I then went on to offer to post the names of the Sisters whose whereabouts she was interested in knowing, and then, as if I felt the need to “caution” her, I mentioned the one case with a BITTER-SWEET ending, where I ended up having to call Sister (Dr.) Agnes Fomukong Bongang to tell her that someone had responded to her “Search” for her classmate, BESSIE UDOH, with the news that she had since passed away! Shortly after, Sis Nene & I wished each other a goodnight and a Merry Christmas, and I went off to bed. I therefore found it a little odd, when I woke up the next morning, to find that she had sent me an email almost immediately after the call. What could she have forgotten to tell me in the over 30 minutes we spent talking? Well, I opened the email and this is what I saw:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| *From:* | ***Nene Amogu*** |
| *Sent:* | *Mon 12/23/13 10:17 PM* |
| *To:* | *Egbe Monjimbo* |

*Dear Egbe,*

*While we were speaking, it occurred to me to google one of us I knew was a lecturer in the University of Port Harcourt long ago. You can imagine my shock when I read tributes of her death last February. She was Patience Ngozi Ifeadike class of 1971. She attended CCAST too.*

Needless to say, I was overcome with sadness, but also with a fair amount of curiosity which got me Google-ing away as well. It is what I discovered about YOU, dear Sister Ngozi, via the tons of Tributes posted in your honor, which has compelled me to write you this note!!! By the time I read the 15th or 20th Tribute, I had to wonder whether they were not all written by the same person, because of how IDENTICAL they were, when it came to describing who you were as a person! CHEI! What I saw in practically EVERY TRIBUTE – from your Husband’s to those from your colleagues, students, neighbors and friends, OVER & OVER & OVER AGAIN, were the epithets:

* PRAYER WARRIOR
* HIGHLY PRINCIPLED
* VERY DISCIPLINED
* LOVED THE LORD DEARLY
* KIND
* WISE
* UPRIGHT
* INCORRUPTIBLE
* CONFIDANTE

How COMMENDABLE, and MASSA! Do you remind me of my own Mother or what!!! Haba!! If people are assigned to “Kwatas” up there in Heaven by character, then you must have already met her because you would definitely be next door neighbors – or maybe even co-sharers of the same Duplex/Bungalow! If not, please ask Jesus to connect “the 2 both of you”, because you would get along like 2 (twin) mbangas in the same kernel oh! My goodness! I can assure you that if I emailed the following lines (which come from one of one of the Tributes posted in your honor) to my Sisters and asked them who they referred to, they would both say without the slightest hesitation: MUMMY!

*There was a warmth to your house that we all enjoyed. You had cakes, bread, bananas on your dining table* ***but we had to ask before pouncing on them****. You loved your Lord and it was an unwritten testament for everyone you met. This could not be compromised. Your mien was disarming; you didn’t speak often in fellowship but when you did everyone knew how serious, because your voice conveyed the level of that to everyone.*

By all accounts, Big Sis, You lived a full, purposeful and very meaningful life and I, as a Woman, a Teacher, a Wife and a Sakerette, have so much to learn from your outstanding & inspiring example. I am so very IMPRESSED & PROUD of you, and my heart goes out to those you’ve left behind – Your CAT (Mr. Michael Manilla) and your 2 CARATS (Emmanuel & Ruth), especially. Heaven alone knows how tough this First Christmas without you must have been! I hope they were able to be sustained by fond memories and the conviction that spending Christmas with “The Birthday Boy” Himself, CANCER-FREE, cannot be compared to ANYTHING anyone could possibly offer here on this earth!! The Poem below is for them and for the many for whom this Christmas was particularly difficult because it was the very first one they spent without a Mom, Dad, Spouse, Child or some other Cherished person.

**WELL DONE, BIG SIS!! ENJOY YOUR WELL DESERVED REST FROM ALL YOUR LABORS!**

Respectfully,

“FOX” Monjimbo.

P.S. Just because you might be wondering “how manage” I (who never knew or met you before) got the 2 Saker pictures of you that I’ve posted on the IN MEMORIAM page, let me explain: They are cropped from some pictures Sister Mary Gwei (your classmate) had sent to me a while back. I hoped/assumed you’d be in them somewhere, since Sis Nene said you were a member of the Class of 1971. I emailed the full pictures to her, (Sis Nene), this “ivining”, she identified you, and I cropped accordingly! I think you look GREAT in them but just in case you disagree, I just thought you should know who else to “attack” besides me … “LATER” Sis!!

