

BIO

Charles Roberts is from Sierra Leone. He came to Canada after he fled persecution as a journalist there. From 1988 to 1993, Charles worked as a teacher in Freetown, the capital of Sierra Leone, while freelancing for local media like the Sierra Leone Broadcasting service (SLBS).

His interest in the environment spurred Charles to join some other teachers in starting the organization, Green Scenery, in 1989. They registered The Quill Newspaper a few years later, to publicize their campaign against the unchecked felling of trees in Sierra Leone.

With help from the UK-based Royal Society for the Protection of Birds - then working to protect the Gola Rainforest in Sierra Leone – Green Scenery started several nature clubs for school children.

In 1994, Green Scenery organized the first ever mini-marathon for environmental awareness in Sierra Leone. The event, 'Green Run '94,' took place in Freetown and featured mostly teenage boys and girls.

Charles later became Deputy Editor of Expo Times, an independent newspaper. He fled the country soon after and moved to Guinea, from where the UNHCR helped him resettle in Canada.

He has been living in Edmonton since he arrived here 2001. He lives with his fourteen-year-old son, Mallan, a keen athlete who plays for Internazionale FC in the Edmonton Inter-District Youth Soccer Association (EIYSA) league.

Charles, whose interests include sport, music and poetry, is now in training to be a carpenter. In his spare time, he writes for the news web site, The Patriotic Vanguard.

African Union: AU is for Gold

by Abayomi Charles Roberts
Edmonton, Canada

Go, Africa, Go! Go for gold
For yours is of gold. AU is for gold;
That which has **much** been told
Of forebears proud and bold

How we strive to barely survive
No grain to sow; **to** feed we borrow
Not true poverty; **just** mean deprive
Amid flora, fauna, plus stones that glow

Conquerors have come and gone
So displaced, we are now 'visible'
We strenuously abide, waiting our turn
There's Big Man herald, **so we cry** inaudible

There are those on Mission: Ignoble
With gifts and sturdy strings to pull
Schemed to fit our feet and hobble
So good from afar, so far from good

dedicated to:
*Victims of Darfur (Sudan) and those sincere helpers,
Especially AU troops on the ground
September 22, 2006*