

A tribute to a great teacher, mentor and friend – Professor Adetokunbo Lucas

Lord, help me to live from day to day.  
In such a self-forgetful way.  
That, even when I kneel to pray,  
My prayer shall be for – ‘Others’.  
Charles D. Meigs {1890-1902}

Our teacher and mentor spent a lifetime not for self, but, for ‘others’.

Professor Adetokunbo Lucas, the husband of Mrs. Kofo Lucas, father and grandfather was a noble man who spent a lifetime living, not for himself, but, for others. Our Creator bestowed on him the rarest attributes of wisdom and intelligence. His humility was matchless!

True to his God-given gift, Professor Adetokunbo Lucas spent his lifetime building opportunities to educate, train, and lift others up – young and old alike! With, a rare generous heart, he accomplished this through the many African and non-African scientists who he interacted with, mentored, and provided strategic wings to fly on. Professor Lucas was a man who lived by the power of his example, which, was beyond boundaries - simply limitless!

An unassuming, renowned scientist and teacher, who generously shared knowledge, cultivated confidence in his students and mentees to ensure excellence in all. Professor Lucas took great delight in the achievements of those he worked with or mentored. In his autobiography, “ It was the Best of Times: from Global to Local” he celebrated ‘others’ achievements which, could not have been without him. Truly, the history of global health and it’s leadership cannot be complete without a section on Adetokunbo Lucas.

Almost second nature, yet, relentlessly, Professor Lucas monitored the progress of his students and mentees. Effortlessly, he provided strategic references to, and for all. To many of us who had the privilege to interact with him, he was the iconic archive of national and international historical health events. To the Harvard Takemi Program Class of 1991-1992, he was simply the greatest teacher!

As a renowned and problem-solving humanist, Professor Lucas, provided assistance to mentees always with his life’s philosophy, “**Do not let us down**”. **How could we? Certainly not, not when you left that broad shoulder and the bridge for many of us to stand on. That, is your legacy!** In your memory, we light two candles – one to bid you farewell, the second will continue to live this legacy.

Adieu great teacher, friend, mentor par excellence, a truly quintessential man, I remain forever grateful.

Professor Uche Amazigo, FAS  
Prince Mahidol Laureate in Public Health