**A Short Biography Of Madam Patricia Manka Ndeng**

**(By John and Simon)**

Madam Patricia Manka-a Ndeng was born in Bafut in the Northwest Region (then province) of Cameroon on the July 25th day of 1958 to Mr. and Mrs.Ndeng Pius (who are of blessed memory)

At her very tender age shortly after birth, Madam Patricia lost her mother. She was thence breast fed and brought up by her aunt, late Mami Bibiana Asombang. Back in her days, school was not a priority to some parents and students for post-primary education. She, however, liked sewing and knitting. She performed well on this in her domestic science classes (as reported by one of her teachers, now n the USA, who used to persuade her as a family friend). After primary school, Sister Patricia worked as a house girl (maid) in GRA Buea, where we all grew up. She was later introduced to the tailoring trade by the people we informally call her adoptive parents, Mr and Mrs Asombang who bought her first manual machine after her apprenticeship. Thereafter, she was employed to work with the Irish Catholic Reverend Sisters of the Mt Mary Maternity at the Buea Town Mission for some years where she raised some capital. As such, she took up to herself upon sewing to become a professional seamstress at the Buea main market **(shed # 32)** Asides that, and as a ‘bulldozer, she took the risk to trade between Nigeria and Cameroon through the high waters on numerous trips. On such trips, she helped buy many articles for family, friends and herself on command and or for sale as an additional source of income.

Her broad knowledge in all these this made her very renown, gaining her much wealth and making her an international star until her death. She belonged to a couple of social groups. One of her brothers was her right hand man, kind of acted like her ‘private family Secretary’ and ‘voice’ at times. Some served as her storekeepers in her retail business until they traveled abroad. At one point in time, she was the official contracting seamstress to the former female Nigerian resident Consul here in Buea throughout her stay in Cameroon, despite the presence of many fellow tailors and seamstresses. ‘Ndangka’ as her younger siblings used to call her, was one of the main brain behind many of our family’s progress. Her kid sister, Sirri Chruistina Asombang (here from the USA), grew up with her from secondary to high school. She was able to finance some siblings flights to go abroad, even if they had to pay back amongst other great plans. She did same to many of her family friends. Many of her friends benefited from her finamcial capability and generosity, even if she didn’t or they don’t say it directly. Madam Patricia Manka , like everyone of us here and family, didn’t paint all pictures as always rossy. She had her own ways. and weaknesses as any other human

Sister Madam Patricia gave her life to Christ not only becoming faithful in his ministry (the Catholic Church), but served God in many ways, such as leading many groups in the Church (Choirs, Apostolic groups, as Chair lady etc). She had the beautiful voice and energy ever since the old small church hut before this one, to sing different choral parts. She also led different community and non governmental groups which gained her more prominence. Until her death, she had been sick of liver disease, as well as vision problems, related to uncontrolled diabetes and hypertension for a good number of years. Before her death, her siblings in California, USA tried to help her travel abroad on several unsuccessful attempts to get better medical treatment. Her declining health even made her travel twice to South Africa for treatment until her death on the 23rd of July 2014 in Limbe

She was not only a sister, cousin or friend to many, but a mother who was blessed with two children. Unfortunately, Anne Marie Lum (here present from the USA) is the sole survivor today. She also leaves behind her, many ‘siblings’, cousins, other family members and a school of friends to mourn her.

Her we are all involved in her funeral Mass at this St Martin de Pores Catholic Church, Bokwango-Buea, where we all grew up, used to worship and wikll continue to do so from far and near until our own days.