



World Methodist Council

Ivan M. Abrahams, General Secretary

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Rev Ugonna, Bishop Sunday Onuoha and Family
Vision Africa
NIGERIA

Dear Ugonna and Sunday

It is with sadness that we learnt of your dear daughter, Agnes' death.

To say that we grieve with you for your loss as parents, and her siblings, Jane and Isaac, is putting our feelings mildly. We cannot begin to imagine the pain of your loss as parents and siblings.

Losing a child is the deepest kind of pain for a living soul to endure. The loss extends from the memories of her birth, the first word, milestones in her growing to what she has become, a beautiful, precious child of God. The loss extends to what her passing has left undone, the achievements she was not able to accomplish, her dreams that will not become reality. The total loss of a child whom God lent you for a short while is indescribable. May I share the following with you in hope that it may bring some peace:

THIS CHILD OF MINE

By Edgar Guest

I will lend you for a little time
This child of mine, He said.
For you to love the while she lives,
And mourn for when she's dead.
It may be six or seven years,
Or twenty-two or three.
But will you, till I call her back
Take care of her for me.

She'll bring her charms to gladden you,
And should her stay be brief.
You'll have her lovely memories,
As solace for your grief
I cannot promise she will stay,
Since all from earth return.
But there are lessons taught down there,
I want this child to learn.

I've looked the wide world over
In search of teachers true.
And from the throngs that crowd life's lanes,



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I have selected you.

Now will you give her all your love,
Nor think the labour vain.
Nor hate me when I come
To take her home again?
I fancied that I heard them say,
“Dear Lord, Thy will be done!
For all the joys Thy child shall bring,
The risk of grief we'll run.

We'll shelter her with tenderness
We'll love her while we may,
And for the happiness we've known
Forever grateful stay.
But should the angels call for her,
Much sooner than we've planned.
We'll brave the bitter grief that comes
And try to understand.”

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We thank God that we are a resurrection people and that we believe in the resurrection to new life in Christ, realizing that death is not the end, but passing from the land of the dying into the land of the living. Yet this knowledge may not always fill the void left by the passing away of a loved one.

The Lord is near to those who mourn; he lifts up those whose spirit is crushed. Ps 34:18

Please accept the heartfelt condolences of the staff and members of the World Methodist Council in the assurance that you are all in our thoughts and prayers.

May God grant you the needed grace, strength, wisdom and comfort at this time. May your Agnes's soul rest in eternal peace and rise in glory.

Yours in the service of Christ,

Ivan M Abrahams
General Secretary