



90 Years

**MARIE-LOUISE  
ADDO-ASHONG**

— January 1930 - May 2020 —



# Program Outline

## **PRE-FUNERAL SERVICE AT HER RESIDENCE, KUMASI**

**Date:** 26th May, 2020

**Time:** 7:00 am - 9:00 am – File Past & Prayer for the Family

## **FUNERAL SERVICE AT TRANSITIONS FUNERAL HOME, ACCRA**

**Date:** 27th May, 2020

**Time:** 8:00 am – File Past  
9:00 am – Funeral Service

## **ORDER OF SERVICE**

1. Opening Prayer – Isaac Bediako Ashong
2. Solo – Comfort Ye My People
3. File Past
4. Purpose of the gathering – Isaac Bediako Ashong
5. Scripture reading- Marie-Louise Brenyah
6. Hymn – MHB 10 - Now Thank We All Our God - Sung by Rachel Baako (Recorded)
7. Scripture reading – Adobea Addo-Ashong
8. Biography – Michael Ansah
9. Tribute by the Children – Joyce Twum
10. Poem by Zachary Baako – Read by Francis Brenyah
11. Solo – Ave Maria
12. Sermon – Rev. Kakra Baiden
13. Prayer for the bereaved Family– Rev. Kakra Baiden
14. Solo – The Trumpet Shall Sound
15. Vote of thanks – Nana Akua Brenyah Boateng
16. Recessional Hymn – MHB 511 – Begone Unbelief

## **FUNERAL SERVICE & INTERNMENT AT ADUKROM-AKUAPEM**

### **PART I - AT THE HOUSE**

1. Call to Worship - Cat. Susana Asante
2. Hymn
3. Scripture Sentences - Cat. Susana Asante
4. Hymn
5. Prayer - Cat. Susana Asante
6. Short Biography - Family Member
7. Scripture Reading - A Presbyter
8. Hymn
9. Exhortation - Rev. Percy Offei-Addo
10. Prayer & Benediction - Rev. Percy Offei-Addo

### **PART II - AT THE GRAVESIDE**

1. Scripture Sentences- Cat. Susana Asante
2. Hymn
3. Exhortation - Cat. Susana Asante
4. Committal - Rev. Percy Offei-Addo
5. Prayer - Rev. Percy Offei-Addo
6. Hymn
7. Vote of Thanks - A Family Member
8. Benediction - Rev. Percy Offei-Addo



# — Biography Of —

## **MRS. MARIE-LOUISE ADDO-ASHONG**



Mrs. Marie-Louise Addo-Ashong was born at Adukrom-Akuapem in the Eastern Region on the 1st day of January 1930. Her father, known as Teacher Martin Harry Theodore Ayisi, was a strict disciplinarian and educationist and a Lay Preacher at the Presbyterian Church, Adukrom-Akuapem. Her mother, Madam Rachel Abena Adubea Larbi (aka Saara), was a Trad-er. Both were natives of Adukrom. Mrs. Addo-Ashong's father gave her the name, Marie-Louise, after a French Princess, in addition to her other names, Akua Odi Ayisi. Her given Akan name of Akua Odi was eventually changed to Akua Ayisibea, because she was fondly referred to as her father's princess. She was the fourth of five siblings, three boys and two girls - Joseph, Theodocia, Harry, and Dick. Unfortunately, all her siblings have predeceased her. She became affectionately known as Aunty Lucy/Lou/Lee/Mary or Mummy or simply, Grandma.

At the age of four, Aunty Lucy lost her mother after her little brother, Dick, was born; and barely a year later her father also died. Being orphaned, she had to stay with paternal and maternal Aunties for the greater part of her childhood. Her Aunt, Madam Deborah Amoah decided to take her to Kraboa Coalta near Nsawam where little Marie-Louise was able to start formal education up to Middle Form Four. She spent most of her time helping her Aunt to trade but because she was doing so well in school her teachers encouraged her to learn hard so she could advance in life.

After a hard day's work of household chores and selling/hawking on the street, she would spend long hours doing her homework and revising her notes; sometimes into the wee hours of the morning.

She loved to read and always had excellent marks in history. She had always wanted to be a journalist and had an amazing gift of being able to recall facts and figures but she couldn't afford to pay the school fees. She was often at the top of her class. She could also sing like an angel and joined the choir wherever she found herself. She was always asked to give the tune and lead the songs when it was time to sing.

She often told stories of what it was like to be taught music by the renowned Dr Ephraim Amu. After her Elementary and Middle School education, she gained admission to the Teacher Training College at Odu-masi-Krobo in January 1949 and graduated in 1951 with a Teacher's Training Certificate B. Her first post for teaching career started at the United Primary School at Apirede-Akuapem.

She was awarded a Scholarship in January 1952 to attend the then College of Technology in Kumasi, now, the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology to do a Specialist Course in Physical Education. She was thus one of the pioneer women Physical Educationists in Ghana.



After her Specialist course, she taught at the Presbyterian Primary Schools at Koforidua and Akropong respectively from where she went on to further her education at the Presbyterian Women's Teacher Training College at Aburi-Akuapem and obtained a Teacher's Training Certificate A in 1955 which qualified her to teach in higher classes. Her ability to go through her education was through the benevolence of her Aunt, Mrs. Felicia Adu (a.k.a. Aunty Yaa Asi) and her eldest brother DSP Joe Ayisi, who sacrificed so much for her. Aunty Yaa Asi, who was married to a Reverend Minister, Rev. E. S. Adu, was very influential in her life in imbibing in her the Christian values based on the proverbial Basle training. In addition, Aunty Yaa Asi imparted her culinary skills, sewing, etiquette, hygiene, simply, housewifery to her niece as she was herself a Home Science specialist, to prepare her for the life ahead of her.

As a result, Marie-Louise grew up to be a humble, respectful, and hardworking woman who detested dirt and untidiness almost to a fault. For example when clothes were hung on a washing line they had to be straight and in the correct order. She was always on time for any event and did her best never to procrastinate. One of her favourite sayings was "Do not put off until tomorrow that which can be done today". These virtues she imparted to anyone who came to stay with her, in what-ever capacity, during her lifetime.

Grandma met a suave soft-spoken gentleman, Mr. Francis Wellington Addo-Ashong, who had just finished schooling at the University of Ghana with a Bachelor of Science degree in Botany. They got married in December 1956 at Akim-Oda where her husband was stationed.

Grandma continued to teach mainly in the Eastern Region, notably at the Krobo Girls' School at Odumase-Krobo, her Ama Mater, the Presbyterian Middle Boarding School at Adukrom-Akuapem, the Presbyterian Teacher Training College at Akropong-Akuapem as well as the Presbyterian Women's Teacher Training College at Agogo in the Ashanti Region.

By virtue of her husband's work which took him to so many areas to establish Forest Reserves and conservation of same, she found herself teaching in many other towns outside the Eastern Region. She therefore taught in Sunyani in the Bono Region, Ho in the Volta Region, and Tako-radi in the Western Region. By dint of hard work, when Mr. and Mrs. Addo-Ashong found themselves in Tamale, Marie-Louise was immediately appointed the Head Teacher of the Zog-beli Junior high School. This School was in a very dilapidated state when she took over and by the time, she had to leave in 1961, it was acclaimed as the best in Tamale. Both the Staff and students were sad to see her go. She accompanied her husband to the Oxford University, in England for two years, from 1958 -1959 when he went to further his education, doing an MSc degree in botany. Whilst there, she made a living by catering for the other young African students who were studying there at the time.





Shortly after their return to Ghana her husband was awarded another Government scholarship to study in Australia to pursue another MSc. Degree in Wood Technology. He was able to get a Ghana government scholarship for Marie-Louise to study Physical Education and Anatomy at the University of Melbourne, Australia. By the grace of God, they were able to travel with the three children their marriage had then been blessed with. Upon their return from Australia the young family settled in Takoradi where Marie-Louise taught at the Holy Child Teacher Training College and at the Archbishop Porter's Secondary School.

When the Forest Products Research Institute of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) was set up and moved to Kumasi, her husband was appointed as the Director of the Institute and the family relocated to Kumasi. Shortly before this move, they were blessed with the birth of their fourth and last child. Being the wife of the Director meant she frequently hosted social events for both local and foreign guests, a task that she rose to most graciously. On moving to Kumasi, she continued her teaching career and taught at the St. Louis Teacher Training College and at the St. Louis Secondary School, both in Kumasi.

In October 1970 she assumed responsibility as the District Physical Education Officer in Kumasi. She was exceptionally hard working in this role and trained many athletes in various sports disciplines and unearthed very many talented national sports men and women in Kumasi. It was always a delight to see her in her short crisply ironed pleated white skirt and blouse going smartly up and down at the Kumasi Sports Stadium.

Mrs. Addo-Ashong approached her profession with zeal, conscientiousness, and propriety. She literally poured her heart into the teaching of sports and mentored the many students she met.

Marie-Louise was a devoted member of the Presbyterian Church of Ghana, Ramseyer Congregation at Adum in Kumasi. She served diligently in whatever capacity she found herself. Her love for the Lord was evident in her relationships; she was extremely courteous and generous. For her, Christianity was not just merely in word but more so in deed. She loved to read her Bible and did her best to inculcate this habit in her children.

Apart from her biological children she looked after many others by paying their school fees and providing their basic needs. Her residence was the home of many students at the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science & Technology who were colleagues /classmates of her children in that University.

In her leisure times, she loved to cook (her food was always delicious), she sewed clothes, did some gardening and rearing of chickens. As the wife of a Rotarian, she joined the Inner Wheel, the women's wing of this philanthropic society. As she had compassion for the poor, she did an excellent job as a member of the Inner Wheel. She was the Club's President for many years and executed many community based projects and held many charity concerts and jumbo sales just to raise money for the needy and orphans in Kumasi. She also attended several international Inner Wheel conferences in Sierra Leone and Liberia, to name a few.





In her later years, she travelled extensively to visit her children in the United States of America and the United Kingdom. Marie-Louise was the first "nanny" to all her grandchildren, locally and abroad. She was particularly instrumental in the early years of the oldest two. She adored her grandchildren and took exceptionally good care of them. She is survived by Four (4) children, Ruth (Kiki), David, Michael and Rachel, twelve (12) Grand-children and three (3) Great Grandchildren.

*May her soul rest gently with her Maker.  
Grandma, Adieu. Da yiye. Deelee.*





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## *Tribute by* **CHILDREN**

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Mummy was the glue that held our family together. The words of the song "Ain't No Sunshine" by Bill Withers immediately came to mind when you'd go home, and she had perhaps stepped out. Mummy was special; she loved her children fiercely. Perhaps losing her own mother at a very early age defined her attitude to mothering. There was no limit as to how far she'd go for any of us. Time will not allow us to give you the details, but mummy was a phenomenal mother. She gave up everything so that we could have it all.

Mummy was our mentor, and we aspire to emulate all her sterling qualities. She was a perfectionist, a big sister, an encourager, our life coach and counselor, our doctor, our advocate, the best cook, always churning out delicious meals. While she was never a flashy dresser, her fashion sense was immaculate. She wasn't just our mum, but also our friend. We loved to tease her, and she'd laugh so hard and then begin to tear with laughter. Perhaps one of her few flaws was that she'd never admit to falling asleep behind the TV; she was simply "resting her eyes!"

Mummy was always active; if anyone ever said they were bored, she'd quickly retort "Boredom is not in my vocabulary." She gave her best to every responsibility she was given, whether it was within family circles, her beloved Ramseyer church, or social events like Inner Wheel and Zonta. She'd begin everyday with her morning devotion (Daily Bread or Light for our Path), surrounded by her potted plants, then take care of her morning chores before heading out to work. After her devotion, she'd often talk about how she had "visited" each of her children in her prayer time, depending on their geographical location. Though she never stood in a pulpit to preach, she lived the Word of God in her love and service to all.

She was generous to a fault. It was common practice to see the less privileged in our clothes, often without having been asked! If you admired an accessory she had on, she would often just take it off and hand it over; it didn't matter who you were.

Beyond the four of us she was a mother to many; our home was constantly filled with friends and family. Mummy, Aunty Lou, Aunty Mary, Loui-Marie, Aunty Lee, Cousin Lee, Mrs. Addo-Ashong, Madam, Teacher to mention some of the names different people had for her. She always joked with some exasperation about how hardly anyone ever called her by her given name of Marie Louise!

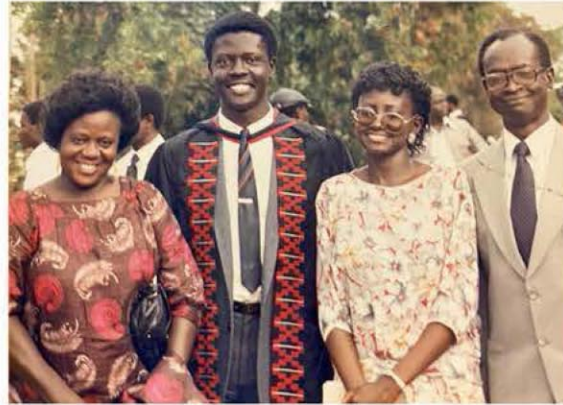
It's been heartwarming hearing from everyone about her smile, her chatty-self, the endless meals and how she made everyone feel at home.

Her staff adored her and most of them were like family to us. Mummy treated everyone alike. "Please" and "thank you" were constantly on her lips, whether she was talking to a toddler or to the Head of State. She hardly ever raised her voice and certainly never beat us, but oh, how we respected her! How can you not be in awe of one who only says to you very calmly "Well done" after you've broken a glass or plate?

Mum, we're going to miss you. We know we are blessed to have had you as our mother. We mourn her because we won't see that beautiful smile again or hear her gentle voice. Now you're with your Maker, Daddy, and all the people you loved so dearly. Tell Paafio it was never the same after he left us. Our hearts are broken. So many memories we have...that's what will keep us going...yes, the memories.

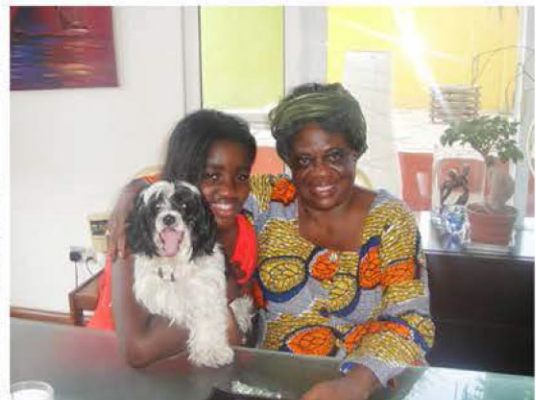
***Rest in the arms of Our Savior. You have fought well, and Mummy you have won!***





# PHOTO GALLERY







# IN LOVING MEMORY OF A WONDERFUL GRANDMOTHER

You were the reason why we all pushed through any tough time. You made it your mission to give your children and grandchildren a good life, like it was fighting crime.

It was like there was magic in your touch, like you had super powers.  
Your sweet aroma was like Sunshine and flowers

You were the air to our lungs,

The gas to our engines.

Grandma, you were the water to our seeds,

The Comforter to our bed sets.

May you rest in peace

We miss you dearly

And we love you endlessly

Thank you for showing us what a real warrior is.

By Zachary Baako, on behalf of the Grandchildren





# HYMNS

## MHB 10

Now thank we all our God, with heart and hands and voices,  
Who wondrous things has done, in Whom this world rejoices;  
Who from our mothers' arms has blessed us on our way  
With countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.

Oh, may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,  
With ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us;  
And keep us in His grace, and guide us when perplexed;  
And guard us through all ills in this world, till the next!

All praise and thanks to God the Father now be given,  
The Son, and Him Who reigns with Them in highest Heaven  
The one eternal God, Whom earth and Heav'n adore;  
For thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore.

## MHB 511

1. Begone unbelief,  
My Savior is near,  
And for my relief  
Will surely appear:  
By prayer let me wrestle,  
And he will perform,  
With Christ in the vessel,  
I smile at the storm

2. Tho' dark be my way,  
Since he is my guide,  
'Tis mine to obey,  
'Tis his to provide:  
To' cisterns be broken,  
And creatures all fail,  
The word he has spoken  
Shall surely prevail.

3. His love in time past  
Forbids me to think  
He'll leave me at last  
In trouble to sink'  
Each sweet Ebenezer  
I have in review  
confirms his good pleasure  
To help me quite through

7. Since all that I meet  
Shall work for my good,  
The bitter is sweet,  
The medicine is food;  
Though painful at present,  
'Twill cease before long,  
And then, oh how pleasant,  
The conqueror's song!



# *Miss Me But Let Me Go*

When I come to the end of the road  
And the sun has set for me  
I want no rites in a gloom filled room  
Why cry for a soul set free

Miss me a little, but not for long  
And not with your head bowed low  
Remember the love that we once shared  
Miss me, but let me go!

For this a journey we all must take,  
And each must go alone  
It's a part of the Master's plan  
A Step on the road to home  
When you are lonely and sick of heart  
Go to the friends we know  
And bury your sorrows in doing good deeds  
Miss me, but let me go.





The Children and Family of Mrs. Marie-Louise Addo-Ashong express our sincere gratitude to all who in diverse ways supported to make this burial successful.

*Thank you*