

Tribute to Dr. Rogers Ayodele David Jones (4577)

By Mrs Bertha Malamah-Thomas



This is a tribute to Rogers Ayodele David. Jones born on 14th September 1938 in Freetown, Sierra Leone who had his home call on 27th April 2015 at the age of 76 years.

I knew Rogers quite well as he was a very close friend of my late husband, John and a God-father to one of my children. He kept in constant touch with us although he was not living in London. Rogers was a very affable man, had a pleasant personality and an infectious laugh.

He always made a point of looking us up when he was in London and I can still remember his stories about life in Sierra Leone. I admire his sense of nationalism, commitment, professionalism and courage in resisting all offers to work abroad but to stay and make a contribution to his motherland, He was not attracted by financial or pecuniary rewards neither did he aspire to accumulate wealth . He was satisfied using his skills to help his compatriots and for the benefit of the nation. Sierra Leone has lost a very good agriculturist and dedicated professional.

I shall remember him for his anecdotes, stories and fun character. He and his late friend John were always trying to enforce seniority. John would say “Bo comot do, you nar small boy ar big for u”. And he would respond by saying “u know say ah big pass u”. This conversation would continue until they were invited to eat dinner. Then tranquillity would return to the house.

My most enduring memory of Rogers is the hands on help and gardening advice he gave me for growing roses when I moved house. As a professional agriculturist he not only gave me instructions but actually planted the roses for me. The rose bushes are still in my garden today – a testimony to Rogers’ agricultural skills.

All of us here today have our own stories about Rogers but now they will forever remain memories because Rogers is no longer with us, He has passed on to the world of those who cannot die any more. I will no longer hear Rogers’ laughter or any of his stories nor welcome him into my home any more.

Sleep on Rogers and take your well earned rest. Hope you have met up with your buddy John; I can imagine the welcome celebration and laughter!

Roger Ayodele David Jones may you rest in peace and rise in glory.

Amen