

# VOICE OF YORUBA



NEWSLETTER OF **Egbé Ọmọ Yorùbá**  
OF GREATER MIAMI VALLEY

[www.VoiceOfYoruba.org](http://www.VoiceOfYoruba.org)

VOY is published quarterly in March, June, September, and December

March 2017  
Vol. 8, No. 1

**Designed to Inform and Entertain**

Contents	Page
Afonja of Ilorin .....	1
The Yorubas and Philosophy.. ..	2
Some sights of DC .....	4
Jelani Aliyu of GM.....	8
YALI: An Obama Legacy .....	10
Top Schools in Lagos.....	11
Sam Banjoko turns a new Page of Age .....	16
New Egbe Members Sworn In .....	21

## AFONJA of ILORIN

By Pa Oladipo Yemitan  
(Guest Columnist)

All sorts of gadgets, inventions, history-making figures and events whirl around us today, but why not let us leave our smart phones severely alone and instead take a trip to Yoruba past, specifically to the life and times of one Yoruba figure, whose heroic escapades have had an indelible imprint on Yoruba history – Afonja, to be precise.

Popularly called Afonja of Ilorin, our subject was, in actual fact a grandson of Alaafin Abiodun of Oyo. His father, Pasin, reigned as king in Ilorin for a time. Following Pasin’s death, his weakling of a prince called Alagbin succeeded him on the throne.

Because the demand of the time required a strong character to rule a Yoruba town, the Alaafin relieved Alagbin of this throne and put Afonja in his place, giving him additional power to become the Aare-ona-Kakanfo (Commander-in-Chief) over all Yoruba forces.

Afonja capitalized on this new power to foist himself over everybody through joining forces with other warlords in the Yorubaland. This conglomerate unleashed unmitigated terror over Yoruba towns and hamlets everywhere, plundering and capturing slaves. He himself ignored the orders of the Alaafin, his overlord, with impunity and even issued threats to the Alaafin which no one else dared do.

While Afonja reveled in his drunken power and notoriety, indiscretion let him to invite one Alimi, a Fulani man to come to Ilorin with his family and well-wishers, thereby paving the way for an influx of Hausa and Fulani elements into Ilorin and adjoining Yoruba areas.

Prior to this call-up for him to reign in Ilorin, precisely in 1811, Afonja had stoked controversy in Oyo itself by offering himself as candidate for the Alaafin throne. The kingmakers however thought otherwise and chose Adebo in preference to him. He did not take this failure lightly. Now that he had acquired unlimited power as Aare-ona-Kakanfo, he felt it was the right time to curtail the sovereign power which the Alaafin wielded over the entire Yorubaland.

Encouraged by the forces at his command, composed of his Fulani guests and his own slaves, he launched an offensive in which he killed Alaafin's representatives in many towns and replaced them with his own. This behavior reassured his Fulani fighters that they, too, could descend to disorderly manners everywhere but Afonja denounced these atrocities.

With time, the reckless behavior of the Fulani became a burden for Afonja himself and he rose to check these ill-mannered guest fighters. But the chaos he had helped to create amongst the Yoruba now came to roost. All the Yoruba chiefs and warlords he turned to for help ignored his call for help. He was, therefore, left to fight alone.

The overwhelming forces he was now constrained to face rose bravely against this their erstwhile commander and overpowered him, killing him and his slaves. The result was that Ilorin, a Yoruba town, came under the control of the Fulanis, his former guests. With that, the administration of Ilorin came to the possession of the Fulani until today.

Afonja died in 1817. Posterity blamed him for selling Ilorin, a strong Yoruba town, into the hands of the Fulanis, but hardly deny him credit for his courage and valor as a human being.



---

## **The Yorubas and Philosophy**

By Pa Oladipo Yemitan  
(Guest Columnist)

The Yorubas have the most profound philosophy in the continent of Africa and, even though unwritten down until roughly two centuries ago, it is carefully embedded in their proverbs and systematically taught Ifa<sup>1</sup>

corpus. But don't run away with that fact alone. Similarly, the Yorubas can boast to have a larger collection of proverbs than any other language group in the world!

As the Yorubas themselves aver, proverbs are weapons for capturing the essence of a discourse ('Owe Lesin oro: Boro ba sonu owe la fii wa a'). The meaning of this is that, when a speaker comes to a difficult point in his presentation, let him resort to a proverb which is capable of helping to convey the core of his message. In that way, a good speaker is he who spices his speech with appropriate proverbs, to the extent that he employs his cache of proverbs to express succinctly what he would have labored to say in many words or would have found undiplomatic and improper to express in plain language.

One more plus in the employment of Yoruba proverbs is the culture of its presentation. Sometimes, a Yoruba proverb is odious in content and therefore difficult to deliver. Yet, a user of such a proverb is protected from sharing in the odium of it by preceding its delivery with, 'Owe awon baba wa kan so bayi pe' (the proverb I am about to say is not mine, but is one of those we inherited from our ancestors). This way, the speaker has absolved himself from any probable offence the use of the proverb might cause.

Now, let us examine the philosophy reflected in a few of Yoruba proverbs:

1. 'O fee lo tele ni, ajoji Oba: o ni nigba ti a ko si nile, ewule ile mo oun loju', (the visitor who had beforehand wanted to leave, gave the excuse that the family's goat looked at him in a hateful way while the family was away; surely, he has simply given a lame excuse for his premeditated departure). This is a proverb to condemn the attitude of finding an excuse for doing something one had wanted to do.

2. 'Aileja ni won ko bi mi nile yii; odan ojude baba eni ki i gbeja eni (he who says he isn't ready to fight because he is a foreigner is simply a coward; would the tree at his parental home fight for him!). This proverb serves to embolden a weakling who is afraid to defend his right in the right place. After all, no one at his home would tolerate his cowardice.

3. 'Bi ogun ba je lo ogbon ni I je bo' (It is only 20 on the out-go, but the result might be 30). This is one proverb pregnant with a heavy message. It sign-posts the beginning of a thing or event and the resultant effect of it. Firstly, when you do someone a good turn, it brings in its wake a reward in a greater message. Conversely, your refusal to forgo a wrong now might cause you dearly in the future. In short, from the beginning, ponder over the after effect.

4. 'Kewu la a pari; enikan ki I pari imo' (One can complete reading all the chapters in the Koran, but nobody completes the process of acquiring knowledge in a lifetime). This is an example of a proverb which is self-explanatory. It is because of the truth in it that you are sparing time to read this article.

5. Bi a ko ba gbe Ijapa sinu omi tutu, ka tun gbe e sinu omi gbigbono, ko ni mo pe aiye pe meji, (If the tortoise is not immersed in cold and hot water, he would never realize that there are two sides to life). The import of this proverb is that life has its sweet and bitter tastes. It is a call for everybody to be wary.

The laptop can be made to rest now but that does not translate to the end of everything. The mouth may be saying no more for now; that does not mean that there is no more in the brain to share in the future ('O tan lenu, o ku n'ikun!

1. Ifa is a system of knowledge which the Yoruba Philosopher and Priest, Orunmila, taught and left for his people.

-----

## **A Few Sights from Washington, DC**

Washington, DC is like no other place in the USA. It is a fascinating city, full of sound, fury, energy, and fun. Monuments of history, culture, and tradition abound in DC. The photo journal in this section presents just a selected few of the thousands of sights from DC. Must see!



**Everyone should know what this monument represents;  
not only in physical structure, but also in the ideals of the United States of America.**



*Egbe Member Meets Einstein;  
okay just the statue.*

If you think you know DC, name the neighborhood in the photo below.





**Where is this one?**  
**A hint on this one: Presidential inauguration took place here.**

# A Nigerian on the Corporate World Stage

## Jelani Aliyu – Nigerian Car Designer at GM

Below is a reprint of an article on Jelani Aliyu, a GM Car Designer.

Source: <http://www.dailytrust.com.ng/weekly/index.php/71-encounter/18285-how-i-grew-from-scribbling-child-to-car-designer-jelani-aliyu#7wuRDHVEAlHj4dDu.99>

“How I grew from scribbling child to car designer” – Jelani Aliyu  
By Abdulkareem Baba Aminu, Amina Alhassan & Zeenat Sambo, Nov 29, 2014

Jelani Aliyu’s rise in the global automobile industry is quite like a fairy tale, complete with a ‘happily ever after’ ending, as the car designer, now 48, is responsible for American auto-maker Chevrolet’s popular Volt model.

*Born in Kaduna to parents originally from Sokoto State, he began his A-levels in Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, but later dropped out and enrolled in the Birnin Kebbi Polytechnic, Kebbi State, bagging an OND in Architecture in 1988. He proceeded to study Transportation Design in Detroit, at the College for Creative Studies on a Sokoto State Government scholarship and as soon as he graduated, he was snapped up by General Motors, the world’s second largest car manufacturer. With all his career successes – which include working on many successful models including the stunning Pontiac G6, as well as a national award as Member of the Order of the Federal Republic (MFR) in Nigeria in 2012 – he is hoping all the attention he’s getting will inspire other Nigerians to pursue their dreams.*

### **What drove you into the automotive designing industry?**

**Jelani Aliyu:** I’ve always loved drawing. Things around me, objects, people, plants, also stuff from my imagination. Growing up, I’ve always loved science fiction and in the movies you’d see a lot of alien spacecraft and other futuristic, imaginative things that would inspire me to look beyond. I also love cars a lot, even though then we didn’t have Ferraris in Sokoto. But we did have magazines in which I saw them and they inspired me, too. So I put together my love for drawing and cars and decided to be a car designer.

I watched a lot of ‘Space: 1999’ and I also liked ‘Planet of the Apes’ a lot. I also read comic books, mostly the British ones like Beano, Whizzer & Chips, Buster, etc. I also read a lot of the black and white war comics, called ‘Commando’. All these fuelled my interest in drawing and always got me scribbling when I was a child.

### **At what age did you design your first car?**

**Aliyu:** I would say I have been drawing cars and designing them as far back as I could remember, probably from when I was six or seven. I would draw them first, cut out the top and bottom, and then put them together from empty tins. I did that a lot and I would imagine myself owning my own car company. Whenever I thumbed through a magazine and saw the latest Mercedes Benz car, I’d also do my own version. It was fun.

### **Is your own car company something we should expect?**

**Aliyu:** That’s something Nigerians need and the time for that is now. If you look at the market, Nigeria’s population is over a hundred and seventy million. Lots of people live in remote areas and even in our cities we need new and more effective transport solutions. So this is the time to really have something in place in terms of cars for Nigeria.



**You had to leave for a polytechnic to pursue your dream. Do you think Nigerian universities have what it takes to groom people to get where you are now?**

**Aliyu:** Where I work now, General Motors (GM) that is, up till now they haven't asked for my degree or the certificate. They've never seen it. All they care about is what I can design and produce. When they offered me a job, it was not based on the certificate but on the design presentations that I'd made. It shows the emphasis they give to creativity and the capability each individual has. And that's what Nigerians and Nigerian institutions need to do, to look beyond the certificate, paper or whatever they call it.

**Most parents want their children to be either doctors or lawyers. How supportive were yours in your choice of career?**

**Aliyu:** My parents let me decide what I wanted to do. For example, when I went to Ahmadu Bello University in Zaria and decided I didn't want to continue there, they were supportive. They didn't insist that I had to remain there. They've always been supportive and understanding.

**What sparks an idea for you?**

**Aliyu:** I get a lot from nature. I get inspired by the low leaf on the lean tree, grain of rice, looking at animals on the Serengeti, the cheetah, the giraffe and so on. We live on a truly magical planet and that's the source of my inspiration.

**Over time, tech has developed. How has this affected the way you design cars now?**

**Aliyu:** When I first went for a course on Creative Studies, all the drawing and designing were done on paper. But now it's all digital. From the first sketch to advanced levels like error testing or dynamism, everything is done digitally now. An important thing is that it also depends on the individual. Everyone has a way of coming up with a concept. For me, the best way is just to sit with a pen and paper and keep coming out with solutions as I watch nature on Discovery Channel. Once I do that, I just scan it in. I guess that was what happened with the Volt. I kind of came up with the feel and look at home watching TV and went through a number of them, saying to myself 'this is really good'. Digital saves time and money and makes the designing process more effective.

**Do you think the automobile industry is going to pick up in Nigeria anytime soon?**

**Aliyu:** I think with the new automotive policy, with the support the government is giving to the industry, it has begun to create the momentum needed. We just need to continue pushing it through the next stages, especially in terms of enabling a Nigerian vehicle that is conceptualized, designed and developed by Nigerians for Nigerians in Nigeria. When I say Nigerian vehicle, I don't necessarily mean the whole thing, but a vehicle designed specifically for the Nigerian populace. A vehicle in tune with the history, culture, environment and economic structure of the people, and I think we are heading there.

**Nigerians buy a lot of cars. From your point of view, what's our nation's role globally?**

**Aliyu:** To develop vehicles, not only for Nigerians but for West Africa, Africa and the world. We have a unique, extreme environment so if we have a vehicle that works in Africa, it would work better elsewhere in the world.

**How often do you visit Nigeria?**

**Aliyu:** As often as I can. There is really a lot of opportunity here and I am committed to give more support. I was here two years ago. I'm very proud to be from Nigeria, as we're people with a lot of history and power. It's a privilege to have come from this country.

**What do you miss most about Nigeria?**

**Aliyu:** Family and friends.

### **What's your favorite Nigerian food?**

**Aliyu:** I actually have two favorite dishes. Tuwon Shinkafa with Miyan Sure and pounded yam with Egusi soup. My wife, Hadiza, who's from Sokoto too, makes them at home in Michigan.

### **Have any of your kids taken interest in what you do?**

**Aliyu:** We've got three kids and my second son is really into drawing and he loves cars. He's really impressed me a lot with his creativity. He is showing traits I had when I was young and I have no doubt that he will take after me.

### **Have you encountered any local talent you feel is worthy of encouragement?**

**Aliyu:** I have had several encounters which are quite fascinating, especially in the old model field. There are a couple of young talented young men that I have really been impressed with. What we are really doing right now is trying to get them admission into schools abroad. What I'd really like to say is that the state government where this talented youth comes from should support them. I had the privilege of getting a Sokoto State scholarship. We need creativity and we need to appreciate that our country needs more than just doctors and lawyers. For a country to move forward, an integral part of that developmental process is Industrial Design. So we need to understand the importance of that sector by training people who already have a talent.

### **Is there a fast car out there, non-Chevrolet, which you adore?**

**Aliyu:** I love Ferraris. I almost went to Italy to study car design but I didn't want to learn Italian. I just wanted to get to the stage and express myself. Having to study the language stopped me from studying in Italy. I think almost everyone loves a fast car. The good thing is a lot of them are becoming environmentally friendly.

### **What do you think the future holds for cars?**

**Aliyu:** It's incredible and fascinating. The future of transportation solution is vast. We're talking about renewal of energy, sustainability and recyclability. We are beginning to go into self-driving vehicles, which would open up a whole new generation of transportation solutions. Maybe we'd not have to call them cars anymore. An interesting thing happening is that there is a lot of computerization going into vehicles. So the big question is, are we actually computerizing vehicles or are we one day going to be moved around by computers?

---

## **YALI: An Obama Legacy**

Here is a good story that can serve as a great template for African leaders.

Source: <https://yali.state.gov/yali-africa/>

The Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI) is a signature effort to invest in the next generation of African leaders. Nearly 1 in 3 Africans are between the ages of 10 and 24, and approximately 60 percent of Africa's total population is below the age of 35. President Obama launched YALI in 2010 to support young African leaders as they spur growth and prosperity, strengthen democratic governance, and enhance peace and security across Africa.

The Young African Leaders Initiative, or YALI, is not just a fellowship, or an online community, or a place to go for regional leadership training. YALI is all three!

- Launched in 2014, the [Mandela Washington Fellowship](#) is YALI's flagship program. It brings up to 1,000 African civic, business and community leaders aged 25–35 for six weeks of academic coursework, leadership training and networking at U.S. universities.
- Through the 250,000-member [YALI Network](#), young Africans can connect with other leaders in their community, access free online courses in topics ranging from climate change to entrepreneurship to human rights, and receive invitations to special events.
- The four [YALI Regional Leadership Centers](#) — in Kenya, South Africa, Senegal and Ghana — train young leaders in leadership, entrepreneurship and professional development. They also provide a great place to network.

## Hope for Nigerian Education

Considering the sorry state of education in most corners of Nigeria, it is difficult (but not impossible) to find some bright spots. Below is a story on the top schools in Lagos. BTW, our very own newsletter editor is a product of one the schools profiled. Read on. Up Finbarr's!

Source: <https://breaking.com.ng/nigeria/landmark-college-st-gregory-10-others-emerge-top-schools-in-lagos-good-schools-guide-2017/>

### Landmark College, St Gregory' 10 others emerge top schools in Lagos Good Schools Guide 2017

Posted by [TELIAT SULE](#) on [February 20, 2017](#)

Parents, guardians, policy makers and other stakeholders in the education sector who have been longing for the appraisal of the quality of private secondary education in Lagos State need not search any further as their concerns have been addressed by Business Day Research and Intelligence Unit (BRIU) through the publication of Lagos Good Schools Guide 2017. The Lagos Good Schools Guide, a comprehensive report produced through an extensive research undertaken by BRIU, has unveiled Landmark College Ikorodu, St Gregory's College Obalende, Atlantic Hall Epe, **St Finbarr's College, Akoka** and GJS College Ikorodu among the topmost private secondary schools in Lagos State. Landmark College scored 93 percent; St Gregory's, 79 percent; Atlantic Hall 78 percent; Finbarr's, 75 percent while GJS College also in Ikorodu scored 75 percent which effectively made them among the schools in the Excellent Group by our ranking. Sacred Heart College, Downen College, and Ronik Comprehensive High School tied at 71 percent just as Efforst will Academy, Queensland Academy, Topflight College and Dansol High School each scored 70 percent.

A direct clipping of the news article  
is reproduced below.

## Landmark College, St Gregory's, Atlantic Hall, St Finbarr's, 8 others emerge top schools

TELIAT SULE

Parents, guardians, policy makers and other stakeholders in the education sector who have been longing for the appraisal of the quality of private secondary education in Lagos State need not search any further as their concerns have been addressed by BusinessDay Research and Intelligence Unit (BRIU) through the publication of Lagos Good Schools Guide 2017.

The Lagos Good Schools Guide, a comprehensive report produced through an extensive research undertaken by BRIU, has unveiled Landmark College Ikorodu, St Gregory's College Obalende, Atlantic Hall Epe, St Finbarr's College Akoka and GJS College Ikorodu among the topmost private secondary schools in Lagos State. Landmark College scored 93 percent; St Gregory's, 79 percent; Atlantic Hall 78 percent; Finbarr's, 75 percent while GJS College also

in Ikorodu scored 75 percent which effectively made them among the schools in the Excellent Group by our ranking.

Sacred Heart College, Downen College, and Ronik Comprehensive High School tied at 71 percent just as Efforstwill Academy, Queensland Academy, Top-flight College and Dansol High School each scored 70 percent. The exercise which lasted for three months saw BRIU team administer questionnaires to over 400 certified private secondary schools in the state. Eventually, 307 private secondary schools made the list.

Schools were ranked on four grade scales depending on their weighted scores. The grade scales are the Excellent Group, Very Good, Good and Satisfactory. The weighted score of the schools in the 'Excellent Group' ranges from 70 to 100 percent. The 'Very Good' graded schools score between 60 and 69 percent. The schools ranked as 'Good' score between 50

and 59 percent while those considered as 'Satisfactory' score between 25 and 49 percent.

It will interest you to know that BRIU embarked on the exercise in order to address the concerns raised by parents, guardians and other stakeholders concerning the quality of educational services being offered by private secondary schools in the state and in particular, what makes each school unique.

Criteria employed by the BRIU team include average performance in the West African Examination Council (WAEC) and the transparency parameters. The transparency parameters have eight sections some of which are the availability of an official website, facilities, profiles of teachers, availability of information on WAEC performance and the presence of school calendar. Others are information on school fees, admission form and fees as well as availability of an online payment platform.

# Yoruba Poem on the Value of Hard Work and Dignity of Labor

## AKOSORI YORUBA FUN GBOGBO OMO KAARO OOJIIRE

Adapted from J. F. Odunjo\* (1904–1980) and shared via Yoruba social media.

### Yoruba Poem about the Value of Hard Work and Dignity of Labor

ISÉ NI ÒÒGÙN ÌSÉ  
MÚRA SÍ ISÉ RE, ÒRÉÈ MI  
ISÉ NI A FI Í DI ENI GIGA  
BÍ A KÒ BÁ RÉNI FÈYÌN TÌ, BÍ ÒLE LÀ Á RÍ  
BÍ A KO RÉNI GBÉKÈLÉ  
À A TERA MÓ ISÉ ENI  
ÌYÁ RE LÈ LÓWÓ LÓWÓ  
BÀBÁ SÌ LÈ LÉSIN LÉÈKÀN  
BÍ O BÁ GBÓJÚ LÉ WON  
O TÈ TÁN NI MO SO FÚN O  
OHUN TÍ A KÒ BA JÌYÀ FÚN  
KÌ Í LÈ TÓJÓ  
OHUN TÍ A BÁ FARA SISÉ FÚN  
NÍ Í PÉ LÓWÓ ENI  
APÁ LARÁ  
ÌGÙNPÁ NÌYEKAN  
BÍ AYÉ N FÉ O LÓNÌÍ  
BÍ O BÁ LÓWÓ LÓWÓ  
NI WON Á MÁA FÉ O LÓLA  
TÀBÍ TÍ O BÁ WÀ NÍ IPÒ ÀTÀTÀ  
AYÉ Á YÉ O SÍ TÈRÍN-TÈRÍN  
JÉ KÍ O DI ENI N RÁÁGÓ  
KÍ O RÍ BÁYÉ TI Í SÍMÚ SÍ O  
ÈKÓ SÌ TÚN N SONI Í DÒGÁ  
MÚRA KÍ O KÓ O DÁRADÁRA  
BÍ O SÌ RÍ ÒPÒ ÈNÌYÀN.  
TÍ WÓN N FI ÈKÓ SE ÈRÍN RÍN  
DÁKUN MÁ SE FARA WÉ WON  
ÌYÀ N BÒ FÓMO TÍ KÒ GBÓN  
EKÚN N BE FÓMO TÓ N SÁ KIRI  
MÁ FÒWÚRÒ SERÉ, ÒRÉÈ MI.  
MÚRA SÍSÉ, OJÓ N LO

### ENGLISH TRANSLATION

Work is the antidote for poverty.  
Work hard, my friend.  
work is used to elevate one in respect and importance  
(Aspiring to higher height is fully dependent on hard work).

if we do not have anyone to lean on, we appear indolent.  
if we do not have anyone to trust (we can depend on).  
we simply work harder.  
your mother may be wealthy.  
your father may have a ranch full of horses.  
if you depend on their riches alone.  
you may end up in disgrace, I tell you.  
whatever gain one does not work hard to earn.  
usually does not last.  
whatever gain one works hard to earn.  
is the one that lasts in one's hands (while in one's possession).  
the arm is a relative  
the elbow is a sibling.  
you may be loved by all today.  
it is when you have money.  
that they will love you tomorrow.  
or when you are in a high position.  
all will honor you with cheers and smiles.  
wait till you become poor or are struggling to get by.  
and you will see how all grimace at you as they pass you by.  
education also elevates one in position.  
work hard to acquire good education.  
and if you see a lot of people.  
making education a laughing stock.  
please do not emulate or keep their company.  
suffering is lying in wait for an unserious kid.  
sorrow is in the reserve for a truant kid.  
do not play with your early years, my friend.  
work harder; time is going; time and tide wait for no one.

=====

\* Folahan Odunjo (1904–1980) was a Nigerian writer, educator and politician best known for his works in Yoruba children's literature. He was born in Ibara, Abeokuta, Nigeria in 1904. He was educated at St Augustine's Primary School, Abeokuta, the Catholic Higher Elementary Training School and the London Institute of Education.

## **Yoruba Poem on the Value of Good Character**

TOJU IWA RE ORE MI // ENHANCE YOUR CHARACTER MY FRIEND

(Written by the late J.F. ODUNJO in his popular book series 'ALAWIYE') and shared by Dr. Bisi Adegbile

Toju iwa re, ore mi;  
Ola a ma si lo n'ile eni,  
Ewa a si ma si l'ara enia,

Olowo oni 'nd'olosi b'o d'ola.  
Okun l'ola; okun n'igbi oro,  
Gbogbo won l'o nsi lo n'ile eni;  
Sugbon iwa ni m'ba ni de sare'e.  
Owo ko je nkan fun ni,  
Iwa l'ewa omo enia.  
Bi o l'owo bi o ko ni'wa nko?  
Tani je f'inu tan e ba s'ohun rere?  
Tabi ki o je obirin rogbodo;  
Ti o ba jina si'wa ti eda nfe,  
Tani je fe o s'ile bi aya?  
Tabi ki o je onijibiti enia;  
Bi o tile mo iwe amodaju,  
Tani je gbe'se aje fun o se?  
Toju Iwa re, ore mi,  
Iwa ko si, eko d'egbe;  
Gbogbo aiye ni 'nfe 'ni t'o je rere.

(ENGLISH TRANSLATION)

Enhance your character, my friend;  
Prosperity may depart from one's home,  
Beauty may retreat from the body,  
And today's rich could become poor tomorrow.  
Prosperity is like ocean surf; and wealth is an ocean wave,  
They come and go from one's home as they please;  
But, only good character follows one to the grave.  
Money is not everything to someone,  
Good character is the beauty of a mortal.  
What if you are wealthy without good character?  
Who would trust you with something serious?  
Perhaps, you are a gorgeous woman;  
If you are far from societal norms,  
Who would marry you as a wife?  
Or you are a fraudulent person;  
May be you are well educated,  
Who would transact business with you?  
Enhance your character, my friend,  
In the absence of character, education is a waste;  
The whole world appreciates a well-mannered person.

---

---

**Food for Thought**

**What is the difference between the following pairs of words:**

**Explorers and Immigrants**

**Refugees and Tourists**

**Poachers and Hunters**

**Foreigners and Expatriates**

## Recent & Forthcoming Birthdays

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY** to members with recent and forthcoming birthdays.

Egbe's Birthday Congratulations in Advance or in Arrears.

### January:

Lisa Aderonke Adegbile, Jan 3  
Samuel Banjoko, January 22

### February:

Pa Samuel Oladitan, February 22  
Dayo Odunsi, February 23

### March:

Remi Oyebanjo, March 7

### April:

Alice Okunade, April 6  
Rosalind Osinubi, April 14

### May:

Christiana Okunade, May 5  
Gabriel Okunade, May 10  
Bisi Adegbile, May 18  
Joan Apapa, May 29

### June:

Gloria Iselaiye, June 13  
Temitayo Osinubi, June 15  
Samuel Okunade, June 22  
Julius Fadare, June 28  
Yomi Omilakin, June 29

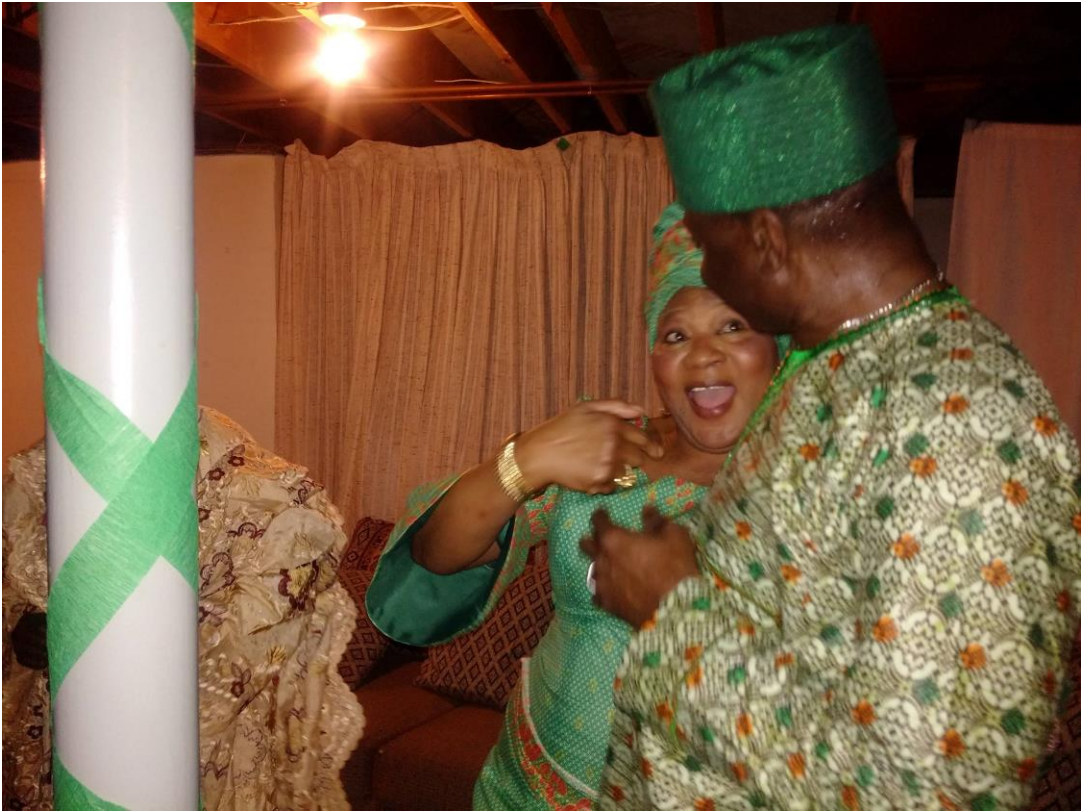


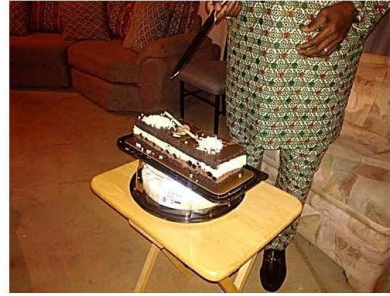


## Sam Banjoko turns a new Page of Age

Egbe members were there on January 28, 2017 to mark the birthday celebration of our long-time member, Mr. Sam Banjoko. Mrs. Sandra Banjoko did a great job of organizing the celebration. Below are the beautiful sights of the occasion.









## New Officers of Egbe Sworn In

At the meeting of February 18, 2017, new officers, who have avowed their IWA (Interested, Willing, and Available) were sworn in by Dr Bisi Adegbile, Egbe's Parliamentarian. Please join us in welcoming, recognizing, and thanking our new officers.



# Advertisements

For your Spring Tree Service, Call F&F Tree Service.

**F&F**  
TREE SERVICE

Email: [info@FandFTrees.com](mailto:info@FandFTrees.com)  
Web: [FandFTrees.com](http://FandFTrees.com)


BONDED & INSURED  
F&F  
TREE SERVICE

[8733]  
**937-520-TREE**  
**937-426-TREE**

Daniel Iselaiye  
President

BBB "...with God all things are possible"

When a Crack and Tooth Fairy fetch your tooth? Who You Gonna Call? Of course, not the Ditch Digger. Call Dr. Apapa!

 Dr. Bamidele J Apapa D.D.S.  
MAXILLOFACIAL SURGERY IMPLANT SURGERY DENTO-ALVEOLAR SURGERY

[www.drapapa.com](http://www.drapapa.com)  
937-298-5239

WELCOME TO DR. BAMIDELE J APAPA DDS INC

ORAL & MAXILLOFACIAL SURGERY AT ITS BEST

COME AND EXPERIENCE OUR SERVICES TODAY

ASK YOUR DENTIST TO REFER YOU TO US

Welcome to Dr. Bamidele J. Apapa DDS INC.

We specialize in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery. Our office provides a unique relaxing atmosphere, while our staff is committed to giving each patient a positive surgical experience.

From the moment you walk into our serene waiting area, to the moment you leave our spacious surgical rooms, we go above and beyond making your visit as comfortable as possible.

Dr. Apapa

Doctor Apapa has achievements and awards in the field of Oral maxillofacial surgery. Get to know the doctor!

## 2017/2018 Officers of Egbe Omo Yoruba

President:	Mr. Theo Adegboruwa	Vice President:	Dr. Daniel Iselaiye
Secretary:	Mr. Yomi Omilakin	Treasurer:	Morakinyo Kuti
Social Secretary:	Mrs Christianah Okunade	Communications:	Prof. Deji Badiru
Parliamentarian:	Dr. Bisi Adegbile	Webmaster:	Mrs. Iswat Badiru

### Donate to Advance Egbe

Egbe can now receive online donations directly through the website.

Please go to [www.VoiceOfYoruba.org](http://www.VoiceOfYoruba.org) and Click on **Donation**.

Donations can be made via Paypal or Credit Card.

---



To VOY readers, *Thank you..*



The Egbe Omo Yoruba of Greater Miami Valley, P. O. Box 148, Wilberforce, OH 45384