



MRS SOPHIA
SMITH ASANTE

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1962 - 2021
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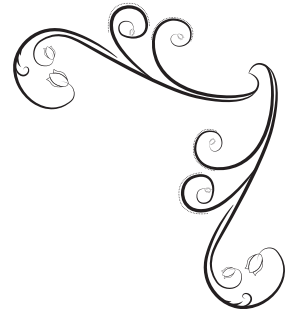
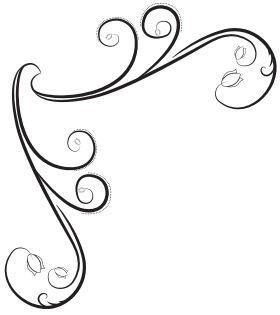


BURIAL, MEMORIAL AND THANKSGIVING SERVICE OF THE LATE

MRS. SOPHIA SMITH ASANTE

5TH MARCH 2022

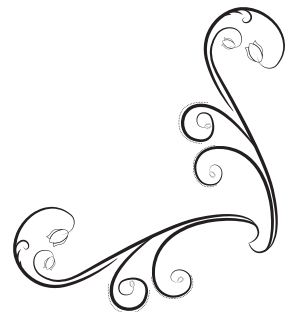
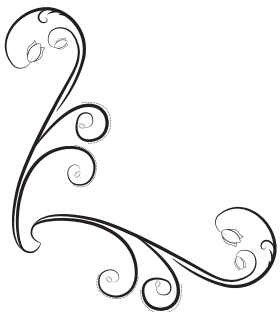
AT THE TRANSITIONS FUNERAL HOME



OFFICIATING MINISTERS



1. REV. FRANCIS SEY
2. REV. NATHANIEL OKAI LARYEA
3. REV. CHRISTOPHER MARFO AHENKORAH
4. REV. RAYMOND AMANFU
5. REV. DR. ERIC ASARE-BOAFO
6. REV. ISAAC SARBAH
7. REV. COMFORT ASAMOAH
8. REV. CHRISTOPHER AKRONG
9. REV. ABRAHAM MANTEY
10. REV. JONATHAN BANNERMAN-AFFUL
11. REV. ERNEST AIKINS
12. REV. ERNEST ADADE BOAFO
13. REV. MAC ARKOH
14. REV. KINGSFORD ADAMS
15. PS. EDMUND ADOM





ORDER OF BURIAL SERVICE



PART I

11:30 – 11:35am

OPENING PRAYER

Rev. Kingsford Adams

11:35 – 11:45am

FILLING PAST

11:45 – 11:55am

PRAISE AND WORSHIP

Praise Team

11:55 – 12:00noon

1ST BIBLE READING – I Thess. 4:13-18

Mrs. Emma Lucy Okoh

12:00 – 12:05pm

1ST HYMNAL – When Peace Like a River

Choir

12:05 – 12:10pm

2nd BIBLE READING – Mark 13:24-37

Mrs. Elizabeth Amanfu

12:10 – 12:15pm

2nd HYMNAL - In Heavenly Love Abiding

Choir

12:15 – 12:25pm

BIOGRAPHY AND TRIBUTES

12:25 – 12:30pm

SONG MINISTRATION

Choir

12:30 – 12:40pm

SERMON

Rev. Francis Sey

12:40 – 12:45pm

OFFERTORY

Choir

12:45 – 12:50pm

PRAYER FOR THE FAMILY

Rev. Christopher M. Ahenkorah

12:50 – 12:55pm

ANNOUNCEMENTS

12:55 – 1:00pm

BENEDICTION AND LIFTING OF COFFIN

Rev. Raymond Amanfu

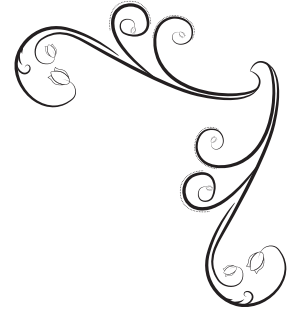
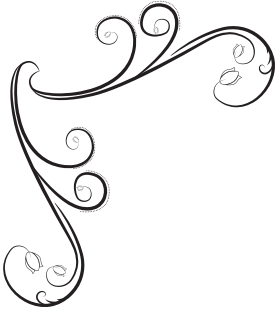
Recessional

Hymn – Higher Ground Choir

COORDINATOR

Rev. Nathaniel O. Laryea



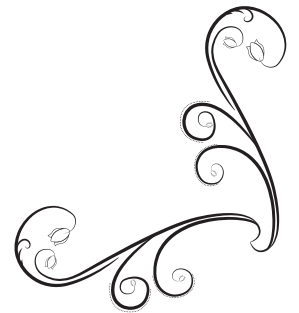
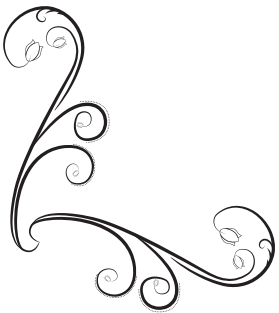


GRAVE SIDE



PART II

1. Opening Prayer
2. Hymn – Hark My Soul! It is the Lord!
3. Lowering of Casket
4. Interment and Committal
5. Laying of Wreaths
6. Vote of Thanks
7. Hymnal - Jesus, Lover of My Soul
8. Benediction and Dispersal



BIOGRAPHY OF THE LATE
MRS SOPHIA SMITH ASANTE



“I shall pass this way but once; any good that I can do or any kindness I can show to any human being, let me do it now! Let me not defer nor neglect it; for I shall not pass this way again” (Etienne de Grellet a French missionary: November 2,1773- November 16,1885)

The above quotation aptly describes the urgency and grace with which Mrs. Sophia Smith Asante, whose mortal remains lie in front of us this morning, organized her life as a wife, mother, Christian, family member, colleague, and a friend.

Early Life

Sophia was born on 16th January 1962 at Ho to Mr. Jonathan Sakyi Eghan Crentsil and Madam Marian Koomson, both of blessed memory. When Sophia was about 3 years, the family moved to Saltpond where she began her primary and middle school education at the Anglican Primary and Middle School. During this period, her mother, Madam Marian Koomson, relocated to Accra to work with the Ghana National Fire Service. Sophia was, therefore, left under the care of her grandmother, Madam Adwoa Beenuyie of blessed memory.



After her basic education at Saltpond, Sophia joined her mother in Accra to further her education. She attended Datus Educational Complex, Dansoman and, later, Accra Commercial School. After graduation, Sophia initially wanted to professionalize her much heralded culinary skills and, hence, enrolled in a catering school. But when her interest shifted to a secretarial path, she left the catering school for Accra Polytechnic, now called Accra Technical University.

Career

Upon successful completion of her education at the Accra Polytechnic, Sophia was employed by Brenya Distribution as a Secretary where she worked to the admiration of her superiors, subordinates, and customers. Consequently, despite being the youngest employee, she was swiftly elevated into a managerial position. In her new higher position, Sophia continued to discharge her duties with the same level of grace, conscientiousness, and professionalism as she did in her previous role.

Sophia’s sense of duty at Brenya Distribution caught the attention of several business owners who were also



clients of her institution. One of them, by name Mr Amoako, eventually, poached her to join his company, Marine Construction Ltd, Sobukwe Road, Adabraka.



When Sophia joined Marine Construction, she decided to further her education and, therefore, enrolled in Accra Polytechnic again for a Diploma in Business Studies (DBS). Upon completion, Sophia worked with Marine Construction for two more years and later joined Irrigation Company of Upper Region (ICOUR) located in the North Industrial area as a Secretary. There too, her hardworking trait was immediately recognized, with the result that she was promoted as an Administrator—a position she held for half a decade.



In 1991, Sophia was employed at Freedom Textiles as a Secretary. She held that position for two years and resigned when she got married.

Family Life

While working with ICOUR, she had her first and eldest daughter: Magdalene Nkrumah. Sophia and her daughter stayed at Dansoman and, later, moved to Taifa when Sophia married Mr. John Smith Asante in 1993. Her marriage with Mr. Asante was blessed with two more



children: Joshua Nkrumah Asante and Esther Adjoa Asante. Together with Mr. Asante's five lovely children namely; Mrs. Gifty Bamfo, Mrs. Patricia Anane, John Asante, Philip Asante and Eric Asante: they formed one big wonderful family. Sophia loved them all with her heart of gold.



Sophia's love was felt beyond the Asante's household. She exhibited her love in supporting many individuals in furthering their education as well as offering career guidance. She also touched lives far and near – particularly through her Christian works.

Christian Walk

Sophia was introduced to Christianity in the early stages of her life. As a young girl in Saltpond, she was an active member of the Methodist Church. She used to minister as a member of the church's choir. She was the youngest among them. When she moved to Taifa, Sophia joined her husband to worship at Foursquare Gospel Church in Ghana and worked tirelessly for the church till her demise. In her early life at Taifa, Sophia was into business, purveying in assorted goods including computers and other wares. To give more priority to God's work and give it her undivided attention, Sophia, in consultation with her family, decided to discontinue her business and focus on the Church's activities.



She was an Evangelist par excellence. When Sophia goes to the market – her favorites – Taifa and Dome markets – she goes with two missions: to buy groceries for her family and win souls for Christ. She would spend meaningful time praying and sharing The Word with the market women, and truck pushers and head porters ('Kayayes') who also make a living at the

market by carting the goods of customers and traders. Sophia's frequent engagements with them meant that she earned their trust and, therefore, got to learn more about their lives. When she learnt that some of the young women and men had been estranged from their families, Sophia began a difficult but sustained process of engaging both sides with the view to uniting them.

By God's grace, she successfully re-united many of them with their families. Some of the many friends Sophia made who also gave their lives to Christ, through her evangelism, named their children after her. The converts will later come to play very critical roles in establishing the Taifa Branch of the Foursquare Gospel Church in Ghana. When the Church's building was being constructed, the branch didn't have to hire any contractors for the job. Some of the converts from Sophia's evangelism, who also were built environment professionals, took upon themselves to construct the building for the Church.



But these are only a few of Sophia's remarkable contributions to the Foursquare Church and God's work generally. She served the Church in various important capacities including being the President and Leader of Foursquare Women International (2015 – 2019) and a representative on the Church on Ghana Women's Fellowship, respectively. She traversed the country,

visiting, building, and empowering women for God's and Foursquare's work. She taught and preached both in her local branch and at the Women's annual program: the June Rally. Sophia was a very dedicated Christian, a Foursquare leader and foot-soldier. She will be dearly missed.

Transition

The news of Sophia's demise on the 25th of December, 2021 was received with great shock by the entire family, church members, friends and loved ones. It is a massive blow for all of us. Our minds are full of questions. Nonetheless, we console ourselves knowing that she fought the good fight; finished the race and kept the faith. We hope to meet her again on the day the Lord, the righteous Judge, will crown her for the several lives she touched as a Christian, a wife, a mother, a family member, and a great friend.

*Rest well Sophia,
Rest well Aunty Naana, whilst we continue
to love you and honor your memory.*



TRIBUTE TO AUNTIE SOPHIA BY HUSBAND



“The good men perish; the godly die before their time, and no one seems to care or wonder why. No one seems to realize that God is taking them away from evil days ahead. For the godly who die shall rest in peace.”

Isaiah 57: 1-2 (Living Bible)

I have read this quote several times and cannot say I fully understand it. On the morning of 25th December 2021, this quote came back into my mind. Only a few days earlier, Auntie Sophia and I were sitting at the hall having a conversation on what to buy for the grandchildren this Christmas as we always do. We agreed on what to buy and you went to the market to purchase drinks and biscuits to be given to them over the weekend. The weekend came but you were nowhere to be seen.

Auntie Sophie, we all knew you have been having challenges with your legs and walking unaided has been difficult over the past year. But you were strong and insisted on undertaking your chores by yourself.



When people insisted you go and rest, you would always state that you were in an able position so why should you

sit aside for someone to do a chore you could do on your own. This bold determination has been how you have lived your life by facing any task head-on. You had a stubbornness about you which enabled you to ensure that everything you did or were a part of was undertaken with perfection.

You came into my life at a time when I needed assistance in raising five (5) children: three (3) of them very young and needed adult supervision. My job at that time was



taking me out of the country and could not be with the kids all the time. You accepted to be a mother to all of them and took up the task of providing maternal care to the children as best as you could. As often, when I was away, you took care of them and ensured that they excelled academically and spiritually.

Your strong faith in God was your trademark and no matter what happened, you always believed that God will always see you through challenges. Because of your strong faith, you actively got involved in the activities of Foursquare Gospel Church, at Abeka Branch and at Taifa, where you were instrumental in the establishment of the branch. Your focus was on how many lives you

could touch. You made it a point to share the Word of God with anyone you came across, from service providers to market women. You got to be known as 'Osofo Maame' around Taifa.

Your dedication and hard work were rewarded by the Church when you were nominated for the position of President of the Foursquare Women International (FWI). A job you did to the best of your ability till you started to have challenges with your health. You traveled the



length and breadth of the country and I remember I used to complain that you needed time to rest. But to you the job was for God and you had to give your very best when you had the strength.

Auntie Sophie, you became my support in times of adversity. You will always tell me to thank God for all that had happened. As times became challenging, you would always remind me that not a day had gone by that I had not eaten and all I wanted had always been provided. You stated that God will never let anything happen to me because the Lord knows His children.

Now, who will be there to say these words to me. I already miss our evenings watching Nigerian movies with Esther, and the discussions we will have, trying to relate happenings in the movies to life situations. I miss the banter between you and the girls (Mimi and Esther) and how they will always tell you to relax and not be dramatic. You took all in good stride and laughed with them.

The past weeks has been difficult for me and a gap has been created in my life now. I must learn to do things on my own from now on. No more asking you to go to the pharmacy for my medication or visiting an old friend that has a challenge. All these I must do on my own now.

I miss calling you to find out whether you were home and if you had bought corn for me. I miss sending Esther to find out from you, what you had prepared for dinner. I miss the little things that will make us argue and the many things that bonded us.

Auntie Sophie was more than my wife, she was a friend, helper, organizer, mother and aunt to me, my children and extended family. We all miss her.

As I sit to write this tribute, I am reminded of the words of Rumi;



Your name is upon my tongue

Your image is in my sight

Your memory is in my heart

Where can I send these words that I write?

Rest well Auntie Sophie

Rest well Naana.

May the good Lord keep you.

TRIBUTE BY THE CHILDREN



“You left ground and sky weeping, mind and soul full of grief. No one can take your place in existence, or in absence. Both mourn, the angels, the prophets, and this sadness I feel has taken from me the taste of language, so that I cannot say the flavor of my being apart.”

Jalāl al-Dīn Muhammad Rūmī (Persian poet; 30 September 1207 – 17 December 1273)

If roses grow in heaven, Lord kindly pluck a bunch, write our names on it and place it in our mother's arm and tell her, we love her and miss her.

Mum, we know you are gone, but, to us, you will never die. The love, lessons and sacrifices you showed us and the memories we created with you will continue to live with us. We could not have wished for a better mother.



You raised us to take our spiritual life with the utmost seriousness. We will never forget your Sunday mornings' call to prayer—our 'service' before 'service'. It was a



delight hearing your lovely voice bellow out tunes that lit up our hearts and, we believe, the heavens. These experiences were even better during holidays as we used to crown the singing and dancing with Tantra Hills waakye or Mile 7 kenkey. A lot of people knew you to be a 'fufu person'. Only a few, however, were aware that you held kenkey and waakye too in high esteem.



You gave us your all, mum. Instead of milking your talent on the professional market, you felt there could be no

higher honour than availing it for the benefit of the Church and your family. As a result, you opted to be a stay-at-home mum. We are grateful for the quality time you spent with us. You never missed any of our life events: birthdays, speech and prize-giving days, graduation ceremonies, matriculations, baptisms, marriages and many more.



For you, none of them was too small to not require your presence. You were always the biggest cheerleader when we achieved success. You were also the consoler-in-chief when we needed a shoulder on which to cry. When you had to sit out Joshua's induction into medical practice by the Ghana Medical and Dental Council due to ill-health, you felt inconsolably hurt. It is sad death could not let you honour your promise to get stronger and be present at the next milestone of his life.



Speaking of events, who will be our chief organizer? We knew we could always count on you to plan and successfully execute any event in our house. Dad will entrust the logistics to you, and we will be ready to follow your lead—of course not without letting you rant and rant first! You made our guests and friends feel at home, taught us to be gracious hosts and open our homes to others.

Our Sundays were enjoyable. You will prepare fufu in the afternoon after church and prepare jollof in the evening. Your jollof was well known among our friends. Our friends will say your mummy's jollof is on point and we will tell you. We will say we will open a restaurant for you so you could exhibit your culinary skills for Ghana to know. We were never hungry when you were at home. No matter the situation, you will find something for us to eat. We will not eat at work or school so we could come home to enjoy your meals. We miss you.



As we look back, we find ourselves wondering if we ever thanked you enough for all that you did for us. We are better people today because of your sacrifices. We know you did not expect anything in return for what you did for us and people generally. But, mum, you could have waited just a bit longer for us to celebrate your 60th birthday in the special way we had planned to do.

You decided to leave us quietly and without any notice. We didn't have the opportunity to say goodbye. We are sore vexed within our souls not knowing what to do.



But we are comforted because we know that those who die in the Lord, rest in His bosom. Keep resting and know that your prayers will not be in vain. We continue to keep in our hearts all that you taught us with your love, your sacrifices, and your life.

Rest well mummy

Rest well Auntie

Rest well Mama Luku

Rest well Mama de Mama

(Gifty, Pat, John, Philip, Eric,

Mimi, Josh, and Esther)



TRIBUTE TO NAANA BY THE SIBLINGS



“Come unto me all ye that labour and are heavy laden and I will give you rest” (Matthew 11:28)

“The sun has set painfully on our lives again, casting shadows of confusion, pain, shock, and sorrow.

God looked around His garden and found an empty place. He then looked down upon the earth and saw your tired face. He put His arms around you and lifted you to rest. With the help of His angels, they flew you to your heavenly place. God’s garden must be beautiful, He always takes the best. He knew you had played your part on earth, and it was time to come home.



He saw the road was getting rough and the hills too hard to climb. He closed your weary eyelids and whispered, “Peace be thine.”

It broke our hearts to lose you, but you didn’t go alone. For part of us went with you the day God called you home.”

Mrs. Sophia Smith Asante (Nee Crentsil), Naana Esi

Tsetsewa, many called you Naana, we sometimes called you Naa, you left us suddenly without a goodbye.



Your siblings—Julie, Ebow Tough and Maame Amissah, as well as our Enuanom—the many sisters and brothers from Sunkwa Villa, Saabinkondo, Prabiw, at Saltpond who are scattered all over the world—say you lived your life to the best of your abilities and God was fully aware of that. We grew up happily under the watchful eyes of our darling grandmother, the late Aunt Adwoa Beenuyie (Mrs. Cecilia Anaman). This unity learnt from our grandmother has kept us strong even as we all are on different continents.

You were strong, stylish, ambitious, and hardworking; character traits which endeared you to your marital home and the many guests that visited the family.

You were a shining star in our family and worked to brighten every corner where you found yourself; the Foursquare Gospel Church gained a jewel, and you did not disappoint.

Naana, we did not know the extent of your illness as you

and your family were doing your best to manage it.

No goodbye, not even a chance to say Afehyia Pa, Naana, on Christmas Day morning??? Really! But not surprising, that's Naana's style: she breezed in with style - British Lady - and left a trail of memories.



In our pain, we say “God is His own interpreter, and He will make it plain.”

We are reminded of a song we used to sing:

Enye wo Nyame nkɔ, Onyame dadaw noara, ɔno na ɔnye wo nam o ɔno nna ɔnye wo rokɔ ooo.”

To wit, “Go with God, the same old God. He is walking with you, He is going with you.”

You are gone beyond our reach, but we know that God's got you, so Naana, Sister, rest in the Lord who you served faithfully.

He will continue to take care of us. Naana, you have left us full of shock, but the Lord will bring healing where it hurts.

Nantsew Yie,

Ewurade mfa wo kra nsie!

“DAMIRIFA DUE, DUE, DUE,

DUE NA AMANDZE HUN”

(SISTER JULIE, EBOW AND MAAME)



TRIBUTE BY GRANDCHILDREN



The sudden death of our grandmother has brought us to the understanding of what David said in Psalm 90:12 that "Teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom".

O! Grandma, Auntie, as most of us used to call you, we miss you so much. The emptiness of space you have left in our lives is so deep that it will be difficult to fill. You left without saying goodbye.

For this reason, we peep longingly into light and darkness hoping for a last glimpse of you so that even as you rest in peace, we may also find peace. But we do not see you. So, we console ourselves that because you lie in the bosom of the Lord, we shall see you again.

Whenever we went to visit your home, you always made us feel at home. Your smile always lights up the room. You always prepared some of your special delicacies for us and we never left the home on an empty stomach. Oh Grandma, we will miss your special jollof.

Auntie, we are mournful, and we wished we had spent more years with you. We are still startled at your sudden pass away and we wished this was all a nightmare. Your lovely smile that greets us anytime we visit, your soft comfortable arms that embraces us anytime we meet and your cheery voice that welcomes us with the words, "Akwaaba" would be pleasant memories that would remain unforgettable and would be stored in our hearts.

We love you very much and we will forever miss you.

God be with you till we meet again.

(Paa Kwesi, Kweku, Araba, Baaba, Kingsley, Sawyer and Hunter)







TRIBUTE BY IN-LAWS



*When the day of toil is done, when the race of life is run,
Father, grant Thy wearied one rest forever more. Amen!*

relating to the Kingdom of God and life in general. You encouraged us never to give up because God would always come through.

It is with lot of courage that we have been able to come to terms with the fact that you are really gone, Aunt Sophia. Losing you is surely a moment of utter sadness.



We your in-laws affectionately called you Aunt Sophia and we could easily call on you at any time. You were a distinguished mother-in-law and a friend to us. You had a special way of welcoming us home with that smile which made us feel warm and homely. Your welcome did not end with just the smile, but you always made sure you served us with your special delicacies in a manner fit for kings and queens. We always left Taifa not only happy but satisfied as well.

You were a wonderful godly lady who sought to please the Lord in all you did and upheld us in prayer daily. We cherish the times you would chat us up with matters



Additionally, you would send messages from time to time, via WhatsApp to check-up on us and on occasions like Christmas you were the first to send us messages.



Hmm! How we yearned for such beautiful, well-meaning message on Saturday, the 25th of December, 2021 only to hear a dreadful one indicating you were no more. What?

Nah, if this is a nightmare then we must wake up.

How wicked is the sting of death? We have indeed lost a dear mother-in-law.



Though we are saddened by losing you, we take solace in the Word of God which says: “I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live even if he dies” – John 11:23 hence we believe that you are resting in the bosom of our Lord.

Rest well Aunt Sophia!

Death, where is thy sting?

Grave, where is thy victory?

You fought a good fight, you finished your course, you kept the faith, hence forth there is laid up for you a crown of righteousness.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE MRS. SOPHIA SMITH ASANTE BY FOURSQUARE GOSPEL CHURCH IN GHANA, TAIFA BRANCH



*“Rest comes at length; though life be long and dreary
The day must dawn and darksome night be past;
Faith’s journey ends in welcomes to the weary,
And Heaven, the heart’s true home, will come at last.”*
(MHB 651)

We pay tribute to a personality who offered herself to God’s work and diligently performed her duty as a faithful servant of God. Mrs. Sophia Smith Asante joined the Foursquare Gospel Church in Ghana when she married Mr. John Smith Asante. The couple were members of the Abeka Branch of the church where they played an important role in the growth of the church. Mrs. Asante loved to sing and took every opportunity to showcase the sweet soprano voice which was very powerful to the glory of God.

With the growth of the Abeka Branch of the Church, leadership looked at planting a branch at Taifa and the Asantes were called upon to look to the establishment of the branch. Here is where Mrs. Asante exhibited her traits of being hardworking, dedicated, and ambitious. She took it upon herself to see to the growth of the local branch. She was a gracious host to the many members of the Church, ensuring that no one left the church premises without at least a snack. She made it her duty that visitors to the church will feel at home and will always want to visit the Church again.

Mrs. Asante was not only a gracious host but took up teaching service at the Church. On Tuesday evenings, she will take her Bible and come to sit at the church

premises waiting for members to come in to begin her class. Even though the service starts at 6:30pm, she will be seated by 6:00pm and start singing and praying. Many of the young men and women in the Church passed through her class and were brought up by her in the church. When one was in the teaching service, s/he must be prepared to talk as Mrs. Asante will ask questions and make sure you talk in class. She desired to make leaders of everyone that attended service at Taifa. It is no wonder that many of the young men and women are now leaders at Taifa or other churches.



In the early days of the church, she also started an intercessory prayer group. Mrs. Asante loved to pray and will always ask the young men in the church to join her. She will spend hours with these young men praying. They will pray for the Foursquare Gospel Church, their families, their careers and on many other topics. She had a strong view on prayer and believed that young men and women should make prayer an important aspect of their lives.

Her passion for prayer led her to organize prayer sessions on Wednesday mornings at the church. She did not limit the invitation to only members of the local branch but to everyone who could attend. The prayer session attracted people within the community; many of whom were not members of the branch. They will spend their mornings with her at the church praying for the nation, the Taifa community, their jobs, children and on any topic that bothered them. This prayer session went on until Mrs. Asante had health challenges.



Gracious host, teacher, prayer coordinator were not the only roles played by Mrs. Asante. She also happened to be the local leader of the Foursquare Women International (FWI). This is a task she did not joke around with. It was her desire to see to the success of the women in the Church and of the FWI. There was not a meeting she would miss and would always encourage other members to participate fully in district and national programmes. One could always hear her voice in meetings stating that she should not be the only member that should attend meetings. There were days she would not move her car unless a member of the church would join her to attend meetings at Mataheko or Bubiashe. It was no wonder that she was elected leader of the national FWI.

The past year had been difficult for Mrs. Asante, but she would do her best to be at Church especially during

Christmas Service, Watchnight Service, the 1st Sunday of a new year, her birthday or an occasion that called for thanksgiving. She would come into Church dressed in white and will walk up to the front to give thanks to God. It would be great to hear her voice and she will always end the thanksgiving with a song. Her voice will bellow out, 'The Lord is Mighty' by Diana Asamoah. Mrs. Asante had a sweet voice, and it is no wonder her children took after her.

The Church was looking forward to hearing testimony from Mrs. Asante on 26th December 2021. The Church was expecting her to be at service, clad in white and sing praises to God. She would say God has been faithful to her, the Asante family, and the church. Alas, it was not so. The entire membership was shocked to receive the news on Christmas day morning that you had gone to be with the Lord. There was no goodbye. Some of us saw you during the week and you were cheerful as ever. You gave no indication that you will be leaving us soon.



We are believers and have faith that we shall meet again. We know God has called you to come and rest. Your work speaks for itself. The many young men and women you have raised in this church and those who have gone on to do great works in other churches are witnesses. The Church says thank you and rest well in the Lord.

Rest in Perfect Peace in Christ.

Rest well Mrs. Asante

Rest well Mama Sophia.

TRIBUTE TO MRS. SOPHIA SMITH ASANTE - BY FOURSQUARE WOMEN INTERNATIONAL, GHANA



Today, we the members of Foursquare Women International, FWI, stand before you with heavy hearts as we pay tribute to our former leader Mrs. Sophia Smith Asante. We are deeply saddened by her passing but trying to take comfort in the knowledge that she had gone on ahead and found a resting place in the bosom of the Lord.

Our former leader, Mrs. Sophia Smith Asante served as President of the FWI, from 2015 to 2019. She assumed office with passion aided by a team of dedicated women who worked tirelessly to ensure smooth transition and continuation of the group's activities. However, the old executives were not completely left out. Mrs. Asante consulted with these past leaders on critical group issues whenever the need arose.



'Foursquare Mbaa! Foursquare Mbaa!' her voice would boom as she stood before varied gatherings of the group and challenged members to action. The enthusiastic responses of 'Ye wo Odo, Ye wo Odo' that often came from the women, demonstrated their preparedness to submit to her leadership as they walked together on the Christian pathway to victory.

That journey often saw Mrs. Sophia Asante preside over meetings and retreats organized at the national level by the FWI. She also played key roles at the celebration of 'Big M Days' in local branch churches. In the year 2018, Mrs. Asante's work as President took her on a special mission to almost all districts of the Foursquare Church in Ghana.



That gesture resulted in marked growth in attendance at the Annual June Rally celebrations for that year and the next. Even then, Mrs. Asante and her team did not rest on their oars. They worked harder and eventually mobilized funds for the purchase of four plots of land for the construction of a Prayer Camp at Akrama in the Central Region of Ghana.

Today as we mourn our former president, we also remember the role she played in the drive towards printing and distribution of the new FWI ceremonial cloth. However, the pathway of leadership was not always rosy. There were moments when Mrs. Asante and her team had to deal with varied issues affecting the interest of group members.

Here, she stood tall, as she offered sound counsel to affected parties. Mrs. Asante was also a prayer warrior and an ardent soul winner. On occasion, she evangelized at the Dome Market and brought some of the converts to the weekly Thursday prayer sessions at Mataheko Foursquare Church. It is on record that Mrs. Asante organized monthly prayer sessions at her home too.

Long before she became National President of the FWI, Mrs. Asante served as District Treasurer for the FWI at Bubuashie. That was when she came up with the idea to organize an annual feast for the whole district in the month of May, a program which continues to date.



Mrs. Asante's friendliness and winsome smile would sorely be missed. So also, is her giving nature and organizational skills. Today we mourn her deeply, however, we as members of the group rest in the knowledge that she would rise again to a better hope at the sound of the last trumpet.

Till then, all Foursquare Mbaa join in unison to declare that

'All is Well'

Rest well Mrs. Sophia Smith Asante till we meet again.

TRIBUTE TO MY BOSS AND FRIEND BY MRS. MARIAN TAGOE



"When my absence doesn't alter your life then my presence had no meaning in it."

You took me on recommendation when you knew nothing about me. You treated me as a sister. You entrusted so much into my hands, some personal, because you believed in me. You challenged me to achieve things I didn't dare myself to achieve because you saw beyond my limit. I remember our travel to Ashanti Region through the Western corridors visiting the churches. You challenged me to take the wheels from Bogoso to Wasa because our driver wasn't well. I still can hear your voice telling me; "Marian eyi dzi owuaana eb3y3, medze ash3 wonsem" even when I didn't want to.



We had our differences. There were occasions I did not agree to a decision taken but, I'll inform you I will support the cause because you are the boss.

When I complained about any hurts, your voice still rings in my ears saying "Marian tuuugu ai". You were not ready to delve into the past of people and things even

when you took up the position of FWI President. You'll say we never know the circumstances neither do we know what might happen to us, so let's work with what we have.

In your ill health every time Shyranda and I spoke to you on phone or came visiting, you'll say "Ewuradze nyi yaresafo. Ninyinaa wo Ewuradze niensem".

You were in pain, you endured, your conversations in a way showed you were prepared for anything, but I guess we ignored it. We hoped and prayed for healing but what we feared most came.

I called you Boss and you called me Auntie Marian, my mother. I enjoyed working with you and I can say same for Shyranda, my closest ally in our short but purposeful endeavour, working with you for God.

But for every situation, there's a season, a time to live and a time to die.

Sleep well my Boss.

Sleep well our friend.

Sleep well.

TRIBUTE TO THE MEMORY OF MY DEAR SISTER AND FRIEND BY DR. MRS AKOSUA DJANGMAH



The righteous perish, and no one ponders it in his heart, devout men are taken away and no one understands. The righteous are taken away to be spared from evil. Isaiah 57:1

I wake up each day thinking that it is a dream and that we are going to wake up from this dream and see you again but that is not the reality.

My sister and friend for about forty years, it is with grief that I pay tribute to you my dear. It all started in 1982 when I visited my Uncle Willie Carr whose office was in the same building as Marine Construction. Then we met again at Accra Polytechnic. Since then, we've been there for each other. From then onwards, we were inseparable, we laughed together and cried together. We studied the Bible and prayed together. For example, when you were appointed as the Women's Leader of Foursquare Gospel Church you came to my office and together, we prayed and prepared your inaugural speech. I became alarmed though when you called that you couldn't attend Joshua's induction ceremony into the Ghana Medical Association because of excruciating pain in your legs. We prayed and kept faith and hope alive, but hmmm.

Naana was a faithful and good wife. Anytime there was an opportunity to travel outside Ghana, you would ask me this question, "Akos who will take care of Uncle John?" I would answer, God would take care of him and I was right. You were a precious mother to all your children and you brought them up in the fear of the Lord. You also used to say, "Akos nti John onware a" I will answer let's pray for him. We prayed for all the children & grandchildren regularly. I thank God you witnessed

John and Mimi's marriages. You were there for everyone, from your siblings, their children, family members, church members and everyone who crossed your path; you showed them love.

No number of words can express the sadness that beset me when I heard of the untimely death of Mrs. Sophia Smith Asante from your darling husband Uncle John and later, Esther. We cried on the phone uncontrollably. Your demise hit us hard like a thunderbolt and the effect of the



hit still lingers with grief in our hearts. All we can do now is to give thanks to God as stipulated in His word.

Naana, you have been the perfect lady to everyone who crossed your path. To all of us here today, you are a woman who loved your family, friends but most of all you LOVED GOD. You served and supported the church till your demise.

We have gathered here today in your deep sleep filled with mixed emotions. We are extremely sad that you are parting from us on this land of pilgrimage full of sorrows, sadness, diseases, and wickedness. But we are, however, excited about your new destination which is Heaven; to be with our Creator; to receive your deserved crown.

Naana was caring, objective, affable and accommodating. God used her to touch many lives.

My children and siblings all say fare thee well Obaa Sophie.

Let the saints open wide the gates of Heaven to welcome you with great trumpets and open arms.

Fare thee well Naana.

Hom wo asomdwe mu Sophia.

May Mother Earth lie gently on your body. Amen.

HYMNS



WHEN PEACE LIKE A RIVER

1. When peace like a river attendeth my way,
when sorrows like sea billows roll;
whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say,
"It is well, it is well with my soul."
Refrain (may be sung after final stanza only):
It is well with my soul;
it is well, it is well with my soul.

2. Though Satan should buffet,
though trials should come,
let this blest assurance control:
that Christ has regarded my helpless estate,
and has shed his own blood for my soul. Refrain

3. My sin oh, the bliss of this glorious thought!
my sin, not in part, but the whole,
is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more;
praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul! Refrain

4. O Lord, haste the day when my faith shall be sight,
the clouds be rolled back as a scroll;
the trump shall resound and the Lord shall descend;
even so, it is well with my soul.
Refrain

IN HEAVENLY LOVE ABIDING

1. In heavenly love abiding,
no change my heart shall fear;
and safe is such confiding,
for nothing changes here:
the storm may roar without me,
my heart may low be laid;
but God is round about me,
and can I be dismayed?

2. Wherever he may guide me,
no want shall turn me back;
my Shepherd is beside me,
and nothing can I lack:
his wisdom ever waketh,
his sight is never dim,
he knows the way he taketh,
and I will walk with him.

3. Green pastures are before me,
which yet I have not seen;
bright skies will soon be o'er me,
where darkest clouds have been;
my hope I cannot measure,
my path to life is free;
my Saviour has my treasure,
and he will walk with me.

HIGHER GROUND (I'M PRESSING ON THE UPWARD WAY)

1. I'm pressing on the upward way,
New heights I'm gaining every day;
Still praying as I'm onward bound,
"Lord, plant my feet on higher ground."

2. Lord, lift me up and let me stand,
By faith, on Heaven's tableland,
A higher plane than I have found;
Lord, plant my feet on higher ground.

3. My heart has no desire to stay
Where doubts arise and fears dismay;
Though some may dwell where those abound,
My prayer, my aim, is higher ground.

4. I want to live above the world,
Though Satan's darts at me are hurled;
For faith has caught the joyful sound,
The song of saints on higher ground.

5. I want to scale the utmost height
And catch a gleam of glory bright;
But still I'll pray till heav'n I've found,
"Lord, plant my feet on higher ground."

HYMNS



HARK MY SOUL! IT IS THE LORD!

1. Hark, my soul, it is the Lord;
'tis thy Saviour, hear his word;
Jesus speaks, and speaks to thee,
'Say, poor sinner, lov'st thou me?'

2. 'I delivered thee when bound,
and, when wounded, healed thy
wound;
sought thee wandering, set thee
right,
turned thy darkness into light.'

3. 'Can a woman's tender care
cease towards the child she bare?
Yes, she may forgetful be,
yet will I remember thee.'

4. 'Mine is an unchanging love,
higher than the heights above,
deeper than the depths beneath,
free and faithful, strong as death.'

5. 'Thou shalt see my glory soon,
when the work of grace is done;
partner of my throne shalt be:
say, poor sinner, lov'st thou me?'

6. Lord, it is my chief complaint
that my love is weak and faint;
yet I love thee, and adore;
O for grace to love thee more!

JESUS, LOVER OF MY SOUL

1. Jesus, lover of my soul,
let me to thy bosom fly,
while the nearer waters roll,
while the tempest still is high;
hide me, O my Savior, hide,
till the storm of life is past;
safe into the haven guide,
O receive my soul at last!

2. Other refuge have I none;
hangs my helpless soul on thee;
leave, ah! leave me not alone,
still support and comfort me.
All my trust on thee is stayed,
all my help from thee I bring;
cover my defenseless head
with the shadow of thy wing.

3. Plenteous grace with thee is
found,
grace to cover all my sin;
let the healing streams abound;
make and keep me pure within.
Thou of life the fountain art;
freely let me take of thee;
spring thou up within my heart,
rise to all eternity.



APPRECIATION



To those who loved Sophia,

To those who called, visited, or prayed for her,

To those who mourned with us,

To those who comforted us,

To those who supported us in diverse ways in these trying moments

And to all who came to bid her farewell,

We say:

Thank you.

God richly bless you