

Celebration of Life



— JOYCE EMMA —
ATTA-QUARTEY
ESSILFUA NÉE ESSILFIE

1955 - 2020

THE METHODIST CHURCH GHANA
EBENEZER CATHEDRAL – WINNEBA

BURIAL SERVICE

for the late

JOYCE EMMA
ATTA-QUARTEY
ESSILFUA NÉE ESSILFIE



DATE: 14TH MARCH, 2020
VENUE: EBENEZER METHODIST CATHEDRAL
TIME: 9:00AM



OFFICIATING MINISTERS

Rt. Rev'd Paa Solomon Grant Essilfie
(Bishop – Winneba Diocese)

Rt. Rev'd Ebenezer Abaka-Wilson
(Bishop – Cape Coast)

Very Rev'd Isaac Kwesi Acquah
(Superintendent Minister, Winneba Circuit)

Very Rev'd Richardson Andam
(Superintendent Minister, Wesley, Cape Coast)

Very Rev'd Dzimah
(Superintendent Minister, Agona Swedru Circuit)

Rt. Rev'd Joseph Ato Brown

Rev'd David Asiome K. Bedu - 2nd Minister)

Rt. Rev'd John K. Ampia –Addison

Very Rev'd Dr. David B. Ghartey-Tagoe

Rt. Rev'd Samuel Aidoo-Bervell

STEWARDS

Bro. Moses Okine

Sis. Bliss Acheampong

CHOIRMASTER / ORGANIST

Bro. Francis Anani

SINGING BAND MASTER

Bro. Eugene Kingsley Moses

Hymns

MHB 99

1. HOW sweet the name of
Jesus sounds in a believer's ear!
It soothes his sorrows, heals his wounds,
And drives away his fear.

2. It makes the wounded spirit whole,
And calms the troubled breast;
Tis manna to the hungry soul,
And to the weary rest.

3. Dear name I the Rock on which I build,
My shield, and hiding-place,
My never-failing treasury, filled
With boundless stores of grace!

4. Jesus, my Shepherd, Brother,
Friend, My Prophet, Priest, and King,
My Lord, my Life, my Way, my End,
Accept the praise I bring.

5. Weak is the effort of my heart,
And cold my warmest thought;
But when I see Thee as
Thou art I'll praise Thee as I ought.

6. Till then I would Thy love proclaim
With every fleeting breath;
And may the music of Thy name
Refresh my soul In death. Amen.

CAN 25

1. Mbrɛ Jesus Ne dzin dua yɛ dɛw
Wɔ gyedzinyi ason'a!
Otu ne yaw, yɛ ne yar edur,
Na otu no suro nyina.

CAN 25

2. Ɔbo sussum a oepira esu,
Na ɔ dwe akoma a ɔahaw;
Edziban ma sunsum a kɔm dze n,
Ahomgye ma fonafo.

6. Kɛpɛm da n na m'βεka Wo dɔ no
Medze nkwah wea tsia baa I,
Na ma Wo nsanku dzin dɛɛdɛw n'
Ɔnhom me kra wɔ wum.

CAN 324

1. Da yie, dɔfo fonafo,
W'edwuma abɔ adze;
Ahomgye da, siar mbordo
Na dɛw mapa nyɛ wodze.
*Da yie, da yie, Nyame mfa w'nsie
Adzesaa ahyɛ sum, da yie!*

2. Nyinsu bɔn san'k wantunyi
Hom fi yaw na suro nsa,
Hom mbrɛ su na mbusu nnyi,
W'akwantu ber no asa.
*Da yie, da yie, Nyame mfa w'nsie
Adzesaa ahyɛ sum, da yie!*

4. Kwantunyi bérefo dɔfo,
W'akwantu abɔ adze:
Atsew esian nyina mu,
Efi awérehow wiadze.
*Da yie, da yie, Nyame mfa w'nsie
Dzi fie kan kɔtwɛɔn hen, da yie!*



Biography

Mrs. Joyce Emma Atta-Quartey (a.k.a., Essilfua, named after her late Grand father Nana Kofi Essilfie), was born on Wednesday, 21st December, 1955 in Winneba. She was the first child of Mr. Rexford Ansaeku Essilfie and Mrs. Isabella Okorba Essilfie (née Amuasi), both of blessed memory. A few months after her birth, the family moved to Keta.

EDUCATION

Essilfua's schooling began at the Methodist Primary School Agona Swedru, and then at St. John Preparatory School, and Aburi Girls' Demonstration Boarding School. She was at Wesley Girls High School, Cape Coast from 1970-1974, and after completing 6th form in Arts at Winneba Secondary School from 1974 - 1976, she continued at Winneba Specialist Training College of Arts & Sciences, now the University of Education Winneba (UEW), specializing with Diploma in Home Management in 1979. She obtained her Bachelor of Education, Home Economics degree from the University of Cape Coast from 1993 to 1998,

and Master of Business Administration (MBA) degree in Human Resources Management from the University of Ghana, Legon from 2001-2003. Essilfua was an active member of the Group that graduated from the Wesley Girls' High School in the year 1974 as well as the Group that graduated from the University of Cape Coast in the year 1998.

PROFESSIONAL LIFE

Essilfua worked at various places including:

Sunyani Secondary School, Accra Girls' Secondary School, St. John's Grammar Secondary School, Dome, Accra as Home Science teacher, Saint Paul Methodist JSS Tema, Sakumono School Complex, Tema, Ghana Education Service Office, Accra in 1996 as Assistant Director of Education, Coordinator of Basic Schools, Municipal Education Office, Cape Coast from October, 2003 - February, 2004. She then joined the University of Cape Coast as an Assistant Registrar at the Institute of Education in March 2004 and rose through the ranks to occupy a high position of Deputy Registrar at the School of

Biography continue

Law of the University of Cape Coast until she retired statutorily in 2015. She was the first Registrar for the School of Law University of Cape Coast and played a major role in its establishment. Essilfua was a hard working Administrator who always persevered to achieve the best results. The University knew of her prowess and so engaged her on contract for a couple of years, and was a mentor to many. She was also a Consultant, and Local and International Human Resource Practitioner. She attended so many Local and International Conferences and Workshops in Human Resource Management. Whilst she worked at the University of Cape Coast, Essilfua served at one time as President of the Ghana Home Economics Association, UCC Branch. She was also an active member of the Ghana Association of University Women, International Federation of University Women, Ghana Association of University Administrators, Society for Human Resource Management, and the Lions Club International. She was appointed to the high office of member of the Governing board of Our Lady of Apostles College of Education Cape Coast in Feb 2019.

CHRISTIAN LIFE

Essilfua deeply and with reverence

loved her Lord and served Him in the Methodist Church. After an early baptism she was confirmed as a full member of the Methodist Church during her secondary school days at Cape Coast. As a student at the University, she participated fully in all the activities of the Ghana Methodist Students Union (GHAMSU). Her commitment and unwavering stewardship to the Lord was further reflected as a Steward at the Wesley Methodist Cathedral, Cape Coast. This was during the time she worked as the Deputy Registrar at the University of Cape Coast. She worshiped regularly at the Wesley Cathedral and also served as lay (local) preacher. Essilfua was an active member of the Cathedral Christ Little Band Patrons as well as the Wesley Counsellors of the Wesley Methodist Cathedral, Cape Coast. She continued to serve her Lord at the Swedru Methodist Church when she finally settled at Agona Swedru during her retirement.

MARRIAGE LIFE

Soon after obtaining her Diploma in Home Management in 1979, Essilfua got married to Mr. Kojo Amoakwa, and in 1980 saw the birth of her first child, Dr. Kojo Amoakwa. Later, one more child, Araba Amoakwa, now

Biography continue

Mrs. Araba Ayaawa Yankey, was also born. Essilfua's later marriage to Dr. Joe Atta-Quartey, a music lecturer at the UCC in 2002 lasted until 2006 when her husband passed on to glory. She remained a widow until her demise on 10th January, 2020.

SIMPA AMUASI DESCENDANTS

Essilfua was very regular at the meetings of the Simpa Amuasi Descendants. She used to travel all the way from Cape Coast or Agona Swedru for meetings. The group loved her dearly and always appreciated her enthusiastic contributions and catchy smiles. Her attitude to the Group was quite exemplary. The families of Simpa Amuasi descendants and Nana Adwoa Atta Nsona Ebusua of Abasraba, Winneba bid her farewell with the words of the MHB 652, by the 12th century hymnist Bernard of Cluny:

“Brief life is here our portion; Brief sorrow, short-lived care. The life that knows no ending, The tearless life, is there. O happy retribution: Short toil, eternal rest; For mortals and for sinners A mansion with the blest!”
Essilfua, your days on earth have

come to an end but we still hope for better days to come when we shall meet again.

Fare thee well Essilfua.



Tribute BY CHILDREN

To our dear mother affectionately called Mama Joyce, Mama J or MJ.

Ah Mama Joyce why so soon? Why so sudden? Why so unannounced? Your sudden death has been a real shock to us and we are finding it very hard to bear. Our hearts are broken and we are so confused.

It feels like just yesterday when you came to take care of your grandson Tony Junior.

It feels like just yesterday when we went for your son-in-law's mother's funeral. It feels like just yesterday when you visited us for Christmas. It feels like just yesterday when we celebrated your 64th birthday in Cumberland Maryland. When we dropped you off at Dulles International airport for your flight back to Ghana, we never thought it would be the last time we would ever see you or hear your voice. Ah your loss is just too hard to bear.

Your grandchildren keep asking "Where is Grandma Joyce"? "When can we talk to Grandma Joyce"? Junior has a new story to tell you. Nana Kojo has practiced a new song on his piano and wants to play it for you. Where are you to

take care of your new grandchild who will be born in the next few months? For many years you have been our great source of support, courage, and comfort. We pick up our phone to call you only to remember that you are no more. Our hearts ache and the pain is so intense. Ah this is just too hard to believe and accept.

The truth is we may never be able to get over the pain of your loss but we will take consolation in your life. We will take consolation in what you stood for, what you believed and what you achieved. Your life was a life well lived. A life lived in service to your family, a life lived in service to your people, a life lived in service to your country, and most importantly a life lived in reverence and service to God.

Mama Joyce was a great disciplinarian and brought us up to be disciplined, to fear the Lord and to be respectful. We admired how she would wake up at 4:30 am every morning, without fail to read the bible and pray. She found great joy in serving at church and during her years as steward of the Cape Coast Diocese of the Methodist Church she would spend her entire Sunday in Church.

Tribute BY CHILDREN continue

We admire the way you strived to improve yourself even when you were much older you went back to College to obtain a first degree and continued with a masters degree in business administration. You rose through the ranks to become a deputy registrar at the University of Cape Coast. Your attitude to work was always a strong sense of purpose and a great will to succeed, no wonder you were very successful in most places you worked.

Our mother was loving and very kindhearted. We grew up seeing our mother take care of many others as her own children. I don't remember anytime that Mama Joyce would miss an important event in the life of a friend, family member or church member. Your sacrifice of service and love to us all is one that we are deeply grateful for.

Finally we take consolation in the fact that it is God who has called you to His eternal rest. "For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with a voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord" 1 Thessalonians 4 vs 16-17.

Mama Joyce, today your many children, Papa, Nana, Sisi, Abena, Jojo, Maame, Sammy, Aziz, Peter and Alice are all here to salute you and bid you farewell.
Farewell Mama Joyce.
Rest in peace our dear mother, until we meet again.
We will really miss you.
Onyame onfa wo nsie.







Wedding Pictures



Tribute BY BROTHERS AND SISTERS

Very few families are blessed like ours to have had a brave, confident, yet humble and kind eldest sister as we had. A brave soldier very much aware of raging battles, yet bold to take her stand, girded in her armor provided in the Lord Jesus and fought the battles of life till the very end.

Sister Essilfua being the first born, and eldest sister, did not shrink back from leading us. She knew the consequences of shrinking back from the command of God to the Israelites to 'arise and take possession of the land'. Yes, God knew there were giants in the land, and battles to be fought, but God did not expect Moses and the Israelites to shrink back. God's promise was, 'He would go ahead of them to fight for them'. Our sister stood firm as the first born trusting God, moving confidently in God and standing on His promises. She was principled, a virtue that was sometimes misconstrued. She fought for what belonged to her and stood firm to fight for justice for those who couldn't fight for themselves or were not cognisant of the raging battles.

A smart, strong, bold and

resourceful leader was our sister. In fact we were greatly pampered by our sister, because she took full charge of all that we cared, so there was nothing more to do, there was no need. She supported and represented us on all fronts. She supported and advised several choirs and received music awards on behalf of her brother, George Mensah Essilfie.

Sister went to great lengths and extremes to see to it that things were done and done well.

Our sister stood for unity and sought not to drag misunderstandings and hard feelings. She was always quick to forgive and say 'Owo onyewhee! Oye, Obeye yie!'

Sister Essilfua was an inspiration to us, very patient, loving and kind. She was a very good cook. She loved to cook and sew. She studied Home Science and Management at Specialist Training College (STC) now University College of Education and during school vacations and holidays, sister would gather us, her siblings around and teach us to make cakes, biscuits, and many special dishes she had learnt in school. She also taught me Nana, how to cut and

Tribute BY BROTHERS AND SISTERS continue

and sew and we made our own dresses. Sister Essilfua made beautiful dresses. We all had different ways of showing love and appreciation for our sister. Words are inadequate to express how much we valued our sister's love, kindness and leadership. We take comfort in this, more than our thanks, our sister cared more to hear it from her Lord.

Sister Essilfua knew she brought nothing into this world and she would take nothing out with her. More than long life, what sister mostly cared for was to finish her race well and strong, then to hear the words from her Lord and Savior Jesus Christ 'Essilfua, well done good and faithful servant, you have been faithful over little enter into your Master's rest'.

We are grateful for the time God gave you to us and wish we had more time together but alas! We serve a God whose ways and thoughts are higher than ours, and we will not darken His counsel with words without knowledge. So sister Essilfua, "Mbo na edwuma! 'You have fought the good fight and finished the race and there now awaits you the words you so desire to hear. "Well done, good and faithful servant, enter into your Master's rest'.

Wo nuanom:

Nana Atta, Papa Esuon, Ewuraesi, Maame Esumanba na Mensah yese: Sister Essilfua Ayekoo! Yedawoase! Yeda Nyame ase, de odze wo fem hen. Nyame mfa wo nsie, nkepim de yebehyiam bio.





Tribute

BY PAPA ESOUN

I have always called Sister Essilfua, SISTER and so she would forever remain my Sister for life! Despite her sudden departure from her siblings. Sister has continued to keep strong ties with us, and clearly let me know that she is still with us all. Although not in flesh, her calming influence still prevails and will continue to prevail till eternity.

To say Sister was very special to us all would be an understatement. She had great understanding for many difficult situations I personally presented to her; as a young adult and as a grown up man. She was very thoughtful and always listened attentively in order to understand me, not to add to or to subtract from what I had to say.

The kind of relationship I had with Sister always allowed me to freely speak my mind and so I always felt much easier to confide in her. Thus she indeed carried with her some of the deepest personal situations I presented to her which may not have always been kind to her ears, yet she still listened to me and continued to pray for my well-being. Best of all,

she would always let me know of her love for us all siblings and her continued devotion to keep us all together no matter what the situation. And, believe me, there were some very testing moments that I presented her, but for her care and supreme understanding of life & living, the unique love she had for me never wavered for once!

Sister was very God fearing and lived the kind of life that convinced me that she would always be there for all of us forever and ever. More importantly, she instilled that love of God in me, and leading by example, Sister showed me the unlimited love of God which she passed on to all of us and knitted us all together despite our very wide distances apart from each other. This spiritual connection with Sister has made it possible for me to maintain my communication with her; even as I write.

I am very certain that we shall definitely meet again, for she told me so, and I believe her. She also added that we should not grieve so much, because she is in a very good place. Thus she may have departed for now, but from the bosom of her

Tribute BY PAPA ESOUN continue

spiritual heart, she has promised we shall meet again and that's a promise no one can take away from any of us. So for now I say goodbye, Sister, until we meet again, I leave you with this humble song I created, which I am dedicating to you:

Song: You can Fly, Just like eagles do,
Across the Seas and over mountain
tops You can rise, like the morning

star, Spread your wings and fly away
Shine your light, be that bright star,
and sail away, like a shooting star
Fly away, past the moon & Stars, There
are vistas and glories, you never
imagined You can fly anywhere, you
can own the stars, and Heaven waits
for you Spread your wings and
fly - high, high - you can fly away
So you can fly - fly away!
You can fly! Fly away! Fly!



Tribute BY FACULTY OF LAW UNIVERSITY OF CAPE COAST (UCC)

We were all deeply saddened at the unpalatable news of the demise of our beloved, colleague, mother, and friend and immediate past founding faculty officer of the Faculty of Law, Mrs. Joyce Emma Atta-Quartey which occurred on 10th January, 2020. Indeed, death has no mercy. We still have our fingers in our mouths indicating that we are shattered and lost for words. Besides, we have our hands on our heads portraying that we are all taken aback!!!!

Mrs. Joyce Emma Atta-Quartey was the first faculty officer of Faculty of Law and together with the founding Dean; Professor Philip Ebow Bondzi-Simpson established the Law Faculty in 2011. Through dint of hard work, the Department's Aims, Mission, Vision, and structures were all put in place. Mrs. Atta-Quartey was committed to building strong structures and

systems aimed at improving the Faculty of Law in particular, and school systems in University of Cape Coast and elsewhere. She was passionate about creating an enabling environment for law students to learn and become excellent legal professionals. She was exceptionally innovative, visionary, accommodating and possesses the requisite knowledge and competency to lead a meaningful educational reform.

She was later posted to the College of Agricultural and Natural Sciences as acting College Registrar with effect from 1st August, 2014.

She came back in 2016 to the Faculty of Law till her retirement from active service of the University.

Auntie Emma lived a life worthy of emulation. As an astute and seasoned administrator, she

Tribute BY FACULTY OF LAW UNIVERSITY OF CAPE COAST (UCC) continue

made a lot of sacrifices from 2011 to 2019 for the growth and development of the University until her demise on January 20, 2020. Her special leadership abilities and charisma were readily apparent!

In addition, her devotion to work and contributions to improving educational administration locally and globally were par excellence. She attended both national and international conferences and published a number of articles in reputable academic journals. She won many awards and public recognition as a result of the great and significant role she played in building the Faculty of Law in

in particular, and University of Cape Coast in general. It was clear by all standards that she was an outstanding Educational Administrator.

Above all, she was a real caring mother and problem-solver, always ready to listen and help address the concerns of those who came in contact with her.

It was a privilege to be associated with such an industrious and motherly person of the University. Although much too short, her life was well lived and she will fondly be missed by all.

May her soul rest in peace.

DAMIRE FA DUE!

DUE NE AMANE HUNU!



Tribute BY UNCLES AND AUNTIES

Over the years, true Bible students have come to realize and accept that God is in full control of human life. When you study the Word of God, the Bible, particularly the Book of Job, for example, you will also come to this revelation.

Perhaps sometimes, God may be boasting about you to Satan the devil, that you are one of His trusted, righteous, and spiritual persons in the world, and that come what may, you will not fail Him, even to the end. In chapter one of the Book of Job this is what was going on about the man Job. Then in one breath Job lost all his lifetime possessions and his 10 children. But what did Job do? Let us quote that verbatim from chapter one verses 20 to 22: "Then Job arose, tore his robe, and shaved his head; and he fell to the ground and worshiped. And he said: 'Naked I came from my mother's womb, And naked shall I return there. The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; Blessed be the name of the Lord.' In all this Job did not sin nor charge God with wrong." (NKJV).

Tearing his robe and shaving his head is an expression of pain,

sorrow and mourning, which is natural, especially having worked hard in life and having developed bonds of love between himself and his children. Then he worshiped the Lord, and made one of the most important statements that have ever come out of the mouth of man. Effectively, he teaches us that he came into the world with nothing and he would leave the world taking nothing with him. Whatever he had, be they domestic animals or children, were gifts from God in His own good time. And God deserves the right to take them back in His own time. So blessed be the name of the Lord.

In this world we may have established beautiful and long-lasting bonds of love and special relationships among ourselves as family and friends. So the loss of any one of us tends to cause much pain and sorrow. However if we could consider these statements by Job we might be able to comfort one another with love and do so more effectively, especially when we know and believe in Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God, who came into the world to take away the sin

Tribute BY UNCLES AND AUNTIES cont.

of man, and we are assured of where we are going when we leave the world.

"Essilfua, a.k.a. Joyce, and a.k.a.

Mama Joyce, Nyame dze wo bae, na Nyame abɛfa wo kɔ wɔ Ne mber m'.

Da yie;

Nyame mfa wo nsie sɔnn."



Joyce with Aunties



Joyce with Aunt Mansah



Joyce with her grandchildren



Grandchildren

Tribute BY COUSINS

*Behold, how good and how pleasant it is
For brethren to dwell together in unity!
It is like the precious oil upon the head,
Running down on the beard, The beard
of Aaron, Running down on the edge of
his garments. It is like the dew of Hermon,
Descending upon the mountains of Zion;
For there the Lord commanded the
blessing- Life forevermore.
PSALM133: 1-3*

Truly it has been very good and pleasant being cousins of Sister Joyce, whom we also called Sister Essilfua. It is somewhat weird to associate the word "death" with our cousin who was so vibrant, friendly, busy, loving and very beautiful. We miss her cheerful smile, kind words and generosity already. She made such an effort to be present at most family meetings-weddings, naming ceremonies, funerals (!) and others that we enjoyed her company a lot. To those of us who were close to her in age she was a true friend as we shared each other's joys and sorrows, encouraging and comforting one another. To the younger ones she

was a big sister to be comfortable with, serving as a role model because of her hard work and many accomplishments. Indeed she had time for our children too.

The Bible is always right - being United as a family brings much joy. It is the happy time with Sister Essilfua which has left us reeling in pain with her passing.

Though caring and affable, Sister Essilfua was not a softie- if you did something she did not like, be sure you will get an earful! However within a short time the sunshine of forgiveness broke through the clouds making things great again. We thank you heavenly Father for giving us such an interesting and lovable person. We are proud of you, Sister. O Essilfua! Could we but see one more smile, share one more laugh, one more embrace.....

Rest in peace. May your good works follow you.





Tribute BY IN-LAWS

*"Precious in the sight of the Lord
is the death of His Saints"*
Psalm 116 vs 15

We still cannot believe that our dear mother-in-law is no more. Mama Joyce as we affectionately call you. We will miss you dearly.

You were an epitome of courage, strength, and love. You touched so many lives including ours with the unmatched kindness in your heart. You lived life to the fullest and we are grateful to God for the time we spent with you.

You would always call to check on us and your grandchildren. In fact you were a doting grandma to all your grandchildren.

Mama Joyce was always full of smiles, life, and joy. It was just a few weeks before your death that we celebrated your 64th birthday. Nana Kojo played happy birthday on his piano while we all sang in joy. You were full of smiles while you cut your cake, read the messages in your cards, and kissed your gifts. Ah, hmmm, the gifts you never got to use. We had hoped for more birthday celebrations but sadly that will never be.

We cannot agree more with the words of this great saying "Death takes the body. God takes the soul. Our mind holds the memories. Our heart keeps the love. Our faith lets us know, we will meet again."

Mama Joyce we thank you for entrusting your children to us. We thank you for loving and treating us like your own children. Mama Joyce your in-laws Tony, and Maame Yaa are here to bid you farewell.

Farewell Mama Joyce.

Rest in peace, until we meet again.
Damirifa duei!

Mama Joyce, asekonofu,
damirifa duei!

May God grant you peaceful
rest in His bosom.

Damirifa duei!



Tribute TO A PERFECT FRIEND

By Rose Mensah-Akollor

"May your unfailing Love be my comfort, according to your promise to your servant." Psalm 119:76

A sister or sibling is not a title necessarily reserved for one with whom you shared a womb. For me, a sister or sibling, is one who goes beyond his or her capacity for a friend - and does so unreservedly. That was the relationship between Joyce and myself.

We met at the Specialist Training College, now the University of Education Winneba, when Joyce came in 1976. Our friendship was one of sisterhood. We kept in contact over the years and the bond between us grew stronger as the years progressed. We've shared each others joys, pains, difficulties and sorrows.

Joyce was a very kind, selfless, and gentle person. Above all she was a true Christian. Her daily morning devotion was part of her life. She lived the word of God. Her life was her actions, not just words. I never heard her say a bad word about anyone in all the years I knew her.

She loved and respected everyone and I believe she was loved and respected by all she came into contact with. She would go out of her way to help anyone in need, if she could. She never said no to anyone who asked a favour of her. She would go over and beyond to help anyone.

Joyce's relationship with people around her was very unique, she made everyone feel so special. Joyce's qualities included her humility; she was a very, very down to earth person, so unassuming. A very calm and peaceful person. Her character was exemplary, simply beautiful.

Joyce was there for her children and her in laws at every moment in time. She would drop and pick her grandson from nursery. None of this seemed to tire her. With 'Grandma Duty', Joyce set the bar very high. She devoted her life not only for her work but for her children and grand children. Whatever Joyce did, she did with passion. Her children's spouses and their mothers were her family. She treated them with welcoming love and respect. My siblings were her family too.

When Joyce married Dr. Atta-Quartey, of blessed memory, he had a number of children living with him, who he was helping with their schooling. These children were not blood relations. When her husband passed away, she let them stay with her. Joyce tried to give them the best as far as their education and financial needs were concerned. Joyce's home operated with an open door policy, underpinned with love, and always full of food.

Tribute TO A PERFECT FRIEND continue

By Rose Mensah-Akollor

Since 1989, when Joyce first visited me in the UK, her visits and stop overs on her way to and from the US were regular. Joyce would make it a point to stop over to see me. Whenever I was back in Ghana, it was a routine to go to Cape Coast to spend days or up to a week with Joyce. We were grateful for the creation of Whatsapp, as this enabled us to call each other almost everyday. After 44 years of knowing one another, it is only right to refer to our relationship as something beyond friendship. We were sisters. Whenever I was in Ghana, the night before my return to the U.K., Joyce would stay the night so she can see me off at the airport. This was the friendship we had.

Last Summer, Joyce passed through London, after her conference in Switzerland where she had presented a paper. From the last week of July and all through August 2019, we spent good quality time together. We did lots of fun things together; days out to museums and out and about town. Joyce went to meet up with and had lunch with some of her year mates from Wesley Girls' High School, as she had done previously. She was happy. Two days before Joyce left for Ghana, I made sure I fulfilled one of the things I had always wanted to do with her when she came to visit, which was to take her to a musical show. I am so glad I did. I booked for us to see the Tina Turner

The Musical at the Aldwych Theatre. We thoroughly enjoyed the evening and had so much fun. I came to Ghana on the 10th of November. I had a busy schedule.

Joyce had come to see me twice since I arrived. Joyce came to say goodbye to me on the 10th of December. She had changed quite a bit, she looked tired, but I thought that she was fatigued from the sudden preparation she had to make to leave for the U.S. She left for the U.S. on the 11th of December. She called when she arrived, but the conversation was very abrupt.

I called when I got back to the UK, after the New Year, but I had no response. The time difference made it a little more tricky to reach her. Joyce would normally call me back, but this time she wasn't being as responsive.

On the morning of the 10th of January 2020, I received a call, with the sorrowful news of your passing. I kept hoping it was a mistake.

My dearest friend and sister, Essilfua, rest in perfect peace. You were "A Perfect Friend"; gentle and humble, generous, caring and loving. You were so much fun to be with, your bubbly personality made you unique. You were a Lady. A woman of substance.

Tribute TO A PERFECT FRIEND continue By Rose Mensah-Akollor

Beautiful inside and outside. Truly irreplaceable. I miss you already. One of the reasons I looked forward to coming to Ghana was you. Now you are no more. Thank God for the beautiful time we had together last Summer. I will always cherish those moments.

My children and I bid you farewell.
Fare thee well.
Sleep in perfect peace.
Adieu, my friend, my sister, sleep well.
Essilfua due, Essilfua da yie.
May the angels of Jesus welcome you.
Amen.







Tribute

BY MEMBERS OF THE 74 YEAR GROUP OF
WESLEY GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL

In September 1969, 96 girls came together from different parts of Ghana, indeed different parts of the world, through admission into Wesley Girls High School (WGHS). Joyce joined from Swedru, was in the 'S' stream and lodged in Block C, Waldron House.

A well-composed, friendly and gentle soul, with a distinctive voice and striking personality. We, her classmates, the 1974 year group, were stunned when we learnt of her passing. Not so long ago, on September 22 2019, we celebrated 50 years of entry into Wesley Girls High School, and she traveled to Accra from Swedru to be part of the Thanksgiving service and other events. She was her usual radiant and composed self.

She was an active voice on our WhatsApp platform with thoughtful views - usually expressed in impeccable Fanti! She took the time to catch up with every post on the platform and gave a response, even if a number of days late.

In her recent visit to the UK, Joyce made it a point to connect with our sisters in the UK and they had enjoyable times together. A generous spirit – she sent out the following message as we continued the celebration of our 50th anniversary of entry into Wesley Girls High School: “come to think of it, the year has still not ended, we can contribute and give a donation of items to one of these orphanages or prisons during X'mas or New Year as part of the celebration....” Yes indeed, Joyce, we shall honour that wish in your memory!

For us, Joyce was our sister, a lady, beautiful inside and out, a sweet and gentle soul.

Joyce, Onua Basia, we miss you, we really miss you!!

Rest in Perfect Peace.

Tribute

BY THE UCC 1998 HOME
ECONOMICS YEAR GROUP

"Good people die and no one understands, or even cares. But when they die, no calamity can hurt them. Those who live good lives find peace and rest in death"
Isaiah 57: 1-2

We really don't know how to start or what to even say. Dreams are too long and it will be best we remain dreaming and hoping to wake up to realize is just a dream. We the colleagues of Mrs. Joyce Emma Atta-Quartey, whom we affectionately called, Auntie Joyce, are dreaming hoping to wake up and be told it's just a dream. It is with a heavy heart we stand here today to pay tribute to a great friend

Auntie Joyce, you were a true friend to all in the class. You were such a cheerful and loving lady, always full of smiles and strikingly beautiful in and out.

Joyce, you were a lady to the letter. You never got angry and never bore grudges. Very accommodating - a true mark of a lady.

You were not only a lady, but a counselor. You ensured all your mates who came to you for counseling of one challenge or the other, got solutions and felt relaxed before leaving your presence.

You were such a kind and caring friend and easy to talk to. You really showed us love and affection. We laughed together. You were not selfish. You were ever ready after lectures to explain topics which colleagues did not understand very well during the lectures. You wanted all of us to have better grades. You were very studious, and always arranging for our discussions in preparation for our examinations. Just to give a few examples of your selflessness: "You helped and encouraged me Anna Tandoh personally to overcome my phobia of CHEMISTRY by engaging the services of a Teaching Attendant from the Science Department who took us through some topics on Saturday mornings, when you could be resting or doing things for yourself. You rather sacrificed your time to be with me. I'm forever grateful to you, Sister Joyce".

Tribute

BY THE UCC 1998 HOME
ECONOMICS YEAR GROUP *continue*

"Aunty Joyce, your relatively short life with us was a well-lived one. You inspired me to become a better person and I will forever treasure your wise counsel which you generously gave me Faustina Dalaba with your beautiful smile any time there was an opportunity to do so"

Joyce demonstrated true motherhood. She was an epitome of motherhood. Whiles in school, she found time to visit her two lovely children who were then schooling at Achimota Primary School. She would set a day or two aside at the weekend to visit them no matter the pile of assignments we had. Yet she would return full of energy to either lead discussion session or make sure all assignments were done before Monday morning.

Auntie Joyce was a God fearing person and loved the Lord very dearly. She was faithful and dedicated to God's work. She would attend, both on Campus and off Campus, Christian activities. We once attended a course for children evangelism in Cape Coast town and till date

the knowledge acquired is helpful to me in my Christian life. Several times I called her, she would ring back later and say she was in church. She would travel all the way from Cape Coast for a Christian meeting at the Trade Fair where we both attended yearly. Joyce, you will forever be remembered for your generosity, and kindness.

Fare thee well.
Rest in perfect peace.



Tribute

BY THE CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION
UNIVERSITY OF CAPE COAST

"For if we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. Romans 14:8

This tribute is paid with a deep sense of sorrow and sadness by the Central Administration of the University of Cape Coast to the memory of the late Mrs. Joyce Emma Atta-Quartey.

The late Mrs. Joyce Emma Atta-Quartey was appointed as Junior Assistant Registrar on 20th February, 2004 at the Personnel Section (currently known as the Directorate of Human Resource) and later on 1st April, 2004 she was upgraded to the rank of Assistant Registrar. She served as Secretary at the Institute of Education, the first Faculty Officer at the Faculty of Law and College Registrar at College of Agricultural and Natural Sciences (CANS), and lastly to the Faculty of Law. Her exposure in the area of administration was evident from these transfers.

By dint of hard work she rose through the ranks to Deputy Registrar on 1st August, 2014 a rank she held till her retirement.

She served on a number of statutory and ad-hoc committees at the

University and contributed immensely to committee decisions. The Late Mrs. Atta-Quartey was knowledgeable in her field of dispensation. She was a teacher and anyone who worked under her would testify that she would always patiently guide you through assignments. She had a warm and friendly disposition and fraternized easily with colleagues and subordinates alike.

She was a mother and majority of staff called her Aunty Joyce. She was also a counselor, mentor and a role model to many young ladies. Her infectious smile from a distance which preceded a warm greeting would always attract your attention.

Aunty Joyce finally retired from the University on 30th September, 2016 but continued contributing her expertise when granted post retirement contract appointment from 1st October, 2016 until 30th September, 2018.

Aunty Joyce, you have served a good course and left an indelible mark in the area of administration. Your selflessness and undaunted service to the University will not be forgotten.

Fare thee well and may the good Lord keep you resting peacefully in His bosom till we meet again. Amen.

Tribute

BY WESLEY CATHEDRAL
WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP, CAPE COAST

"Then I heard a voice from Heaven saying; Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on Yes, says the spirit, they will rest from their labour; Yes, their deeds will follow them"
(Rev. 14:13)

Travellers as we are, we will pass through this world only once. So any good thing we can do, it is better we do it now because time and tide wait for no man. Man born of a woman, is of few years, full of pain and troubles. He flourishes like a flower in the morning and wither away in the evening; he flees like a shadow and then vanishes into the abyss of eternity forever.

Good people die every day. Yet not all of them affirm for us the goodness in humanity the way Sister Joyce Emma Atta-Quartey did. Sister Joyce Emma Atta-Quartey joined Wesley Cathedral Women's fellowship when she joined her late husband Dr. Atta-Quartey at the University of Cape Coast.

In the beginning, her work schedule did not allow her to be regular at meetings and other functions of the fellowship. However, her support to the fellowship was very great. She was always ready with her financial support and words of encouragement.

Sister Joyce Emma Atta-Quartey was like

a fountain that supplied confidence, radiated hope and resonated success through hard work and discipline in the performance of her duties. Sister Joyce was later made the society steward and she duly served the church. She will always be remembered for her kind words, smiles and encouragement.

We are consoled that you have fought and have duly paid your dues to mankind and your maker. May mother earth lie gently over your mortal remains until the sounding of the last trumpet. Fare thee well!!!!
Nyame n'edwuma na hwe



Tribute

BY METHODIST CATHEDRAL
CAPE COAST

And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, blessed are those who die in the Lord from hence, Yea, saith the spirit, they may rest from their labours; and their works shall follow them" {Rev. 14:13.}

It is with deep sense of sorrow that we read this tribute as we have gathered here this morning in memory of a dedicated and committed member of Wesley Methodist Cathedral Cape Coast, to pay tribute to our dear Sister Joyce Emma Atta-Quartey whom we called Auntie Joyce by all Cape Coast Wesley Cathedral members.

In her normal devoted service, she found time to serve the church actively. Upon her activeness in the church she was elevated to Society Steward from July 2007 to February 2013. She was regular and punctual member and take active part in all church activities.

She worked hard and inspired many to serve the Lord in diverse ways. She was a member of the Leaders meeting, and serves in the following committees Finance & Development Committee, Human Resource Committee, Social Services Committee, Education Endowment Fund Committee, Counseling Committee, Committee on Dorcas Bondzie Simpson Vocational

Institute, Committee to see to the Institute, Committee to see to the progress of services of the Wesley Band to enhance the Worship life of the church, Committee constituted to draft bye laws for Wesley Band, 2008 Conference committee, Commissioner Wesley Band and Consultant to Wesley Multimedia. She was also a Patron to the following organizations, church Choir, Junior choir, Boys & Girls Brigade, Suwma, Christ Little Band and Sunday School.

She was a mother to all classes of people and counseled both the young and the old. She exhibited her genuine love for people during festive occasions where she gives out freely to church, organizations, friends and acquaintances. She was ever ready to support the church or any organization when called upon. It is a truism that life cannot wrestle from death what is already in the grips of the latter. And there isn't much what we mortal can do.

While we mourn her passing away into glory, we also express our heartfelt condolences to the children and the family. Fare thee well Auntie Joyce, we shall surely meet on the resurrection morning. Until then sleep gently in the bosom of our father in heaven.

Eulogy

BY THE EMMANUEL METHODIST CHURCH
AGONA SWEDRU

When the Breath of Life is Flown; When the Grave Must Claim its Own Lord of Life Be Ours By Crown; Life Forevermore (MHB 975:6

Today in deep sorrow we mourn a great sister, mother, and a friend, Mrs Joyce Emma Essilfie Atta-Quartey, affectionately called Mama Joyce. The death of the late Mama Joyce came as a great shock to us all, it was so devastating that we have still not come to terms with why death will lay its icy hands on such a devout Christian who gave her life to the service of her Maker, the Church and the nation.

What really happened? Did she not ask permission from the Leaders' Meeting to visit her children for a couple of weeks in the United State?

Maa Joyce became a Full Member of Emmanuel Methodist Church after settling home finally two years ago when she came on retirement from Cape Coast University.

She contributed both financially and materially to the growth of the Church, she started choir practice because she wanted to enrol as a member of the choir after her return from overseas.

She showed love and humility to all who came her way. Mama Joyce being the eldest daughter of the late Papa and Maame Essilfie was handing the Endowment Fund instituted for the training of would be ministerial candidates to Trinity Theological Seminary from Swedru Circuit. Who will be the next to take care?

Many of the church members, both young and old, have various testimonies of her encouragement, counselling, consolation and help in their time of need which but for lack of time and space would be sufficient to portray the value of a life now lost by the Methodist Church.

Mama Joyce, your demise has been a blow to us. We know very well that if you had stayed for long you would help the Church as she had planned.

Mama Joyce, the dexterity with which you performed your task on this earth was without measure and sometimes your colleagues at your work place, Leaders and members of the church wondered what stuff you were made of. Mama Joyce's unexpected demise is a reminder to us that death is due to all human beings, so all should reflect on the words of the Psalmist "Teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts to wisdom" (Psalm 90:12).

Sister Joyce may perpetual light shine upon you until the dawn of a new day.

May the good Lord receive you and rest peacefully in his bosom.

Mama Joyce Fare Thee Well
Mama Essilfua,
Rest in Perfect Peace. Amen.

Tribute

BY THE EMMANUEL METHODIST
CHURCH CHOIR, AGONA SWEDRU

*Lord of the nations, thus to Thee
Our country we commend;
Be Thou her refuge and her trust,
Her everlasting Friend.
MHB 881 John Reynell Wreford,
Tune SWALEY, By J. WALCH*

Writing a tribute in memory of our dear sister at this time is something we never dreamt of and we would have considered premature!

Our sister, like other members of the Great Essilfie Musical Family, had been a member of this choir for many years until work took her away to the University of Cape Coast. On her final retirement from active service, she renewed her membership with us and was constantly with us when she had not travelled. During some of her days with us, being a flawless alto singer, she often drew the attention of our choirmaster to correct some notes she felt the alto singers she was with were not singing properly. She, after they had sung the correct note, would remark; "You have now sung it well".

Her last association with us was in the first week of December, 2019. We were then learning her brother, George Mensah Essilfie's song; "Ye dze wo ke se ye ma wo" in our preparation towards the church's Annual Harvest and Thanksgiving service. She, after the night's rehearsal and when we were

outside, would often in her mellow voice remark: "Mensah be ndwom yi ɔye dzen papa, ɔdɔɔ so so, na ɔye fine". Yo wit: "This song composed by Mensah is very difficult and very long. Anyway it is fine"

During our preparation for the Swedru Emmanuel Methodist Church Choir's Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols, the choir decided to dedicate that programme to honour some families of repute to the church including the Essilfies. We wrote to inform our sister of this and she responded positively and with much gladness but she regretted that the date we've chosen for the programme had clashed with her trip to the United State of America (USA). She, however, assured us of her total commitment towards the success of the exercise. She went further to assure us of her support and redemption of the family's pledge on her return from her trip. But that was not to be; death took her away much to our surprise and sorrow. We wish our sister well on her journey to her maker.





Appreciation

The families of the late
JOYCE EMMA

ATTA-QUARTEY

Wish to express our heartfelt gratitude to all those who in diverse ways assisted us with the Funeral arrangements, comforted us, sent condolences, Traveled from far and near and prayed with us during this trying time

May God Richly Bless You



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