

A portrait of a young woman with long, dark, braided hair, looking slightly to the right. The background is a soft, out-of-focus light color.

Celebration *of Life*

Hellen K. Openda Magutu

05/22/1974 – 04/29/2025



Order of Service

Prelude: Arrival | Pianist/Music | Dr. Eldred Marshall

Procession: Family & Clergy | Reading | – Pr. Mark Tshuma

Congregation Hymn: When the Roll Is Called Up Yonder- #216

Invocation : Pr. Mark Tshuma

Welcome | Introduction service: Eld. David Onsoti

Encouragement Scriptures

Psalm 23: 1-2 Mary Maturi

Psalm 23: 3-4 Rodney Ogenche

Psalm 23: 4-6 Tiffany Maturi

John 14: 1-3 Sakawa Baylor

Song of Comfort: The Lord's My Shepherd (Psalm 23)

Family Introduction : Sarah Baylor | Lewis Motieri

Song of Comfort: God So Loved the World (John 3:16).

Remarks | Tributes

Friends/Workmates: Evans Moronge, Dawn Winder, Maria Sindatry

Church Family: Eld Jane Ototo

Community: Mzee Abai, Grace Nyandika, Pr. Absolom Birai

Song of Comfort: Nearer my God to thee - # 473

Family Tributes

Openda: Victor O. Openda, Susan Muriithi, Samwel M. Openda

Magutu: Ruth Nyachwaya, Evans Monene

Chisemo: Henry Maturi

Spouse & Children: Lauren, Alexander, Elijah Nyakeriga

Obituary: | Eulogy : Lauren Magutu supported by cousins

Song of Comfort: No More Night by Leah Opollo-Vaughn

Message of Hope: Pr. Eric Mokua

Family Dedication: Led by Pr. Eric Mokua

Vote of Thanks: Sir. Vincent Tong'i | Eld. Charles Ogoti (Committee)

Song of Comfort - Congregational : When we all get to heaven - #633

Benediction: Pr. Mark Tshuma

Recessional /Viewing: Bedford Memorial Funeral Home Directors

Recessiona/Viewing Music led Dr. Eldred Marshall

1.30pm Transfer to New Hope Cemetery

Graveside – Order of Service

02:00 – 03:30 Arrival: Hymns | Songs

Prayer: Pr. Mark Tshuma

Farewell Message/Burial Rights: Pr. Mark Tshuma

Prayer: Pr. Eric Mokua

Interment: Hymns | Songs

Laying of Flowers

Final Prayer: Pr. Mark Tshuma

Transition Repast



Eulogy

OF HELLEN K. OPENDA MAGUTU

BIRTH

The late Hellen Kwamboka Openda Magutu was born on 5/22/1974 in Kisii . She was the 7th born to Samuel and Janet Openda.

CHURCH

She was introduced to church at an early age attending salvation army in Kisii and later joined Dallas Newlife Seventh day Adventist church in Richardson.

EARLY EDUCATION

She went to Sakawa Primary School and later joined Kereri Girls High school. Then later came the US and went to Richland college in Dallas.

JOBS

The late Hellen worked at Presbyterian Village North for over 20 years and then Highland Springs where she was working at the time of her demise.

FAMILY

The late Hellen Kwamboka Openda is married to Elijah Magutu Nyakeriga. Hellen met with Elijah in 2004 and were Blessed with 2 children, Lauren Magutu 18 yrs 11 months & Alex Magutu 10yrs 8 months.

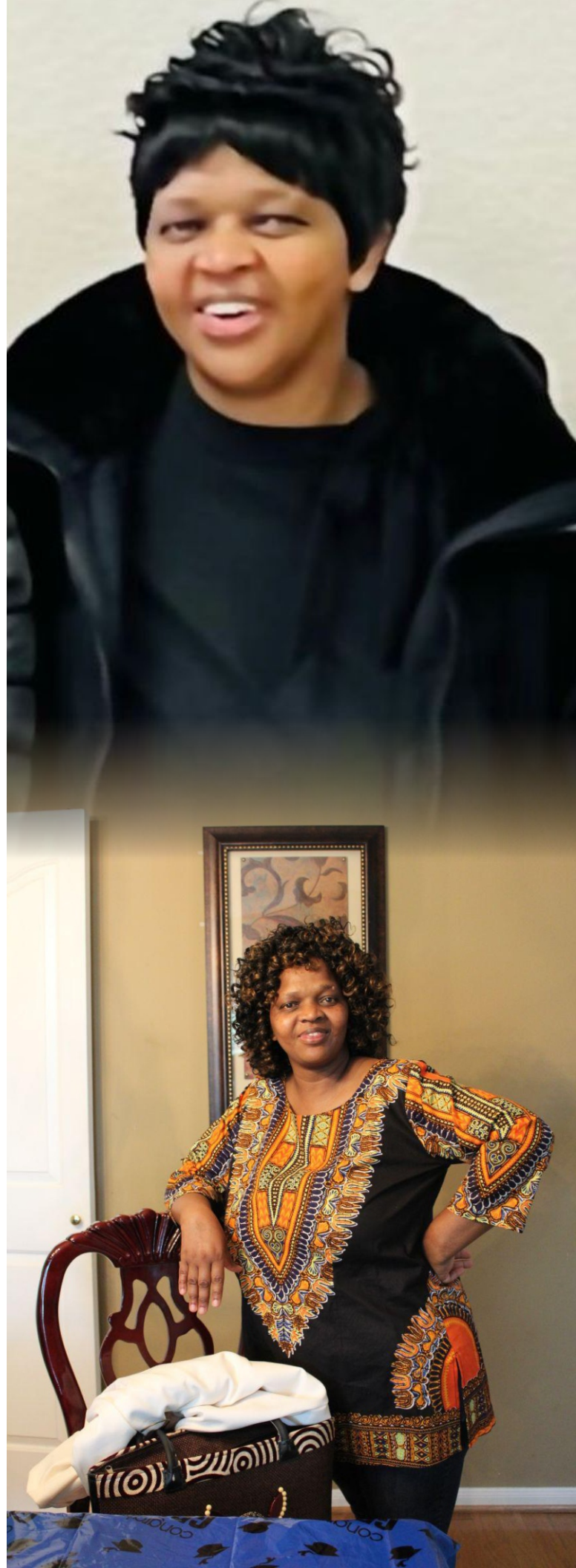
ILLNESS & HOSPITALIZATION:

The late Hellen Kwamboka Openda was taken ill and admitted to Baylor Scott & White Heart Hospital in Plano and was diagnosed with AL cardiac amyloidosis disease. She received specialized treatment and medical care till her demise on 04/29/25. She faced her illness and treatment with courage and grace surrounded by the love of family and friends.

CONCLUSION

Hellen leaves behind a great legacy of Kindness Humbleness, Caring Compassionate and loving and trustworthy person.

*Fare thee well and sit
with the Angels.*



Tributes



Aunt Grace

God saw you getting tired
and a cure was not there for you.
So our Lord put his arms around you and
He said " come to me with me"
With hurtful eyes as we watch you.
Our Hearts broke to prove that God takes
his best.
A cherished Memories never fade even
though a loved one is gone, those we love
can never be more then a thought apart
Our memory will live in our Hearts
You touched so many lives with your
Kindness, Caring, Loving and Peaceful
Nature.
Now you have joined Mommy Janet,
Grandpa Openda, Grandma Agnes,
uncles Joseph, Daniel, Gorge, zablon,
Auntie Lucy, Cousin Tonny and Cyppey
You will be missed beyond measure
Rest in peace Hellen

#Judy

My tribute to our late sister Kwamboka. My late sister kwamboka was born free and lived a free life. She was a great lovely soul. She never had any issues with anyone. Her smile created warmth to the hearts of many and her soberness was unmatched. Her cool demeanor endeared her to all family members and the world at large. Kwamboka was a great mother and a committed home builder. Having lived free, she has left us forever free. May her loving spirit remain forever inscribed in our broken hearts. May the loving kindness of our dear lord strengthen her husband and children to overcome this great loss.
R.I.P my lovely sister Hellen Kwamboka (SMART). AMEN.

JUDY & FAMILY.

Dad

My dear daughter Kwamboka (Smart)
You had a heart full of kindness and compassion. You cared deeply for others. Your kindness was a gift, and it lives on in the hearts of all who were blessed to know you. Though my daughter is no longer physically here, her spirit lives on in our hearts. Honoring her memory is a way to keep her close, to celebrate the life she lived, and carry forward her legacy of love, kindness, and strength.
It broke my heart to loose you, apart of me went with you the day God took you home. In life I loved you dearly, in death I love you still, in my heart you hold a place no one could ever fill. You will remain in my heart forever.
Rest in perfect peace omwana one.

From your loving father

Husband

We gather here today to Mourn, pay our last respect to my dear wife Hellen Kwamboka Openda and to celebrate her life. My dear wife was a wonderful wife, she would call to check on me several times and did not tire even when I did not return some of her calls. She often waited for me to come home before she sleeps and was concerned of my safety when I was out late, She was a great Mother and did all she could to ensure that the are taken care off and got all they needed.
My dear wife was a genuine person, She was kind and compassionate. One afternoon as we drove home from church, we saw a young man sitting by the side of the road, She asked if we could stop and find out if he was OK, I said No, She questioned what kind of Christian I was not to care for some one who was obviously down and in need. I turned around picked up the young man we took him home and offered him shelter.
My dear wife was a friendly and truthful person. She would never shade the truth and Always followed the right procedures. We shared many good moments and worked through our struggles together. She was also a courageous woman, she remained calm and brave when she was taken ill and diagnosed with a serious illness. I am Heartbroken that she is no More, I will miss her, Alex will miss her, Lauren will miss her, but I know she is resting in Peace.



Fare thee well and sore with the angles till we meet again.

Isabel

To the kind, blessed, beautiful soul gone too soon. Your warm smile and passionate spirit much like mum was loved by everyone that was fortunate enough to meet you. Though with heavy hearts, we find solace in knowing you are at peace. May we find comfort in the remembrance of your wonderful existence and may your legacy of love and unity continue to inspire us.

We love and miss you my dear sister. Always and forever.

Rest with the Angels.

Tributes

Aunt Susie

Greetings in the name of Our Lord Jesus,
My name is Susan Muriithi, Kwamboka's Aunty. Her Mom is my sister, she is more than a niece. I know her husband Elijah since they got married till death parted them. He is a good man. I babysat the grandkids now they're big. I have the image with me, I will see her image in them, I thank GOD

KWAMBOKA I ♥ YOU R.I.P.

Lucy

It has been a long and difficult journey since you first became unwell, but now you have ascended to your heavenly home. My dear sister Hellen was so kind, so loving, and deeply compassionate. You were truly a gift to everyone who knew you.

You loved unconditionally and forgave so easily, always choosing peace and understanding. You shared whatever you had, no matter how little, and lived in harmony with those around you. You were the heart of your home, a devoted mother who gave everything for her 2 children, always pushing forward with quiet strength and unwavering faith.

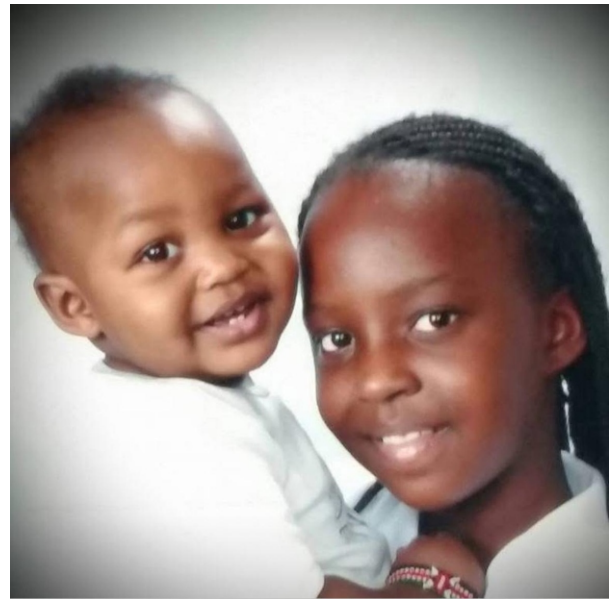
You constantly checked in on me, even in your own struggles, always thinking of others before yourself. The road was not easy, but you walked it with grace and courage. Every tear, every effort, every act of love, God has seen them all.

As Psalm 56:8 (NLT) reminds us: "You keep track of all my sorrows. You have collected all my tears in your bottle. You have recorded each one in your book."

Your memory lives on in our hearts, and the love you gave continues to shine through those you left behind. Your children are a beautiful reflection of you. In their bright smiles and gentle hearts, we see your spirit shining on. I miss you deeply, and I will carry out what I had purposed in my heart for you, all for the glory of God.

Rest peacefully, my beautiful sister. I love you always.

- Lucy and Family



Christine

There are no words to describe the loss of my dear sister Kwamboka. From the very beginning, her heart was always full of love. In every season of life, she embodied love: as a devoted wife, a nurturing mother of two, and a friend to many.

She gave freely, without expecting anything in return. She lived her life with grace, with kindness, and with a quiet strength that made everything feel okay, even when it wasn't. She was the kind of person who lit up a room with her smile, gentle words, and unwavering presence.

You were so proud of your two children, Lauren and Alex. The love you poured into them continues to grow, even now.

I will forever hold onto the light you left behind, in your children's smiles, in our memories, in the love that still surrounds us because of you.

Thank you Kwamboka, for being exactly who you were. I will miss you every day. Until we meet again, my dear sister. Rest in Peace.

***Christine and family**



Charles

As your brother, it's hard to put into words the pain of losing you. You were not just my sister you were my friend, my support, and a light in our family. Even though you were far away in the States, your presence was always felt. Your voice, your laughter, your messages they all carried love and joy.

Rest peacefully, my dear sister. Smarty



Lauren

We are gathered here today not just to mourn the loss of my mom, but to celebrate the extraordinary life of a woman whose love, strength, and resilience shaped the lives of everyone who was blessed to know her.

My mom was, above all, a loving wife to my Dad, a mother, provider and protector. She wore many hats, bore every weight, and gave every ounce of herself to raise us, Alex and I with grace, dignity, and fierce determination. She didn't just "do it all"—she made it look like love in motion. Through every challenge life threw her way, she stood tall with a quiet strength that spoke louder than words ever could.

Her sacrifices weren't always seen, but they were deeply felt. She stayed up late so we could sleep peacefully. She went without so we could have.

Mom taught us that real love isn't grand gestures—it's staying with it and never letting go when the world tells you to give up. She held our family together not just with hands, but with spirit. And that spirit doesn't leave us now. It lives on in the stories we tell. In the meals we'll cook with her recipes. In the quiet moments we'll still feel her presence.

She was the type of person who gave more than she ever took, and who found joy in making others feel safe, heard, and loved. And though we ache with her absence, we find comfort in knowing that her legacy is stamped into each life she touched.

Mom, thank you for everything. For your warmth, your wisdom, your unwavering love. Your journey here may have ended, but your light shines on in every heart you helped heal and every soul you inspired.

We love you. We will miss you dearly. And we will carry your love forward—always.

Rest peacefully, beautiful soul.



Lillian

It's with deep sadness to pay tribute to our dear sister Kwamboka. As we all knew she was a kind and graceful soul whose presence was gentle and loving.

Although she may no longer be with us in body. Her spirit will forever live in our hearts and the lives she touched. Our sister will be deeply missed not just for all that she did but also for who she was: Always kind, generous and loving.

Although we are mourning her loss, We are also filled with gratitude for the gift of her life.

Rest in peace, dear sister.

With love and remembrance

The Ogenche family.





Wanjiru

Auntie Hellen was one of the kindest & most genuine people you could ever meet. She treated everyone with respect and I am convinced she did not have a mean bone in her body. With the patience of a Saint, she had a hand in raising all of us- this includes myself, my brothers, my cousins, even my little ones. She spent her entire life caring for others, even by profession. Right now I'm finding comfort in knowing that she will ultimately be taken care of and can now rest peacefully with grandma. Her wings were ready, but our hearts were not.

- Niece Wanjiru



Tributes

Marjo

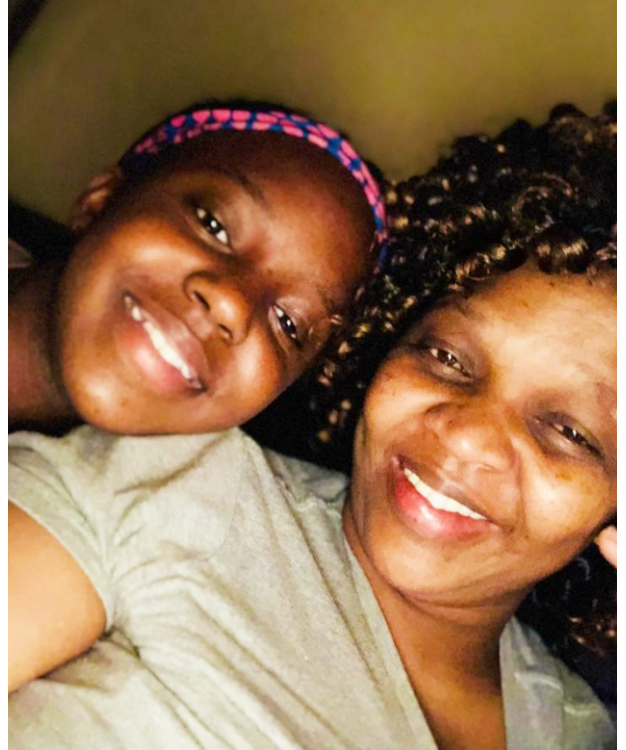
Kwamboka, you were such a beautiful soul. It's hard to put into words the profound impact you had on us, but if I had to choose, love, and kindness would be at the top of the list. You truly embodied a loving spirit and genuinely cared for those around you. You lived your faith every single day, and your reverence for God was evident in every action and every word. You'd encourage us to pray and remind us to never forget that God is always there. Your legacy of kindness, love, and unwavering faith will continue to inspire us. As we mourn your passing, may we also celebrate the extraordinary life you lived, a life dedicated to God, and to loving those around you.

May your beautiful soul rest in eternal peace dear cousin.

Tom & Julia

Our dear sister Kwamboka, our lifetime together has ended too soon but we find solace in knowing you are at peace and in a better place. You've left a gap no one will ever fill. A great soul never dies, it brings us together again and again. Rest well sister, until we meet again.

Brother Tom & Julia



Laban

Hellen was a piece of our heart that we can never replace. We are heartbroken that we will never again know the joy of laughing with our beautiful sister. The bond we shared, the memories we made will forever stay and never fade. Your legacy lives. Rest in peace our dear sister Hellen.

Laban and family

Baraka

I appreciate you for all that you did. God made a fantastic angel and you fit his definition and exhibited those characteristics more than the word itself. Thanks for being awesome, love you Auntie Hellen!

- Nephew Baraka

Ondieki

"Today, we gather to celebrate the life of my beautiful beloved sister, Hellen K. "Smarti" Openda. Though she's no longer with us, her memory will live on in our hearts. I'm grateful for the time we shared, her love, laughter, kindness and the impact she had on my life. She'll be deeply missed, but her legacy will continue to inspire us. Rest in peace, dear sister. You will always be loved and remembered till we meet again"

**Love and cherished.
Kid bro Victor.**

Victor, Daniel & Douglas

To our cousin Hellen, We will miss you dearly. Life is such a gift and yours has inspired us to live it to the fullest. Your joy and laughter will forever ring in our hearts. We will continue to carry that torch of happiness with us each day. Until we meet again.

**We love you,
Victor, Daniel, and Douglas**

Carlton

My quote: Thank you for helping raise all of us,

**Rest in Peace.
Nephew Carlton.**

Tributes

Kemet

You always had a smile on your face and always welcoming with your love. You raised me and my siblings like one of your own. I know you are resting peacefully now. Thank you for your grace and presence - you will be in our hearts forever.

- Nephew Kemet

Sarah

My Sister Hellen is an Angel; we are not only gathered here to say goodbye but to celebrate a life that was cut short after a short illness that has left a deep hole which only God can heal.

My sister Kwamboka was a personification of peace not only at home but to everyone who crossed paths with her. Above all she was a loving wife and a wonderful mother. She gave her all to them. She not only mothered her children but all her nieces and nephews were fond of Auntie Hellen.

Through every challenge life threw her way, she rose above with quiet strength that spoke louder than words ever could. Hellen taught us that real love is showing up and being consistent. Her beauty and strength now live through her children.

Hellen found Joy in making others feel safe, cared for and loved. We are heartbroken that she's physically not with us. We find comfort in knowing that her legacy is etched into each life she touched.

Baby sis Thank you for everything

We Love you so much Lala salama "SMART K"

- Sarah & Leon Baylor Family.



Shiko

To my dear cousin Kwamboka, who left us too soon. Kwamboka was one of the kindest souls I've ever known, very loving and caring. Later in our lives, we got busy with work, school, kids.. aka LIFE.. but as much as our busy days didn't give us an opportunity to see each other much, anytime we got together was always joyous moments of catching up. Kwamboka was always encouraging whenever I complain about life, with her take it easy attitude.

I treasure our memories as kids when we would spend numerous holidays together in Sotik. It was such fun times filled with laughter and sharing stories till dawn. Kwamboka, you were a very gentle soul and I sure will miss you: I will treasure our memories forever. Good bye and rest well my dear cousin.

From your cousin Shiko.

Rodney

"Auntie Hellen, Thank you for always being an amazing aunt to me I will truly miss you and all the things that you have done that played a significant role in my life to be where I am currently. Love you so much."

Nephew Rodney.

Sakawa

Auntie H.E.L.L.E.N.

(H)eavenly gates an angel has come your way. (E)very day, is a blessing and opportunity. (L)oss is like a destructive storm, but your (L)ove keeps us anchored to the dock of peace. (E)ternally we are thankful for your grace and mercy. (N)ever let us forget to continue to love, hold and keep one another.

Love you Aunt Hellen

- Nephew Sakawa



Songs of Celebration

NEARER MY GOD, TO THEE

Nearer, my God, to thee, nearer to thee!
E'en though it be a cross that raiseth me,
still all my song shall be,
nearer, my God, to thee;
nearer, my God, to thee, nearer to thee!

Though like the wanderer, the sun gone down,
darkness be over me, my rest a stone;
yet in my dreams I'd be

There let the way appear, steps unto heaven;
all that thou sendest me, in mercy given;
angels to beckon me

Then, with my waking thoughts bright with thy praise,
out of my stony griefs Bethel I'll raise;
so by my woes to be

Or if, on joyful wing cleaving the sky,
sun, moon, and stars forgot, upward I fly,
still all my song shall be,

GOD BE WITH YOU

God be with you till we meet again;
By His counsels guide, uphold you,
With His sheep securely fold you;
God be with you till we meet again.

CHORUS:

Till we meet, till we meet,
Till we meet at Jesus' feet,
Till we meet, till we meet,
God be with you till we meet again.

God be with you till we meet again;
'Neath His wings protecting hide you,
Daily manna still provide you;
God be with you till we meet again.

God be with you till we meet again;
When life's perils thick confound you,
Put His arms unfailing round you;
God be with you till we meet again.

God be with you till we meet again;
Keep love's banner floating o'er you,
Smite death's threatening wave before you;
God be with you till we meet again.

WHEN THE ROLL IS CALLED

UP YONDER

When the trumpet of the Lord shall sound,
and time shall be no more,
And the morning breaks, eternal, bright and fair;
When the saved of earth shall gather
over on the other shore,
And the roll is called up yonder, I'll be there.

Refrain

When the roll is called up yonder,
When the roll is called up yonder,
When the roll is called up yonder,
When the roll is called up yonder, I'll be there.

On that bright and cloudless morning,
when the dead in Christ shall rise,
And the glory of His resurrection share;
When His chosen ones shall gather
to their home beyond the skies,
And the roll is called up yonder, I'll be there.

Let us labor for the Master
from the dawn till setting sun,
Let us talk of all His wondrous love and care,
Then, when all of life is over,
and our work on earth is done,
And the roll is called up yonder I'll be there.

IT IS WELL WITH MY SOUL

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

Refrain

It is well with my soul,
it is well, it is well with my soul.

My sin—oh, the joy of this glorious thought—
My sin, not in part but the whole,
is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more,
praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!

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

Songs of Celebration

TITORI NA OBOMENYO

(We've No Abiding City Here)

Titori na obomenyo; Omochie tori aiga:
Toremigw' as' eng'an' eye,
Togany' omochie ogocha,
Togany' omochie ogocha.

Titori na obomenyo; Torigi' omochie orache:
Zayoni nka y' Omonene'
Okomeka, miaka yonsi,
Okomeka, miaka yonsi.

Obomenyo bw' omorembe; 'Batorigw' batimoke;
Onye nabwate chimbaba
Nkoiruruka narenge,
Ing'irruke ntimoke.

Omoy' one kira igo! Omonene omanyire;
Konda' nkor' obuya bwaye,
Ner' ogonchorer' engaki,
Ey' ogotimoka kwane.

WHEN WE ALL GET TO HEAVEN

Sing the wondrous love of Jesus;
Sing his mercy and his grace.
In the mansions bright and blessed
He'll prepare for us a place.

Refrain

*When we all get to heaven,
What a day of rejoicing that will be!
When we all see Jesus,
We'll sing and shout the victory!*

While we walk the pilgrim pathway,
Clouds will overspread the sky;
But when traveling days are over,
Not a shadow, not a sigh.

Let us then be true and faithful,
Trusting, serving every day;
Just one glimpse of him in glory
Will the toils of life repay.

Onward to the prize before us!
Soon his beauty we'll behold;
Soon the pearly gates will open;
We shall tread the streets of gold.

OB`ANGÈ, OB`ANGÈ

`Bogima obuya mbweng`e buna rito rokogwa
Bun` ebigar` ebiom` obe ang`e,
Matuko nkoer` are nababe batugutwe;
Mabera nkoer` ar` obe ang`e.

Chorus

*Ob` ang`e, ob` ang`e
Yeso gakorangeria obe ang`e
Goteban` as` ebibe gesieri nagesiekwe
Birero biao mbosa ob` ang`e.*

Bisicha biya bisira basae bagota,
Tori n`engaki entamb` ob` ang`e;
Nyasae okorangeirie tiga ogotayaya,
Karwe as` obosiru ob` ang`e.

Bwang` engaki neete, emechando echiche,
Tama goch` ase Yes` ob` ang`e;
Kab` aye omong`aini tosiekerwa isiko,
Erio oche gosir` ob` ang`e.

Aye omonyabibe Igw` eriogi ria Yeso,
Aba Igoro bagok, ob` ang`e;
Tama korw` omosunte Bweorokie `se Yeso,
`Chak` orogendo bon` ob` ang`e.

KO RIRANDI RIKOBUGIGW`ASÒMOERIO

Ko rirandi rikobugigw` as `omoerio, Natorore
omobas` obarire;
N` abatorigwe korw`ense baumeran`aria
ng`umbu, Gakorangeri` amarieta nimbeo.

[Chorus]

*Gakorangeri`amarieta, Gakorangeri` amarieta,
Gakorangeri` amarieta, Gakorangeri` amarieta
nimbeo.*

Rituk`erio n`omogok` abachenu bakoboka,
Nabakwete kare nababoke pi;
Abachore nabagende na Nyasae igoro,
Gakorangeri` amarieta nimbeo.

Natokore emeremo ya Nyasae eere,
Tokwan`obwachani_obo bw`ogokumia; Eri`
emerem` ekoera natogende Igoro, Gakorangeri`
amarieta nimbeo



Appreciation

We, the family of

Hellen K. Openda Magutu

wish to express our sincere and heartfelt gratitude to all our friends and relatives for the overwhelming support you have given us. Thank you for your expressions of sympathy, love and kindness shown to us during this difficult time. It gives us great comfort and will be forever remembered. May God bless you all.

Sincerely

Openda & Magutu Families