

The Late Great BAYO OGUNRUKU (1666, Swanston, 1961, Head of School 1967).

It was because of him that I and several of my cousins including Akinyemi Akinola, Akinjide Akinola, Babafemi Babatola, Ademola Akomolafe, the Familonis and a host of us attended Government College Ibadan.

He was our uncle, precisely he was my mother's first cousin. When we were kids we called him 'Bababayo' and even before I enrolled in GCI in 1970, Akinyemi, Akinjide and I had attended several GCI events especially those great drama nights where pantomimes were played, a significant one being Sweeney Todd, the Barber. By the time we got into GCI, he had not only left with flying colors but had since got admission to study Engineering at the Ahmadu Bello University Zaria, where he graduated with a second upper.

While in GCI, Bayo was a sportsman and a leader, He played Hockey for the school team and later for ABU. By the time he was in upper six in 1967 he became Head of School. He was the quintessential GCI boy and a folk hero in his days. He left ABU for Imperial College London UK to obtain his M.Sc. Engineering and came back to Nigeria in 1973/4 to join Ette Aro and Partners - a notable firm of Building Engineers. He got married in 1976 but tragedy struck and by late 1977 at the young age of 33 and a year after he got married to beautiful Ime Isong of Akwa Ibom, he passed on after regressive health crisis. A head injury sustained over 12 years ago while playing hockey in school suddenly re-manifested in a most fatal manner, ending the great life of a superstar , a mentor, a role model, a hero and my Uncle Bayo.

His class mates in GCI included Ogunseinde, Owoo of the 1967 Set. He shall never be forgotten.

We miss you, we loved you.

UP GCI!

God is good all the time.

***Fagbenro-Byron Adesina (2146, Carr, 1970)
May, 2017.***