​**TO MISS WILMA BINDER**

**HAPPY MOTHER’S DAY, MAMMY BINDER**

**(Sunday, May 9th, 2010)**

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DISCLAIMER: This is in no way an attempt to “cajole” Miss Binder into removing my name from any “Punishment List” she may have scribbled on that magical left palm of hers which, in my opinion, puts all the world’s BlackBerries and iPads to shame! I just happen to think, now that I am older and, I hope, wiser, that she deserves a MOTHER’S DAY TRIBUTE because, from the time we each tearfully waved our “real” mothers goodbye at the beginning of 1st, 2nd and 3rd term, (for every year spent in Saker Baptist College), it really was Mammy Binder who took over the task of raising us till we went on “holidays”. I don’t have a phone number, snail mail, or email address for her, so I thought I’d just “post me my thing” on this “weti-person-fit-do-me” forum! So, here we go!

**Who,** by supplying us with potent “MALARIA MEDECINE” every Sunday after Siesta, soothing “TOUCH AND GO” pink liquid for tooth ache, amazing HEAD LICE-KILLING WHITE POWDER, organizing those dreadful “CHOOKING FINGER” gynecological examinations, and escorting “High Fever” screaming students to Victoria General Hospital in that white 504 PEUGEOT lift back, meticulously looked after our health??

Mammy Binder!!

**Who,** by organizing “BANKING” once a month during Saturday evening PREP where you HAD to state what you wanted the money for, and the highest amount you could withdraw was a “WHOPPING” 200 francs, taught us how to plan and live on a budget??

Mammy Binder!!

**Who,** by her PALAVER LETTER sessions did her best to keep us on “the straight and narrow” to the greatest chagrin of many a SASSE, GHS and BBSS boy??

Mammy Binder!!

**Who,** seeing little Thumbelina-sized AZA TEH struggling with her iron water bucket from Likomba, came out of her house (opposite Baba’s) and helped her carry that bucket to her dormitory??

Mammy Binder!!

**Who**, instead of chastising and punishing VERO UGWU for yelling “Miss Binder, see your trong backfoot” had the “grace” to just shoot back a terse “like your own too!”??

Mammy Binder!!

**Who** saved HELEN NTONIFOR and many of us from being the wheelchair-bound paraplegics we would certainly have become if there had been no ban on climbing up those mango trees in search of “one bite”??

Mammy Binder!!

**Who** made a bunch of very blessed people out of the patients in MBINGO BAPTIST HOSPITAL by sending them the clothes we preferred NOT to claim from “The Stage” during Saturday morning’s Puff-puff & Pap breakfast because we would rather give up our “nighties”, “waist slips” “loin cloths” and “Crimplene gather-waist” dresses than have her write down our names for punishment??

Mammy Binder!!

Who knew each one of us so intimately that she could:

- Tell every single set of identical twins that ever went through SBC apart in a heartbeat (Nice try, ETHEL OBENSON, trying to pass for your twin sister PATRICIA (R.I.P.)

- Stand in front of KENNEDY Dormitory after Lights Out, identify a student standing all the way in front of HENDERSON Dormitory (de lass dormitory for King House) from the back (wehda dat “security light” bulb in front MERRICK be don die or not), and call her out by name – including her “kontri” name if need be!

- See only your "back head" for a fleeting second as you “branched” into the New Town Market on your way back to school from EBENEZER BAPTIST CHURCH (just trying you to buy your Blue Band margarine or Sardine to put in your “Blockade” you) and still write your name down, make no mention of it such that you were convinced that she really hadn’t seen you, only for her to suddenly call your name for punishment a good two weeks after!!! (MBALUCK!!)

Mammy Binder!!

**Who** saved the CBC (Cameroon Baptist Convention) a fortune in Maintenance Expenses by supplying us with “lances” to “chapear” our plots on Thursday afternoons to golf course standards, iron brushes to scrub the moss off the sidewalks and steps, and ladders to wash all the windows so clean that Sister CATHERINE ILONGO, my REDDIG Dorm Head, could actually use the glass window panes to check if GLORY FONYONGA and I had oiled the scalp lines between her “troway” adequately??

Mammy Binder!!

**Who,** on top of her innumerable duties as Vice-Principal, also did an outstanding job teaching Biology (no “wanda” there are so many ExSSA Doctors, Nurses and Pharmacists), and Typing??

Mammy Binder still!!

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**Who** left the comforts of this country, had absolutely no qualms about “parading around” in a pair of “Sans Confiance”, “a Kaba” or an occasional “Wrapper & Buba” outfit, and valiantly battled the heat and the annoying “BAKWERI FLIES” for years on end just to keep what is UNDISPUTEDLY THE BEST GIRLS BOARDING SCHOOL IN ALL OF CAMEROON not just running, but THRIVING, in spite of the most challenging and daunting obstacles??

Mammy Binder!!

**MA WILMA**, ah go late for Church if ah continue dis list and, even though 30 years don pass, ah dey still fear punishment so ah go leff’am so! But MA, for this and all the many, many other things you did to make us the PHENOMENAL WOMEN we have turned out to be, I want to thank you and wish you a VERY HAPPY MOTHER’S DAY!!!!!!

Egbe Mbiwan Monjimbo

(Just one of the thousands of the “pikins” you helped raise, on her way to church “one time”!!!)