis.

Asake who defined integrity as "wholeness" stated that a person with integrity is not divided or merely pretending. He said such a person is "whole" and that things will work together harmoniously, for such a one.

He added that people with integrity have nothing to hide and nothing to fear.

Asake said, due to lack of integrity in the Church, members are questioning why should anyone listen to the Church?

He said the problem is not that the public have suddenly found sinners in the Church but that the public have known about sin in the Church for a long time.

"Evangelical Christians today are not like a group of school children, standing around blushing because we were caught breaking the rules. We are more like a defeated army, naked before

our enemies, and unable to fight back because they have made a frightening discovery: the Church is lacking integrity".

The CAN scribe pointed out that for many years now, the Church has been telling the world to admit its sins, repent and believe the gospel. But in the 21st century, the world is telling the Christians to face up to their sins, to repent and start being the true Church of the gospel that is being preached. He adds that: "As Christians we boast that we are not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, but perhaps the gospel of Christ is ashamed of us. For some reasons brothers and sisters, our ministry doesn't match our message. Something is wrong with the Church's integrity."

He said, the Church has grown accustomed to hearing people question the message of the gospel, because that message is foolishness to the lost adding that nowadays, the situation is reversed as the messenger is suspect hence both the ministry and the message of the Church have lost credibility before a watching world and the world seems to be enjoying the spectacle.

He said that the integrity crisis involves more than a few people who were accused of moral and financial improprieties. He said it involves the whole Church adding

that if the Church must meet the challenge of the century, it will need leaders with discernment, men of proven and tested character, leaders who know that the shame of one ministry does not demand the condemnation of all ministries.

Rev. Dr. Asake who paid glowing tribute to the deceased said "Professor Olowola indeed was a servant leader. "True leaders," he notes, act with integrity and expect their followers to do same.

Olowola was known throughout his reign as a man of integrity who never compromised his moral standing and position in society.

The Late Rev. Prof. Cornelius Olowola until his death, served as church pastor and provost of ECWA Theological Seminary, Igbaja where he taught for several years. He was later appointed ECWA Director of Education, a position he held before his election as ECWA President in the year 2000.

Under his reign as ECWA President between the years 2000 – 2006, Rev. Olowola worked tirelessly for the realization of Bingham University and actually took delivery of the University's operational license from the National Universities Commission (NUC) on January 5th, 2005.

Upon the formal take off of Bingham University, Rev. Olowola served as its pioneer Visitor before his retirement in May, 2006.

Rev. Prof. Olowola passed on to glory after a protracted illness on March, 2013 at the age of 76.

The entire Bingham University community mourns with the Olowolas, our own David Olowola (staff of Bingham University, Karu) on the demise of their Patriarch and pray for devine comfort for the entire family.