

Tribute to the Late Johannes Cecil Mabinu Fowler (5283)

By Mr Walton Shooter



Late Mr Johannes Cecil Mabinu Fowler

Johannes Cecil Mabinu Fowler (Jo, Uncle Jo, Your Highness to some or to his college peers Lord Expee), was born on the 26th May 1944 in Freetown, Sierra Leone and died on the 30th August 2020 in the United Kingdom.

He is survived by three children - Johannes, Jacqueline, and Ernest and six grandchildren, his first wife Ernestine, brothers – Dandison and Lloyd and sister Loydette. His second wife Fatima predeceased him. His passing came as a shock to me as about ten days previously we had an arranged meeting and went into an office together in Croydon. Little did I know that that was the last time I was going to see and talk to him.

Johannes grew up in the East End of Freetown. He attended the Ebenezer Primary School and in 1956 started his secondary education at the Sierra Leone Grammar School, which at that time was called the CMS Grammar School and was situated at Fourah Bay Road. His school registration number is **5283**.

At the Grammar School, the students are divided into groups called Houses and named in Latin after the first five numbers – Primus, Secundus, Tertius, Quartus and Quintus – He was in Secundus House. I of course, was in the best House, Quartus. He took part mainly in literary events such as debating and was a member of the Literary and Debating Society.

After his secondary schooling he proceeded to study Economics at Fourah Bay College, University of Sierra Leone. After College he worked at, among other offices, the Income Tax Department before coming to the UK in 1979 where he studied law.

His Christian upbringing kept him close to church activities and was a chorister at The St George's Cathedral in Freetown Sierra Leone with his brothers Lloyd and Dandison for many years. Earlier this year I made a copy of a group photograph of the choir with him in it at a young age when the Late Mr Victor George was organist. Together with close friends such as J. D. Okrafo-Smart, attending Youth Fellowship meetings was one of their weekly highlights. Here in the UK he was a regularly active worker at St Michaels and All Angels in Croydon, where he was a Server until his passing.

In 1984 there was a band of comrade true (Regentonians) who came together to set up The Sierra Leone Grammar School Old Boys Association UK. They were really a band of five: Israel Parper, Emile Carr and now deceased; Abdul Macauley, Johannes Fowler and Ben Williams. Johannes became its first Chairman and stayed on as Chairman for two years. He became Chairman again for another two years from 2003-2005.

Johannes was a proud and passionate Freemason. He loved his Freemasonry. He started his masonic journey in Sierra Leone when he was initiated on the 8th August 1972 into the Sierra Leone Highland Lodge SC No 997. He subsequently joined the Grandville Lodge No.7212 EC in the District of Sierra Leone and the Gambia.

In the UK he was a founder member of the Anglo Sierra Leone Lodge No 9416 and a joining member of the Ballards Lodge No 5091, where he became the Worshipful Master in 2003. He was a joining member of other lodges and held Senior London Grand Rank (SLGR) and was a Past Provincial Assistant Grand Sword Bearer {PPAGSwdB} in Surrey.

In the Royal Arch, He was exalted into the Masoboin Chapter 819 SC in 1977 and joined the Orion in the West Chapter in December 1998. In the UK he joined the Mutual Defence Chapter No 6711 in Surrey in May 2000. He was a founder member of the Anglo Sierra Leone Royal and Loyal Chapter 9416. He held Senior London Grand Chapter Rank (SLGCR).

Johannes was a member of other orders in Freemasonry as follows:

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Mark Degree – A member of Manor of Bensham RAM Lodge where he became Worshipful Commander in 2007.

•
Rose Croix – He was enthroned in the chair of Noel Money Chapter No. 122 as Sovereign in 2010 and was promoted to the 30th degree on the 10th July 2012.

Sleep on now my brother and take your rest, we love you more, but Jesus loves you best,
Goodbye, Goodbye, Goodbye.

My sincere condolences to all the family.



Red Cross of Constantine – He was installed as a Knight in 2008 and in 2009 became a founder member of Surrey West Africa Conclave No 502, going through the chair in 2011 and promoted to Past Divisional Sword Bearer in 2018.

Johannes is now transcended to the world above.

In the last few years, his health has not been at its optimum, resulting in him becoming hard of hearing. Being the determined person he was, it did not let that keep him down. If we need to sort something out, I would go to him or he would come over to me. Our way of communication was that he would send me a text and then call me. When he knows that I have picked up the phone he would cut me off, because he knows that I would go straight to WhatsApp where a text message would be waiting for me.

Johannes was a quiet and passionate man who pushed his passion into whatever it was, with determination. It was that passion and determination and his way with words, that he used as a weapon, a shield and for advice, which sometimes got him into conflict with others. However, he has left his footprints in the sands of time, in many areas where he stood.

Johannes, you always slip away quietly when you attended functions, now you have slipped away quietly to a world where neither moth nor rust can destroy, to rest in eternal peace.