

Foursquare, family, friends

By Gbenga Akinfenwa

THE sudden demise of four vibrant youths of the Foursquare Gospel Church, Alaka, Surulere, Lagos State, in a fatal accident, is still a dream some church members, colleagues and families are yet to wake up from.

It came as a rude shock the church will struggle to cope with in the months ahead, considering the important roles the deceased played in their various departments in the church.

While Omonike Oyedele, a graduate of Accounting/Management of Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, is a member of the choir, Shalom Etiubon, a graduate of Architecture from Covenant University, Ota, was in the church's multi-media department, and the duo of Anuoluwapo Bisade-Philips, an Higher National Diploma (HND) 1 student of Yaba College of Technology, Yaba, Lagos and Temidayo Oyebade, an I.T expert, owner of the ill-fated car, were members of the youth wing.

They met their untimely death on Thursday, August 4, 2016 in a car accident in Ojota area of Lagos, while on their way to the 2016 National Youth Convention of the church at the Ajebo camp on the Lagos/Abeokuta expressway. Of the five occupants, only Seun Ayodeji survived the accident.

It was gathered that the accident occurred by the bridge linking Ojota to the Seven Up bus stop, when a trailer rammed into a car directly behind theirs and then ran over their car.

While the four died instantly, Ayodeji was in coma.

Sadly, the three ladies - Oyedele, Bisade-Philips and Etiubon are pastors' daughters. All efforts by *The Guardian* at the weekend to speak with church leaders and some members, who knew the deceased, proved abortive. They unanimously said "we don't want to remember the incident at all, because we are still grief-stricken."

The Guardian learnt that the church have since buried the victim. According to a source, the church

mourn four youths who died in Ojota accident



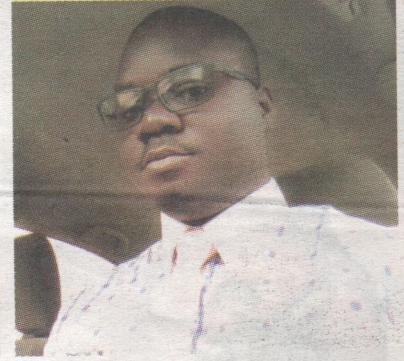
Bisade-Philips

had arranged that four of them be buried at Atan Cemetery, Yaba, but while three of them were buried on Wednesday, August 10, Etiubon's father insisted she should be flown to Uyo, Akwa Ibom State, where she was buried on Friday, August 12.

A female source told *The Guardian* that the General Overseer, Rev. Felix Meduoye, accompanied by several high-ranking pastors, visited the church on Sunday, August 7, to sympathise with them, adding that they also visited the be-

reaved families.

Oyedele's brother, Bode Oyedele, wrote on his Facebook wall after the burial thus: "The whole world celebrates you my dear sister. Though it was a short life you lived, but it was a very impactful one, a life well spent. Greenland hall celebrate you, Obafemi Awolowo University celebrate you, NYSC Ogun State band celebrate you, FUNAAB celebrate you, KPMG celebrate you, Foursquare Gospel Church in Nigeria celebrate you, so many well-wishers who never knew



Oyebade



We don't want to remember the incident at all, because we are still grief-stricken.

you but heard or read about you celebrate you and we your family celebrate you. Rest in the bosom of the Lord. I love you and will miss you."

Sanusi, Oshiomhole, Igbinedion bid UNIBEN VC's mother farewell

From Michael Egbejule, Benin City

PROMINENT Nigerians at the weekend joined the family of the Orumwense in Benin City, the Edo State capital, to bid the matriarch of the Orumwense family farewell in her journey to the great beyond.

Dignitaries who joined the family to pay tributes to late Mrs. Alice Oghoghoro Orumwense, mother of the Vice-Chancellor, University of Benin (UNIBEN) include the Emir of Kano, Sanusi Lamido Sanusi, Edo State governor, Adams Oshiomhole, business mogul and *Esama* of Benin, Chief Gabriel Igbinedion, regis-

trar of the Joint Admission Matriculation Board (JAMB), Prof. Oloyede Isah, the Pro-Chancellor of UNIBEN, Effiong Bob, and the immediate past Vice-Chancellor of the university, Prof. Godwin Oshodin, who all eulogized the late Orumwense as a woman of virtue.

The remains of the 92-year-old matriarch was interred at the family residence, amid outpouring of eulogies from the guests.

In a homily, the parish priest at St. Patrick Catholic Church, Reverend Father Augustine Ehigie, during a special thanksgiving serv-

ice for the deceased, urged Christians to live a life worthy of emulation, adding that only a life well spent is pleasing to God.

Elders of the deceased and Vice-Chancellor of UNIBEN, Prof. Faraday Orumwense, expressed gratitude to God for a successful burial. He thanked all who joined the family in their time of grief through their prayers, physical presence and support.

"I want to on behalf of my family thank you all for your contributions and role played during the funeral of my late mother," he said.



Williams



15 people death in Ayoka road crash