

## THE MAIDEN ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE NORTH AMERICAN BRANCH OF THE NOTRE DAME GRAMMAR SCHOOL OLD STUDENTS ASSOCIATION HELD IN BALTIMORE, MARYLAND

The maiden annual conference of the North American branch of the Notre Dame Grammar School Old Students Association was held in Baltimore, MD between Friday July 25th and Sunday 27th 2014. The venue of the conference was the newly built Hampton Inn on Belmont road, Woodlawn. The arrowheads of this conference were the members of the association in Maryland such as our president, Dr. Adelaja Adelugba, Deacon Adeola Richard, Deacon Oluremi, Pastor Jide Dada and myself.

The arrival and registration was on Friday July 27th. It was indeed an occasion of happy reunion of classmates, seniors and juniors. Many of us came with our wives and children. It was an evening of story-telling of events that took place in our Alma mata many years ago but which we could all relate to in one way or the other. Some of us did not know each other obviously based on the fact that we were students in the school at different times but event of the evening yoked us together as a member of the same family. At the end of the registration and introduction, we all settled down to a delicious dinner of pounded yam and *efo riro*, *Jollof* rice, fried plantain and assorted meat.

Saturday July 26th, 2014 was the conference proper. The conference started around 1.00 pm with prayer and introduction of members and the year of their graduation. The current officers were elected. The issue of the constitution and the registration of the association were discussed and concrete decisions were taken to finalize those issues. The issue of the deplorable condition of our Alma mata was discussed and how we can come in to find solutions to some of those problems. The issue of the deteriorating health condition of the late Pharm. Gabriel Afolayan was also discussed and the decision of how we could assist financially was taken. Other decisions taken in this meeting were that of the annual dues, which was fixed at \$200 per member and the month of July was fixed for the annual conference. Pastor Olawale Familoni agreed to host the conference in 2015 in Providence, Rhode Island. At the end of the meeting, we proceeded to the premises of the Throne of Grace and Miracle Ministries for a cook-out. In the evening, we all gather together in the conference hall at Hampton Inn for a gala night that was full of fun with a lot to eat and drink and good music to dance to.

On Sunday July 27th, a thanksgiving service was held at Throne of Grace and Miracle Ministries from 10 am - 12.30 pm. At the end of the service members departed to their various destinations.

Bishop (Dr.) Kayode Fanilola