



CELEBRATION OF LIFE

JOHN DOVENE
HUKPORTIE



1962 - 2022



John my brother, I spoke to you and you left without warning that night. Gone so fast. Now all I have are unforgettable memories of our past which I promise to cherish until we meet again. Love you dearly. Your sister and buddy Augusta

OFFICIATING MINISTERS

Bishop Edwin Morgan Ogoe

Convener, Machaneh Church International

Bishop David Asomani

The Makarios Church (Headquarters)

Bishop Kwabena Asamoah

Machaneh Church International (Headquarters)

Bishop Solomon Boateng

Machaneh Church International (Adenta)



BURIAL SERVICE

THURSDAYS OCTOBER 13, 2022
AT TRANSITIONS PLACE, HAATSO-ATOMIC ROAD,
10:00AM TO 11:00AM

ORDER OF SERVICE

PART ONE:

1. Congregants pay last respect
2. Officiating Ministers pay last respect
3. Coffin closed finally

PART TWO:

1. Opening Prayer
2. Hymn 1
3. Biography
4. Tributes
5. Song
6. Reading of Scriptures of Comfort and Hope
Revelations 14:12 - 13
1 Thess 4:13-14
7. Song
8. Sermon
9. Offering

10. Prayer of Consolation for the family
11. Announcements
12. Hymn 2
13. Closing Prayer and Benediction

PART THREE: AT THE GRAVE SIDE

1. Opening Prayer
2. Hymn 3
3. Committal
4. Receiving of Wreaths
5. Vote of Thanks
6. Hymn 4
7. Benediction





Biography

JOHN DOVENE
HUKPORTIE



BIOGRAPHY OF JOHN DOVENE HUKPORTIE



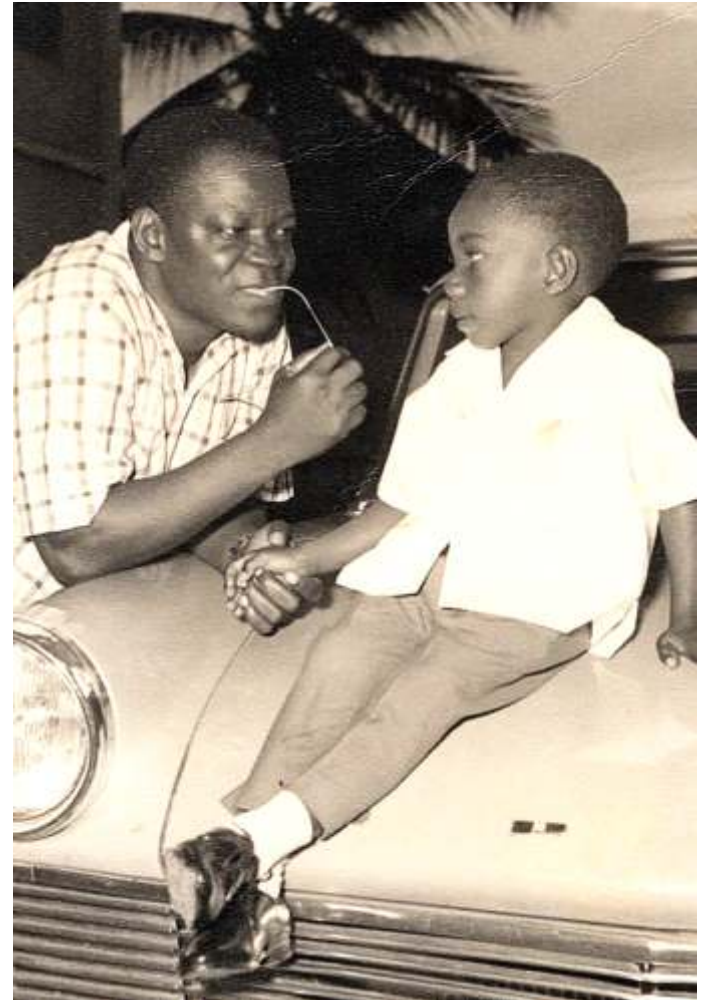
John Dovene Hukportie was fortunate to lead several different lives within the span of his 60 years: the Koforidua and Accra years as a child; the Mfantshipim years as a young man and how vital those years were in nurturing the man he would grow up to be; the Zaire (Now Democratic Republic of Congo) years as a University student in a country that would remain a part of him for the rest of his life; his Paris & Geneva stints as a young Economist, and his return to Ghana as General Manager of Cotecna S.A., and subsequently as a lawyer with Appiade Chambers. The constant threads throughout were his great sense of humour and love of philosophy, his unwavering and sometimes long-suffering support for Accra Hearts of Oak and Paris Saint Germain, his love and appreciation of the outdoors, and above all, his love for his family. He loved music, particularly



Congolese music, and would pretty much bob his head to anything that had rhythm. He was an honest man who never wshed on his promise to always be truthful, no matter how unpleasant the truth was to the ear.

EARLY YEARS AND EDUCATION...

John Dovene Kwame Hukportie was born in Accra on August 19, 1962 to Daniel Comla Hukportie, a career diplomat and Felicia Yaa Hukportie, née Afriyie, a housewife, both of blessed memory. At the time of his birth, and for well over two decades, he was the last of eight children and was doted on by his parents and older siblings. He was immensely influenced by his father and was the blue-eyed boy at Papa's side, whenever the late DC Hukportie was not at work or running official errands. The adult Dovene would say proudly to whoever would listen, how his love





for languages, his dry humour and trademark quips were qualities his late father passed on to him.



He started his primary school education in Koforidua but moved to Accra shortly after primary 3, and was enrolled at Datus Preparatory School, Kaneshie. Dovene was a very intelligent pupil whose forte was languages and art. He received the English & French prizes throughout primary school and was a very active member of the art club, representing the school in a number of art competitions. He sat for the Common Entrance Examination in 1974 and gained admission to Mfantsipim School in September of the same year.

Mfantsipim took in a boy who like any other boy of age 12, was a blank canvas yet to be



worked on, and created a masterpiece; a culture vulture who loved Economics, History and Philosophy, and was keen to make a cogent argument in support of any stance he took. He built life-long alliances during his secondary school years and was known by virtually everyone as Dove (short for Dovene), a moniker he would answer to with gusto, for the rest of his life. He earned his Ordinary Level and Sixth Form Certificates at Mfantsipim in 1979 and 1981 respectively, and enrolled to study Economics in September 1982, at the University of Kinshasa, Zaire, where his diplomat father was stationed.

A linguaphile from his primarily school days, Dovene perfected his French during his first year at the University and was asked by lecturers to stop indicating on his scripts he was an anglophone, as his French had become as good as any Francophone university student's. While in the Congo he learnt to speak eloquently the local dialect Lingala, and fell madly in love with Congolese music, with a predilection for songs by Papa Wemba, Bozi Boziana, Kanda Bongoman, Franco Luambo and Wenge Musica. He was awarded a Bachelor of Arts degree cum laude in Economics in 1986 and remained in Zaire to pursue a Master's degree at the same university, graduating with an MA in Economics (Rural Economics) in 1988.

He acquired a Professional Diploma in Project Evaluation and Monitoring from the Centre for Financial, Economic and Banking Studies, Paris, in 1991, a Third Cycle Diploma from the Centre for Studies and Research on International Development (CERDI), Universite d'Auvergne in Clermont - Ferrand , France, in 1996, an LLB from the University of Ghana,



Legon in 2007 and a Qualifying Certificate in Law from the Ghana School of Law in 2013.

CAREER...

Dovene returned to Ghana from the Congo in 1989 and was employed as an Economic Planning Officer at the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning. He was initially in charge of monitoring and writing ministerial briefs and reporting on key economic indicators. This included contributing to the National Budget Statement and Economic Policy. He served as the Liaison Officer in support of World Bank and IMF missions to Ghana. In December 1992, he was appointed as Desk Officer in charge of Economic Relations with Austria, France, Italy, Sweden, United Kingdom and the Nordic countries.

In April, 1996, he joined the Commodities Division of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) as an intern, conducting research and reporting on High-value Income-elastic commodities. In October 1996, he was appointed as a Consultant in the Division on Investments, Technology and Enterprise Development, where he conducted further research, wrote two reports for an Expert Meeting in Bangkok, Thailand and an UNCTAD Workshop in Geneva, Switzerland. This was partly in preparation for a project for joint-venture business development for Asian and African business concerns.

From UNCTAD, he moved in July 1997 to Cotecna Inspection in Geneva as an Assistant



Contract Manager in the Marketing Department. From that position, he was appointed as the Chief Liaison Officer and General Manager of the company's Accra Liaison Office. He led the Liaison Office to win the Tender for the migration from Pre-shipment to Inspection of imports at destination. In April 2000, he was appointed as Deputy Managing Director (Administration and Human Resources) of Gateway Services Limited for which company he worked until August 2007.

In April 2008 and until sometime in July 2009, he led a team of consultants in support of Ghana Link Network Services, a Ghanaian Destination inspection company, to initiate a project for the enhancement of Sierra Leone's Destination Inspection scheme.

While working as a Consultant on Destination Inspection, he pursued studies in law, graduating from the Ghana School of Law in April 2013 when he was called to join the Bar as a professional Lawyer. As a lawyer, he handled a variety of jobs ranging from litigation on Property Law, Finance and Debt Recovery, Family Law and investment promotion for foreign based clients, including Belgians. In 2014, Boakye-Danquah LLC, a US-based law firm engaged him to provide consultancy services for preliminary marketing and identification in Africa of Potential Entrepreneurs and Investors under a United States Immigrant Investor Visa Programme, under a potential exclusive arrangement with the Southern States Regional Investment Centre.

Until his death, he was attached to Appiade Chambers and Consultancy Service, a private



law firm which provides integrated services in Management Consulting Advisory Services on International Trade Law and Practice; Language Support Services in Legal translation and Negotiation; Due diligence and Transactional Risk Management to Foreign nationals and Organizations, Civil Society and the general Public.

PERSONAL LIFE

Dovene met Felicia Aba Ghansah in 1995, while they both worked at the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning. They started dating shortly before he left for France to study at CERDI, and remained a couple while he was studying abroad. They got engaged when he returned to Ghana in 1997, and married in January 1998. They were blessed in April 2001 with a daughter Daffne, who is currently studying to become a dentist at the University of Ghana Medical School.

He was an active member of the Torgbuiga Amegadze Anubo Royal Family of Aflao, and a founding member of the NGO Traditional Administration Initiative (TRAIN), an organisation set up to complimentarily assist Traditional Administration in capacity building, to function effectively in this contemporary era.

His death on September 5 2022, a couple of weeks after his 60th birthday came as a shock to his family and close friends. Although he had suffered a (second) stroke and had been in



hospital since July 31, 2022, he had responded very well to treatment and was discharged on August 31, 2022. He relapsed on September 4th and gave up the ghost the following day, at Nyaho Medical Centre.

His demise is an irreparable loss to his loved ones, family and friends.

He is survived by his wife Felicia and daughter Daffne, as well as his siblings Emmanuel, Peggy, Paul, Monica, Philomena, Nelly, Bernadette, Prosper and Vivianne.

May his soul rest in peace.



TO MY BELOVED HUSBAND, JOHN KWAME DOVENE HUKPORTIE TRIBUTE OF FELICIA, WIDOW

“And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away”

(Revelation 21:4 NKJV)

It is with a heavy heart that I write this tribute.

John and I met at the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning in 1995/96. He was an Economic Planning Officer with the International Economic Relations Department (I E R D) and I was Secretary to the then Deputy Secretary of Finance, Mr. S.K. Apea.

Our friendship started when he asked me to type his scholarship letter to CERDI in Clermont, France. I also, from time to time, typed some of his letters and proofread them. Then he offered me lifts home after work, since he was living with his Mum at Madina and I was then living with My Late Aunt, Mrs. Elizabeth Therson Cofie at East Legon. John was fun, and extremely conversational. He loved a wide range of music genres especially Congolese music and surprisingly for a man his size, a very good soukous dancer.

When he returned home, John and I got engaged in December 1997 and married in January



1998.

After three years of striving to have a child, I conceived and bore Daffne in April 2001. John was all excitement at the arrival of his daughter and could not get enough of her. He sent her to a very good crèche/nursery school and taught her so much whenever he had the opportunity to spend time with her, after his busy work schedule. We had the opportunity to travel each year on his annual leave to Geneva, London and Paris and other places we never thought we would see in our lifetime.

In 2007, John left Gateway Services Limited (formerly Cotecna S. A.) whilst pursuing a Bachelor of Laws degree at the University of Ghana, Legon. On the completion of his first degree, he enrolled at the Ghana School of Law, for the professional law course for certification as a lawyer, at Makola and was called to the Bar in 2012. He was of course very proud of himself and from then on applied 'the law' to everything at home. We, at home became law students as the term "rights" took on a different meaning and every motive for any action had to be proven beyond every reasonable doubt. In spite of his health which was not tops for most of the times, John was a loving Husband and a wonderful father to Daffne. He was a man who desired and admired progress and wanted the very best for his daughter.

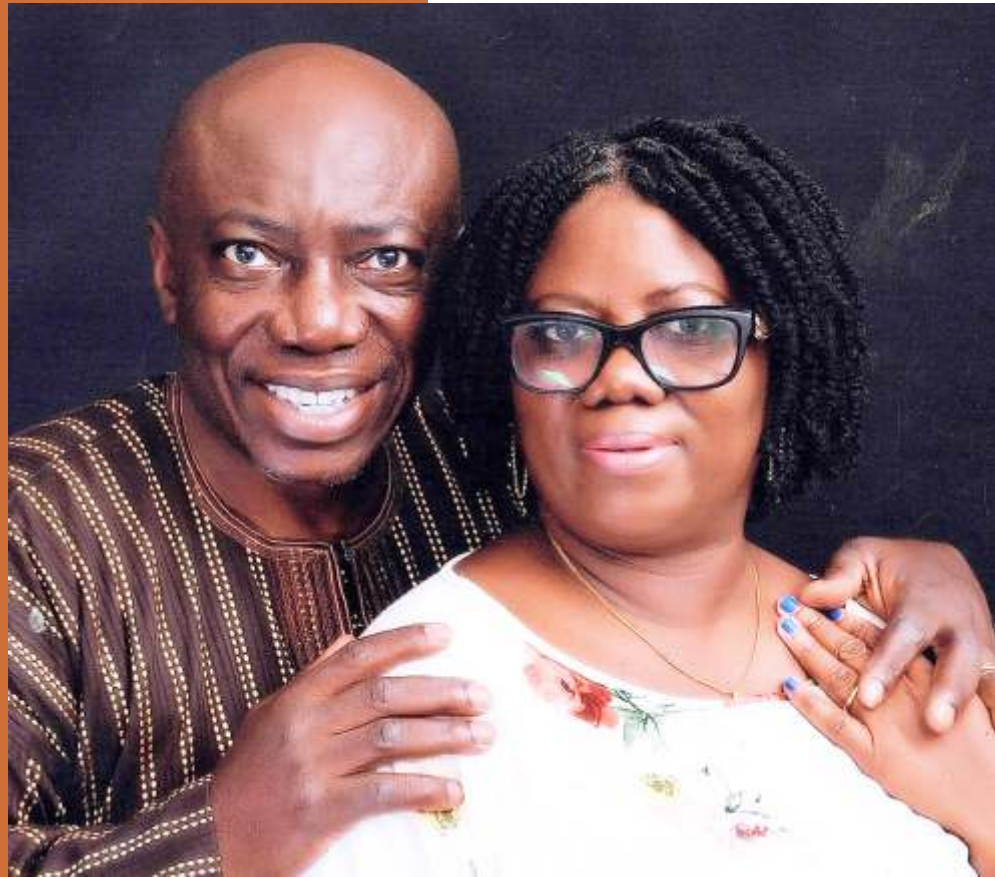
The last months of his life here on earth were the happiest times of our lives. Even though his health took a dive for the worst, and times had been challenging, we were all reconciled in



love and we were looking forward to doing things differently in the future.

John, your demise has been a big, shocking blow to us all. Our hope of finding a new togetherness is now snuffed. But who knows? Perhaps it's best now that you are resting peacefully in the bosom of Almighty God. That is our faith and consolation and, of course, you will forever remain in our hearts.

John, damirifa due.
Nyame nfa wokra nsie yie.
Da yie, da yie, da yie



TRIBUTE BY DAFFNE ABENA HUKPORTIE TO DADDY

***“For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again,
even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.”
1 Thessalonians 4:14 NKJV***



Should you have fallen so soon? You used to say that “the only way to evade death is to never be born.”

Although this statement maybe should have prepared me for this day, I still find it hard to believe that I won't be able to see you or hear your voice again. I may not have known you for as long as I would have wished but I am glad that every moment I got to spend with you was meaningful.

Being your only daughter gave me the privilege of having your full care and attention. You were always very interested in my activities, especially when it came to school work. You picked me up from school most of the time and made sure I did my homework and did it well! Whenever we were asked to write English or French essays, you would help me plan them and



you always made sure they were interesting. When I absolutely hated math in primary school, you took the pain to buy me workbooks during my vacations and personally taught and tutored me till I cried. You were a man of principles, meticulous and very disciplined. You would take my report cards, analyze them and with a stern look, ask questions as to why I wasn't performing well in certain subjects. Whenever I did well, your praise was sky-high, your contentment infectious. You doted on me to my extreme joy. Any time things looked gloomy, you would patiently tell one of your many stories which I loved to listen to. I am glad that you persisted no matter how much I complained. You saw the potential in me long before I ever did. If I am ever considered as smart, it's because you imparted so much knowledge to me.

From day one, you had been my biggest cheerleader and coach. You always believed in me and encouraged me when I thought things were just too difficult and I wanted to give up. On the hardest of days in school, every time I called, you would tell me that I would be okay and I would be able to get through whatever challenging situation I had to deal with. You always told me to smile and be happy even if circumstances sought to push me to do otherwise.

You were such fun, Dad. You never seemed to run out of interesting stories about your life as a young boy. I am definitely going to miss that. I'm going to miss having discussions with you about almost anything and everything. I'm going to miss playing scrabble and watching you



win every single ludo game we played. I am going to miss our friendly banter on topics you clearly knew more about compared to any adult I know.

You were not only a daddy to me but also a father figure in the lives of many others, on whose hearts you have imprinted your memory which will be forever treasured.

It hurts that this goodbye had to come so early but I know now that all the pain that you were feeling has been taken away and you are resting peacefully with God, your maker, to whom you have returned.

An end is also a beginning, which can sometimes be sad but there is no sadness when I think of you.

I love you very much, Daddy, and I promise to do my best to always make you proud, as you watch me from beyond the horizon. You still hold and will continue to hold a very special place in my heart always and forever.

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live." (John 11:25 NKJV)

Now I bid you painful adieu, my very dear Dad.

So long.



TRIBUTE BY SIBLINGS

We are gathered here today not only to celebrate the life of our brother, friend and husband, but to also share both our joy in the gift that his life was to us, and the pain that his passing brings. In sharing the joy and the pain together today, may we lessen the pain and remember more clearly the joy.

What can we possibly say about John that would do him justice? John was a man whose

virtues were buried beneath his outwardly vociferous nature. Even from a young age, he was fiercely loyal to family and supportive of his siblings against anyone who seemed be against them. He would quickly jump to our defense while at the same time attempting to chastise us for anything he thought we had done wrong. He was always the one to “call a spade a spade” but it didn't end there, he would go on to describe and analyze and explain and point



out what a spade was suppose to do and not do.

It would feel strange to stand up here and extol his many virtues. He definitely had plenty of virtues, but he really wasn't the extolling type. In fact, if he were here, he'd probably give me a hard time for using the word "extolling " n public."I am a humble guy." He said that a lot.

John was very close to his family and friends. Growing up with John as a younger brother wasn't always easy for us. In fact, he never considered his young age a handicap when he faced us on most family issues.

Hello everyone. I can't believe I'm standing here today saying goodbye to my younger brother John. My name is Paul, and my family and I are thankful that all of you were able to come out and support us in this difficult time. I know that many of you have already suffered the sorrowful loss of a sibling. My family and I now join your mournful ranks.

What made John an interesting character was that he would pick on us constantly but let anyone else dare to give us a run for our money and John would be on our side, whatever may come. It wasn't surprising that after obtaining his law certificate, he considered himself and advocate of the family, a task he passionately executed until his passing.

We lost someone with whom we shared many things - love, of course, more love than we can say. They say those who constantly cheat death are living life to the fullest. Perhaps, it's the



lack of fear that opens up one's world, allows one to take risks that constrain lesser mortals. John did live a full life despite his too soon death. He loved and embraced those around him with a fearless heart.

We will miss the man, who fought with us and loved us with equal passion. We will miss the brother, the father, friend and husband, who tested his limits, and always went far and beyond in pursuit of what was good for his family and friends.

Dear John, your untimely death is a big blow to us all. We are yet to come to terms with the brutal fact that you are no more with us. You have thrown hundreds of us into untold agony, tears, pain and gloom. You have created a vacuum that will take our family years to fill. Yes, you were diligent, visionary, wise, mature and brotherly.

We will miss your dogged and relentless spirit and would always remember you as the man, who fought with us and loved us with equal passion.

May your gentle soul rest in perfect peace



TRIBUTE TO THE JOHN I KNOW FROM DAAVI

To each of us a different John. Yet to each of us the same. A man who always strove for more. To be more even though we already knew he was enough.

John strove for knowledge. The book was his mate and words were his friend. Language was important to him. Not just what was said but how it was said and what was meant.

I remember a young John, always wanting to be first in class.

A teenage John, who entered one of the bike races hosted by Ajevonne.

A well read John. Out of uni and quoting Latin and Shakespeare, Chaucer and Machiavelli. A deep-thinker John immersed in Philosophy laced with humour. Jokes that took a while to decipher.

An enquiring, inquisitive John who always strove to know more and be more. A John at times

misunderstood because what he sought was beyond us all.

I have seen a happy John, a sad John, a triumphant John and a curious John. A John with more layers of complexity and mystery than an onion.

A sharpness of mind that enhances and encourages the sweetness that surrounds us.

Now there is no more John. But only in person.

His thoughts are with us. His words inhabit our memories. His laughter will forever ring in our ears for years to come.

His example of striving for higher grounds will encourage us to climb to.

There is only one John. There was only one John.

Rest in peace, John!



TRIBUTE FROM NIECES & NEPHEWS

Uncle John, we still can't believe we are writing a tribute to read at your funeral. This is indeed a very difficult piece to write, and as heartbroken as we are at your passing, we're comforted by memories of time spent together, your words of advice and support, and even your stern warnings and riot acts that were always expected when any of us stepped out of line. While the time we spent together was considerably short, it was a blessing to have lived our lives with you as an uncle.

You touched so many lives with your selfless and countless acts of kindness, always giving and expecting no favours in return. Your dedication to a cause was what set you apart. For every institution you worked for, you laid the path for others to succeed. The benefits of your hard work are a living testimony for many young men and women you took under your wings personally and professionally.

UJ, you were and will always be an inspiration to us, the entire family and anyone who worked with you. You have left a void in the family that will never be filled. While we mourn today, we also take comfort in knowing that your mission on earth has been fulfilled. We thank the Lord for your life and bid you farewell until we meet again



God saw that he was getting tired,
A cure was not to be.
So He put His arms around him
And whispered, "Come with Me."
With tearful eyes, we watched him suffer,
And saw him fade away.
Although we loved him dearly,
We could not make him stay.
A golden heart stopped beating,
Hard-working hands to rest.
God broke our hearts to prove to us
He only takes "The Best".

RIP Uncle John



TRIBUTE FROM NIGEL “CHÉRI” HUKPORTIE TO UNCLE JOHN (UJ)

For twenty-odd years, “my nephew and my friend” followed my name each time my Uncle John had the pleasure of introducing me to friends or colleagues of his. While it’s safe to say, even when I was a teenager, the default relationship was our friendship, the segue from friend to uncle was remarkably smooth, and the switches which were frequent and entirely at his whim, always occurred without warning. It was usually not until midway into the telling-off that I’d realise, alas, Uncle John Mode had been activated.



Ours was a very special friendship that thrived on wit, sarcasm and dry humour, and a shared interest in history, philosophy and international politics. He would say repeatedly of our bond that the uncle-nephew connection was an imposition. We didn't play in part in its creation, and there was nothing, absolutely nothing we could do to terminate or destroy it. Our friendship however was a choice, a conscious decision to love and be friendly to each other. And that, in his opinion was a treasure we would defend to the hilt. I looked forward to our meetings and always believed an hour with him, chewing the cud, was very good use of 60 minutes. He was always keen to share his experiences and there was a moral to every story he told. Our conversations were diverse and seemingly bookish - they



ranged from Michel Micombero's Hutu-like nose and how it probably altered the course of Burundian history, to Jean-Baptiste Say and supply generating its own demand.

I remarked to a mutual friend of ours shortly after his passing, that my UJ wasn't the easiest person to get along with; he retorted, "that's got to be in the running for understatement of the century." I laughed, and conceded UJ was probably a lot more difficult than I will let on. Difficult. Now, that's not such a bad word, is it? Is "difficult" the last adjective you'd want anyone using when they're speaking of you? I have had in the course of our relations and friendship, what I considered just reasons to call UJ difficult, intransigent, and plain "long". I have however never had to, nor met anyone who's referred to him as dodgy, or shifty, or shady, or dishonest or corrupt. He wasn't one to cut corners and always said it as it was - if it was black and white and looked like a horse, it was a zebra! So, was he really difficult or did we all with time get overly easy? Have we gotten so caught up in niceties and diplomacy, brutal honesty has become unpopular? Perhaps ours would be a considerably better world if we all strove to be a little more "difficult" in our dealings.

A man with unwavering fervour for everything he did and a mind as sharp as tacks, UJ carried out all tasks to the best of his abilities, and never let himself plunge into a pit of despondence no matter the circumstances. He stayed at the table and played his cards no matter how bad the hand he was dealt.

He will always remain my "award-winning" uncle, and a dear friend I will miss very sorely. RIP UJ



TRIBUTE FROM DAVID DERBAN

John Dovené Hukportie, my brother-in-law and a special friend.

After the ravaging storm of thunder and lightning has died down, it is the farms, wells and flowing rivers that sing its praises. African Proverb

John, my brother and special friend was to many a storm, but to a few who were privileged to know his other side, he was a man of contrasts, a dramatic, intense, a passionate lover of life and an advocate of living life to the fullest.

A few years after my cousin Felicia married John, I was passing through a lonely passage in my life as a fresh graduate trying to find my path in life. I could describe my life at the time as a drought then. But then came a storm. I discovered another side of my brother-in-law and he brought a refreshing to my life. One evening, he



engaged me in an interesting conversation about the difference between Anglophone Africa and Francophone Africa. He was raised up as both. He introduced me to “La vie Vivre” . The Anglophones, especially Ghanaians were a boring lot. He offered me Francophonie as a pill to heal my depression. He introduced me to Alliance Française, the French language school, where he was a board member. Here I found my life: Art



exhibitions, sculpture and paintings on display, a French restaurant and solely French music. He encouraged me to take French classes which I did, to join the French library club and attend their music and theatre concerts. We attended many of these shows together. Jazz, traditional Malian music, Ivorian music and best of all, Congolese music. The most memorable was Salif Keita – the Malian griot at the International Conference Center. After these concerts he would take me to a French club downtown – a gathering of Afro-Francophones. The place was full of life, friendly people, and musique. There I saw the other John. For someone his size, he was an excellent dancer- bounding up and down, jumping high up and crouching down low and shaking his body to the rhythm and fast paced Congolese beats. John was music and dance. He even established a Francophone band in Accra for the club. It seemed he knew everyone there. Mid way between the music tracks, he would pull the prettiest ladies to come in a bid to end my life as a bachelor. He would wink an eye and leave floor as another track of Kofi Olomide set the club ablaze. This is the brother I remember, the bubbly energetic dynamic Francophonie. He was right. Ghanaians are truly a boring lot.

John my brother, was not the richest man in the world, but I can say without a doubt that he gifted me one of my most priced and precious possessions– a 1930 gramophone. You see, John and I shared the same interests in antiques, history, museums, art, music, philosophy and literature. We discussed many topics on life, as seen by the French philosophers Rene Decartes, Baron de Montesquieu, Voltaire, and Jean-Jacques Rousseau. We also shared interest in Jazz : Bob James, Earl Klugh, Fela Kuti and many others. John was a man of class and lover of nature and sculpture. His home had a lawn, trees, a classical fountain and dove house of hundreds of birds which he fed religiously. The design of his



home by one of Ghana's best architects Kwame Akyea Djamson who happens to be his mate, has a waterfall and fish pond incorporated into its entrance porch. John loved Architecture and often passed by my office to spend time with me to watch documentaries on Ancient Rome and Greece and to discuss the work of famous artists.

John was a believer in higher education. He loved knowledge and progress. For that there was no excuse. In his forties, he suffered a stroke, was able to recover and attend Law school and was called to the Bar. This I find remarkable about John, a man of determination and strength. He was also excited and looked at me with pride that I was also taking an MPhil at Legon and was indeed willing to help me with my research in his free time.

Dear John, your health did not allow us to take those planned trips to Le Louvre in Paris and to Senegal to attend the Dak'art , a Bi-annual international art festival and the SIAO Ouagadougou International Arts and Crafts Fair . Our Tuareg trip from Bamako to see the Great Mosque of Djenne and to Morocco by train did not come on as planned. Though in the last years, we lost out on much fun we were supposed to have, you were able to do the most important thing- to be true to your family and be with them back at home in love.

My dear big brother John, You will be fondly remembered in my life . I have many things to remind me of you and the life and interests we shared.

May You Rest Peacefully With God.



TRIBUTE FROM AMBASSADOR KOBY KOOMSON (former Ambassador to the US)

The late Attorney and Togbui Dovene Dziku Hukportie II of Avoeme in the Afloa Traditional Area was one of my promising students when I taught Class 5C at Datus Preparatory School in Kaneshie, Accra in 1993. John was a very bright and competitive student who took his academic work so seriously that he skipped the next grade which was Class 6 Lower and was promoted to Class 6 Upper in my second year as a teacher at Datus and the next year he gained admission to Mfantshipim. I knew that he had the potential to do great things.

John's stellar academic work came from his strong family upbringing with strong emphasis on academic excellence at school and discipline at home. As a teacher I took pride in and had the habit of paying surprise visits to my students at home on weekends. This gave me the opportunity to visit and engage my students' parents in their homes to discuss their children's school work. This created a special bond between myself and some of my students' parents. I do recall a particular incident when John's Dad visited my class and requested that I discipline (cane) his son. Upon my refusal to oblige his request, Mr. Hukportie took the cane and disciplined his son in front of the whole class, and quickly exited the class before I could say anything to him. Till today I still do not know what precipitated that incident.

When I was Ambassador I attended an important meeting at the Ghana Ministry of Finance, and I was pleasantly surprised to find John who was working at the Ministry of Finance in attendance at the



meeting with his boss, the Minister of Finance. We exchanged contacts and stayed in touch. A few years after my tour of duty as Ambassador and on a trip to Ghana, I was immensely delighted when I learned that John had switched careers from finance and was now a practicing Attorney in Accra. I immediately called and asked my former student now a brilliant lawyer if he would have time for us to meet. Imagine my joy when he obliged to meet with me. John came to the meeting with his daughter Daffne, "the apple of his eye". We had a great chat and not long after, John called to tell me that Daffne has been accepted to Wesley Girls High School in Cape Coast (the same great school that my older sister and my wife attended). Every time we spoke on the phone, John would talk at length about Daffne, and how well she was doing in school.

John always called me Teacher, and in August of 2020, he sent me a WhatsApp text requesting if he could mention my name as one of his mentors who influenced his character as a young boy in the official memorial brochure marking his Installation in September 2020, as Togbui Dovene Dziku Hukportie II of Avoeme in the Aflao Traditional Area. I immediately responded with the words " Big Congratulations. I am humbled with this honor".

I was devastated when I heard the news of John's untimely passing. I pray that the Good Lord will give him a Peaceful Rest, and comfort Felicia, Daffne, the entire Hukportie family and the Aflao Traditional Area. I will keep you all in my Prayers.

Damirifa Due . Da Yie . Kpo . Sanu . Mawu Nayi kpili wo.

Rest in Perfect Peace and fare thee well My Former Student, Lawyer and Togbui Dovene Dziku Hukportie II of Avoeme in the Aflao Traditional Area.



TRIBUTE BY APPIADE CHAMBERS

***“To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the Heaven;
A time to be born, and a time to die ...” Ecclesiastes 3:1-2.***

Lawyer John, as we all fondly called him joined Appiade Chambers in 2014 as a private legal practitioner after he was called to the Bar.

Having previously worked in Finance and Administration, he brought a lot of experience he had gathered over the years to bear in his work at the Chambers. His expertise when handling briefs was admirable. He had a particular liking for flowery language and always expressed himself in a gentlemanly way. He always gave advice to the younger colleagues and staff and was always ready to offer help or advice to them. His interactions with clients was amazing considering the fact that he was relatively young at the Bar. He approached his duty with diligence until a time when he could not make his daily attendance to court or the office.

It is with heavy heart that we write this tribute as a group. News of your ill-Health and Admission to Nyaho Clinic was surprising as we had no idea you had fallen ill. Later when we were informed we had Thomas visiting you and hopeful for your recovery and discharge. News of your demise therefore came as a big shock but then, who are we to question God.

Lawyer John, rest peaceful in the bosom of the Lord, until we all meet again on the last day of the Resurrection. Amen



TRIBUTE BY BISHOP ASOMANING

Makarios Church

To John my friend, we never got to play our round of golf. Not that I believed that you were a high handicapper and that you would lose to me. I know you. You never toyed with anything you were involved with.

That's what I realised when you joined the Restoration Service in the Bread of Life Cathedral sometime in 2013. You came up to me one day and told me, "Rev Aso, the attendance is going down". I could not believe it, coming from you. You were not a shepherd, not a pastor. Yet, you were concerned about church growth! I have never forgotten.

It was through your coming that Felicia and Daffne joined the Bread of Life Cathedral and have become church workers! Though you left later, you were the Andrew that brought the Peter who became the Rock. I can't forget your input into David's French grade in the WASSCE.

You were a friend. You were not in church, but you maintained the friendship. The long phone calls, the questions, the WhatsApp chats....I still remember our last but one meeting. You wanted a devotional so you could read the Bible consistently. I came all the way to meet you at your junction to give it you. If only I had known that it would be the last meeting. You didn't make me out when I came to the hospital. I should've known then, that the bell had been tolled for you.

So long, my friend. I'll miss your analysis of issues, your voice, your person.

But I know we'll meet someday. There's a River of Life in heaven. And also, trees. That suggests to me that there might be golf courses in heaven.

Maybe we can play our round.



TRIBUTE FROM THE COUNCIL OF ELDERS TORGBUIGA AMEGADZE ANUBO ROYAL FAMILY

THE HOUR OF DEPARTURE HAS ARRIVED AND WE GO OUR SEPARATE WAYS.
I TO DIE AND YOU TO LIVE, WHICH OF THESE TWO IS BETTER.
ONLY GOD KNOWS
(ANONYMOUS)

The late Lawyer John Dovene Hukportie who we mourn today, was an ardent member of the Torgbuiga Amegadze Anubo Royal Family.

A couple of years ago it was decided to bring all the Torgbuiga Amegadze Anubo Family all over the world together for we are so numerous but we all do not know one other.

As the adage goes UNITY IS STRENGTH AND TOGETHER WE BUILD. This idea culminated in the formation of the Eminent Committee of the Family which was mandated to put together the system of effective family administration.

Dovene as he was affectionately called, was elected by acclamation as first Secretary of the committee.

The Eminent Committee eventually yielded place to the formation of the Council of Elders for which Dovene was made the family Secretary and the Legal Advisor. A position he held till his untimely death.





Dovene contributed immensely in the activities of the Family and as a result the family was able to establish the Family Welfare Scheme and the Avoeme Community Cooperative Credit Union, all for the socioeconomic benefit of the Family.

His singular important contribution was the drafting of the Family Constitution which will be the governing instrument for the family for generations to come.



He was affable, caring and liked by all.

Sadly a very big family Oak Tree has fallen Logotsi gaã e mu namì! who can we find to take his place?

He has done his best and sadly gone. We who he has left behind vow to keep the torch we lit together aflame to live a legacy for generations after us to benefit from, so as not to make his and our efforts to be in vain.

Much as we would have loved to have him around to continue to contribute to the affairs of the family, we do unfortunately recognize that his maker has a better duty for him.

Fare thee well Dovené and God be with you till we meet again.

Dovené xede nyuie eye nadzudor le nutifafa me. Amen !



TRIBUTE FROM THE KWAKYE FAMILY (AKUA, KWAME AND KOJO)

“ He will wipe away all tears from their eyes. There will be no more death, no more grief or crying or pain. The old things have disappeared.” Revelations 21: 4

The reality of your departure to eternity is difficult to embrace. Scanning through the vast walls of memories and being reminded of the many things we've been through together make this irreversible situation even more painful.

In August of 1976 when our father went to work at Ghana's Embassy in Cotonou, Benin; alongside Mr. Hukportie who had already been there for a few years. it was the Hukportie family that made our adjustment to a new country a smooth one. Fortunately, we lived within walking distance so we could visit each other frequently. Mrs. Hukportie (Auntie Yaa) and our mother developed a very close friendship that lasted until Auntie Yaa's demise. Visiting the Hukporties was always special because either Maame Kitiwa or John always had something exciting for us to do. John was a little mischievous, his unbelievable sense of humor and the fact that he spoke French fluently made it a joy to be around him. He was a diligent student who attached a lot of seriousness to his studies. 'Dove' was in form 3 when Kwame gained admission to Mfatsipim. He became Kwame's big brother and mentor. His friendship and guidance were invaluable. By the time both families returned to Ghana in the 80's he was more or less part of our family. My wife Akosua and our three daughters also associated very closely with him and knew him as



uncle John.

On his many visits to our house, he would make it known to us that today he didn't come to see any us but rather to have a discussion with Dad or Mom. He was very ambitious and constantly wanted to improve himself and did not shy away from seeking advice from others
John had a very analytical mind and would have deep conversations with us on topics relating to religion, politics as well as current affairs.

He was thoughtful, well dressed, honest and very principled, these were values that served him well during his professional career. He could strike a conversation with anyone and everyone. His eyes would actually light up when he met a francophone person and would skillfully switch to speaking French with them. He was generous to a fault.

I vividly remember how excited he was when he met Felicia, he saw qualities of his mother in her and he cherished the thought of starting life with her. The birth of Daffne was in my opinion one of the highest points of his life.

His siblings meant so much to him and he went to great lengths to be in constant touch with all of them even though they were thousands of miles away.

The experiences in Cotonou, Kinshasa, Geneva and Paris really shaped his outlook on life and made him a natural diplomat who was very tactful with his choice of words.



He loved music and always had a stack of CD's in his car. He would switch from jazz to highlife to a Congolese dance tune, then to Fela's Afro beats. "Do you know that Fela is the greatest trumpeter ever?" he would ask as we hammed along to the tune.

Thanks for all those memorable moments that we had together.

We were so proud of him when he achieved his lifelong goal of becoming a lawyer.

Our prayers go out to his wife, Felicia, Daffne, all of his siblings and the entire family. We have lost a loving husband, dedicated father, a caring brother and faithful friend.

May the Good Lord be our comforter.

"Brothers, we do not want you to be ignorant about those who fall asleep, or to grieve like the rest of men, who have no hope. We believe that Jesus died and rose again and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him."

1 Thessalonians 4: 13 – 14



TRIBUTE FROM THE GHANA SCHOOL OF LAW ALUMNI - CLASS OF 2008 (JUBILEE LAWYERS)

*“Pleasant are Thy courts above,
In the land of light and love;
Pleasant are Thy courts below,
In this land of sin and woe;
O, my spirit longs and faints
For the converse of Thy saints,
For the brightness of Thy face,
King of Glory, God of grace.”*

-Henry Francis Lyte [1834]

We are gathered here today to pay our last respects to our friend and colleague, John Dovene Hukportie who we affectionately called John or Dove.

John was part of the batch of students admitted to the Faculty of Law, University of Ghana in August 2004 for the Bachelor of Laws (LL.B) course. It was an interesting class made up of a varied mix of students from different backgrounds; some were full time students while others were combining the course with their regular forms of employment. John fell in the latter category but later became a full-time student, moving to Jubilee Hostel to take up residence.



Right from the beginning, John devised a means to make it easy for us all to stay in touch. He compiled the names, phone numbers and emails of all his classmates. For easy identification, he went further to add the photographs of members of the class to the compiled list. He brought a portable instant camera to class to help him take the photographs. This made it easy for us to keep in touch with one another in a class of more than a hundred students. That was before the advent of smartphones and Apps such as Whatsapp. Sixteen years later, John still had a collection of our photos saved on a CD and sent them to us individually. What a pleasant surprise it was for us to see our photographs from 2004.

John easily interacted with everyone, both young and old in the class. He took active part in all school functions and study group discussions. We will remember how he actively campaigned for his preferred candidate as president of the Law Students' Union (LSU).

We will also remember his generosity as John would go out of his way to make extra copies of course materials and give them out to his friends. Most of all, we will remember his love for music, as well as his humour and good cheer. There was no dull moment with John. In fact, a little mirth was the perfect balance we needed as we waded through the new and uncharted path on which we found ourselves as Law Students. At some point, Dove kept a little prop in his pocket with the inscription '**eclat de rire**' which produced a roar of laughter at a touch. He would keep a straight face while he pressed the button and one would wonder



where the laughter came from. That was John.

As fate would have it, we got called to the bar ahead of John but he followed soon after, keeping the promise he had made to himself and some close friends. John kept in touch with the class constantly through the Whatsapp platform. He would always make it a point to update the Administrator of the group whenever he changed his phone or phone number.

We noticed his silence when we celebrated what was to be his last birthday on the platform. We tried to reach him to no avail. Little did we know that he had been taken ill and subsequently called up to the heavenly courts. We are deeply pained that he is no more with us, but we are consoled that our earthly loss is heaven's gain.

We miss you dearly, John. We pray that the good Lord grants you eternal rest from your labours. We also pray for God's comfort for the family you left behind, especially your dear wife, Felicia and daughter, Daphne. Adieu, brother and friend. **'Dieu soit avec vous jusqu'à ce que nous nous revoyions.'**

Dove, 'xede nyuie.'





TRIBUTE BY MFANTSIPIIM OLD BOYS ASSOCIATION 1979 YEAR GROUP (MOBA 79)

On the 3rd of October 1974, two hundred teenage boys arrived on the Kwabotwe Hill in Cape-Coast, to begin the unique process which would prepare them for their future. Notable amongst us was John Dovené Hukportie, affectionately called 'Dove'.

He was always in the company of the smallest boys including Thomas Hughes, Frank Davies, Timothy Appiah (late), Muhammed Awwal , Kwabena Agyepong, Peter Hill , Kweku Amonoo and Eugene Mensah, who rubbed shoulders with the bigger brothers.

Dove interacted with fellow students from different backgrounds and was sociable and fun to be with. He was a fine gentleman with a refreshing candour.

Dove had a mind that was curious, enquiring and highly incisive. He therefore had no difficulty joining the Science Class and combining the unpopular and dreaded subjects of French and Technical Drawing for the GCE Ordinary Level Examination. It is also not surprising that he later became a bilingual economist, an international trade specialist, a corporate executive and a solicitor after further studies in the DR Congo, France and Switzerland.

His penchant for newer and exciting opportunities took him through various positions at the Ministry of Finance, The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) in



Geneva, Cotecna Inspection S.A.- Ghana (later known as Gateway Services Limited) and law chambers. Fiercely loyal to culture and tradition, he was installed a chief in his home community in the Aflao Traditional Area.

Dove was passionate about Mfantshipim School and was instrumental in the formation of the year group and vigorously pushed for greater bonding between us. His support for MOBA activities in general and MOBA 79 issues specifically was commendable.

Dove was a music enthusiast and always carried his 'brand' instrument, a mouth organ. He introduced us to francophone musicians like Meiway of Ivory Coast and Papa Wemba of Congo and occasionally treated us to elegant Congolese dance movements.

As news of his passing hit the MOBA social media pages there was an outpouring of shock and grief. The numerous tributes and comments that appeared on our platform read:

'a very distinctive mate and member of the group'. - **Eric Koranteng** ;

' A fantastic person with a very strong mindset .Who sucked up to no one. Full of humour. Made his mark with all of us'. - **Kwesi Folson** ;

'Undoubtedly painful moments as we mourn a dear friend. I actually admired his usual calm but strong character, obviously a great attribute'. - **Prince Ankrah** ;



'DJ Dove as I referred to you because of your love for music'. – **Francis Grant** ;

'Dove and his music, playing the Mouth Organ'. - **Richard King Batsios**;

'but he was hale and hearty on his birthday only last month'. – **Sampson Gyampoh** ;

'He was in a band in school. One of his plans was to have organised a live music fair on his 60th birthday'. – **Sidney Koranteng** ;

'I called him my twin brother because we were born on the same day and started class one in Datus together'. -**Thomas Hughes**;

'Life is so fleeting. Seems like only yesterday. The knocks I had to endure as some seniors could hardly tell us apart'. - **Kwabena Agyepong** ;

'Reposez-vous bien dans le sein de notre Seigneur'. -Victor Ashun and Edward Agyepong ;
'Life's but a walking shadow, a poor player that struts and frets his hour upon the stage and then is heard no more'. - **Rev. Rick Donkor** ;

'John Dovene Hukportie. One of a kind. Gentleman, scholar, a dancer to a different drummer'. -
Kweku Amonoo.

Cobbie de Graff , Michael Boakye Danquah , King Batsios, Kweku Amonoo, Ghartey Tagoe,



Rev. Rick Donkor, Ebenezer Ankrah and several others outside Ghana found it hard to take the news of his passing in. They will miss all those long phone conversations, text and WhatsApp exchanges on numerous subjects spanning culture, music, science, modern languages, philosophy, religion, politics and economics.

Richard Appartaim and **Armo Himbson** affirm he was the invaluable repository of information on our year group's history. He could recall all the details that had become foggy in our minds for instance names of tutors, the most hilarious and weirdest nicknames as well as landmark incidents during school council meetings.

Owusu Bamfo, Korsah Brown and **Christian Buaben** speak for us when they salute you, Dove for having lived a worthy life, paid your dues and battled your ailment valiantly.

Our hearts go out to your beloved wife Felicia, your dear daughter Daffne, and the entire family. We pray for their comfort, peace and grace in this difficult time.

Dove, our brother and friend, we will sorely miss you.

May the Good Lord Grant You Perfect Peace.

Hede Nyuie. Na dzudzo le nutifafa me.

Damirifa Due.



FROM COTECNA INSPECTION SERVICES (GENEVA) AND GATEWAY SERVICES LIMITED (GSL GHANA)

COTECNA Inspection Services (Geneva) and Gateway Services Limited (GSL Ghana) wish to acknowledge the work and efforts put in by Mr. John D. Hukportie in establishing one of the first Destination Inspection Companies in Ghana – Gateway Services Limited (Ghana).

We called him Mr. H, John Huk, and various other names. He liked to call himself Dove..... a name he was very proud of and would explain at length how his father came to give him that name. If you are here today and are his friend, you would have heard that explanation many times.

Mr. John D. Hukportie started out with COTECNA Inspection Services around 1997, after a stint with the mother company – COTECNA INSPECTION SERVICES - in Geneva. He came in as General Manager. This was around the time when Pre-shipment inspection was about to give way to Destination Inspection.

The responsibility fell on John, as General Manager, and manager on the ground, to lead the transition from pre-shipment to destination inspection, in fact, not just a transition, but to procure a whole new contract, and set up. With expertise from Geneva and his knowledge of the terrain in Ghana, he did this excellently. Gateway Services Limited (Ghana) came into



being in the year 2000 and opened its doors to the public in April of that same year. John was its first Deputy Managing Director.

We want to say ayekoo for the hard work you did, in conjunction with the team in place at the time. This is the company we all got to work in from the year 2000, and which is still in place.

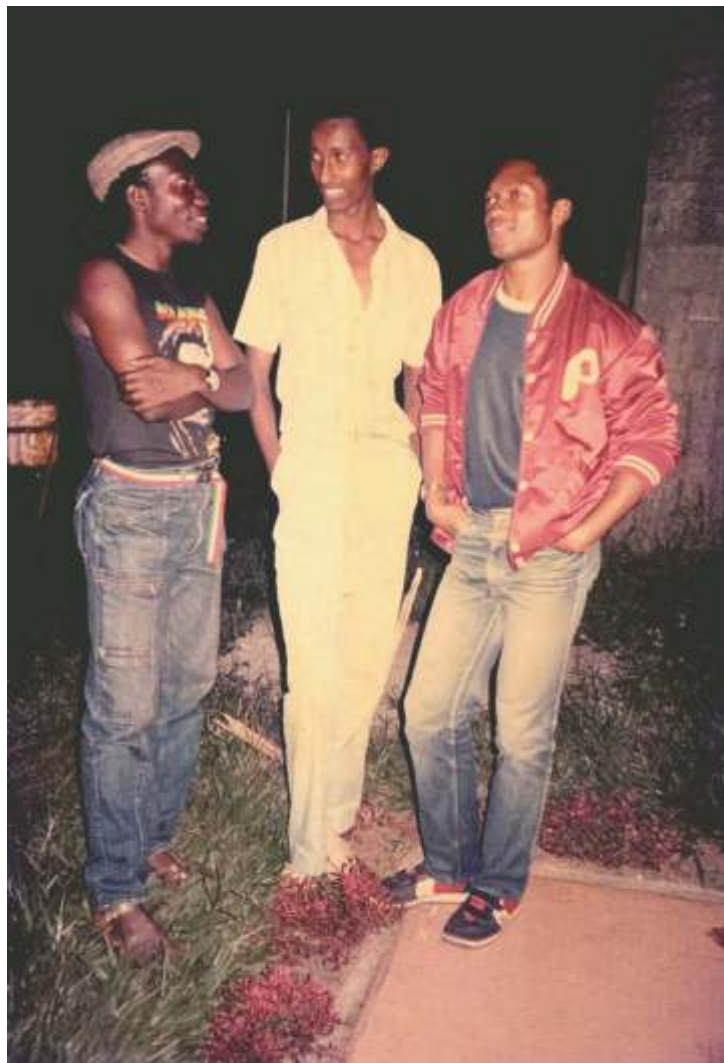
We pray the Lord's peace upon you as you enter into your rest. As the Father promised in His word in Matthew 25:21 – “WELL DONE GOOD AND FAITHFUL SERVANT, YOU WERE FAITHFUL OVER A FEW THINGS, I WILL MAKE YOU RULER OVER MANY THINGS. ENTER INTO THE JOY OF YOUR LORD”. AMEN

REST IN PERFECT PEACE.

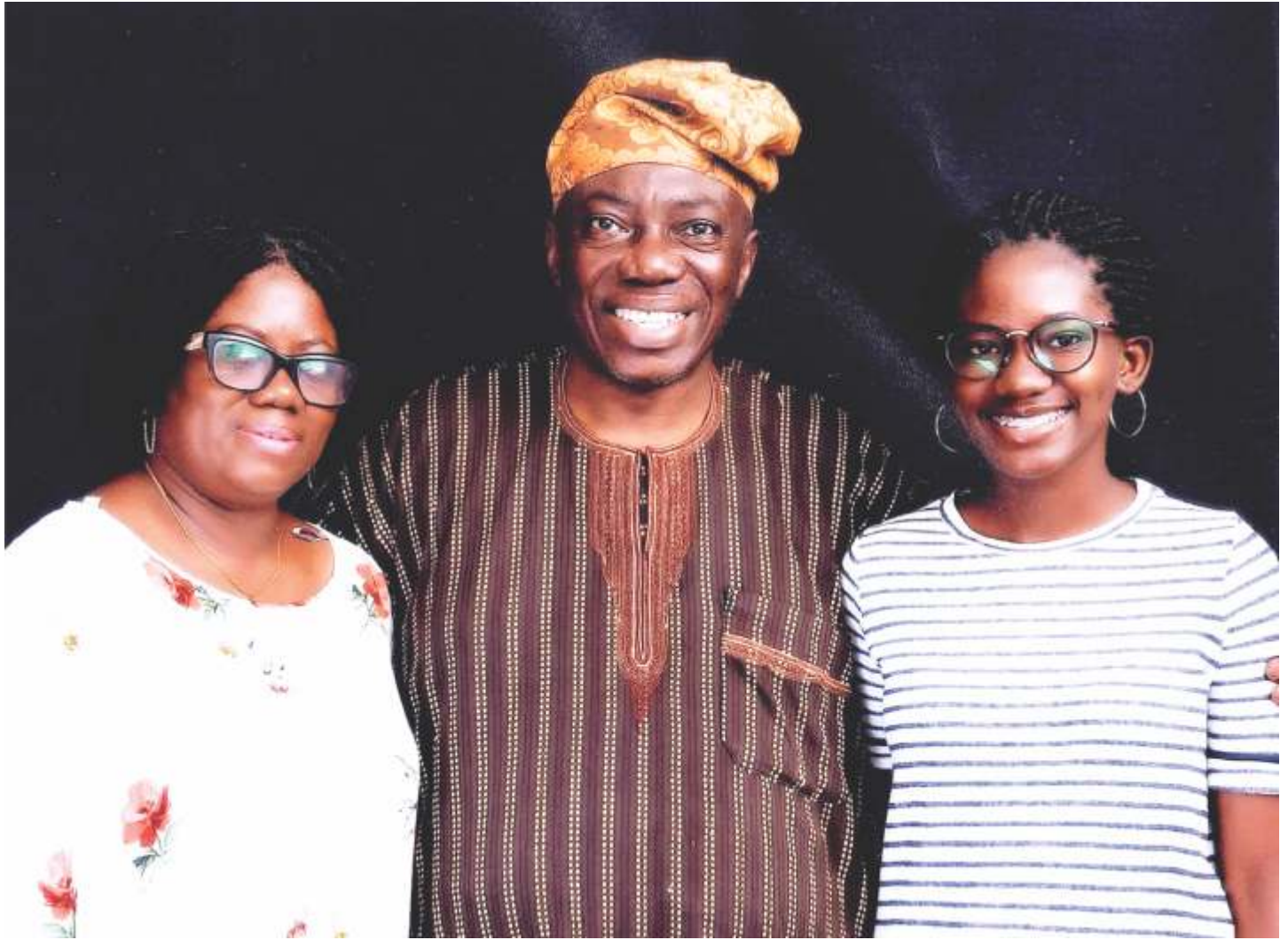




PHOTO GALLERY























Hymns

HYMN 1 - AMAZING GRACE

Amazing grace how sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me
I once was lost, but now I'm found
Was blind but now I see

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear
And grace my fears relieved
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed

Through many dangers, toils, and snares
I have already come
This grace that brought me safe thus far
And grace will lead me home

When we've been here ten thousand years
Bright, shining as the sun
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we first begun

Amazing grace how sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me
I once was lost, but now I'm found
Was blind but now I see

HYMN 2 - GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS

Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father
There is no shadow of turning with Thee
Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not
As Thou hast been, Thou forever will be

Great is Thy faithfulness
Great is Thy faithfulness
Morning by morning new mercies I see
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me

Summer and winter and springtime and harvest
Sun, moon and stars in their courses above
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love

Great is Thy faithfulness
Great is Thy faithfulness
Morning by morning new mercies I see
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow
Blessings all mine with 10, 000 beside





Hymns

Great is Thy faithfulness
Great is Thy faithfulness
Morning by morning new mercies I see
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided
Great is Thy faithfulness
Great is Thy faithfulness
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me

HYMN 3 - WHEN PEACE LIKE A RIVER

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

It is well (it is well)
With my soul (with my soul)
It is well, it is well with my soul

Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come
Let this blest assurance control
That Christ (yes, He has) has regarded my helpless estate
And has shed His own blood for my soul

It is well (it is well)
With my soul (with my soul)

It is well, it is well with my soul
My sin, oh the bliss of this glorious thought (a thought)
My sin, not in part, but the whole (every bit, every bit, all of it)
Is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more (yes)
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul

It is well (it is well)
With my soul (with my soul)
It is well, it is well with my soul

And 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

It is well (it is well)
With my soul (with my soul)
It is well, it is well with my soul

'Cause of You, Jesus, it is well

It is well (it is well)
With my soul (with my soul)
It is well, it is well with my soul





Hymns

HYMN 4- TO GOD BE THE GLORY

To God be the glory
 Great things He has done
 So loved He the world that He gave us His Son
 Who yielded His life an atonement for sin
 And opened the life-gate that all may go in

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord
 Let the earth hear His voice
 Praise the Lord, praise the Lord
 Let the people rejoice
 Come to the Father
 Through Jesus the Son
 Give Him the glory
 Great things He has done
 Oh yes

O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood
 To every believer the promise of God
 The vilest offender who truly believes
 That moment from Jesus a pardon receives

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord
 Let the earth hear His voice
 Praise the Lord, praise the Lord
 Let the people rejoice
 Come to the Father

Through Jesus the Son, yeah, yes
 Give Him the glory
 Great things He has done
 O yes...

Great things He has taught us, great things He has done
 And great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son
 But purer, and higher, and greater will be
 Our wonder, our worship, when Jesus we see

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord
 Let the earth hear His voice
 Praise the Lord, praise the Lord
 Let the people rejoice

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord
 Let the earth hear His voice
 Praise the Lord, praise the Lord
 Let the people rejoice
 Come to the Father
 Through Jesus the Son (give Him the glory)
 Give Him the glory
 Great things He has done, yeah, yeah!





Hymns

HYMN 5: MY FAITH HAS FOUND A RESTING PLACE

My faith has found a resting place
Not in device nor creed
I trust the Ever-living One
His wounds for me shall plead

Enough for me that Jesus saves
This ends my fear and doubt
A sinful soul I come to Him
He'll never cast me out

I need no other argument
I need no other plea
It is enough that Jesus died
And that He died for me

My heart is leaning on the Word
The written Word of God
Salvation by my Savior's name
Salvation through His blood

I need no other argument
I need no other plea
It is enough that Jesus died
And that He died for me

On Christ the solid Rock I stand
All other ground is sinking sand
All other ground is sinking sand

I need no other argument
I need no other plea
It is enough that Jesus died
And that He died for me





Gratitude

The wife, children and the family of

JOHN DOVENE HUKPORTIE

wish to express their profound gratitude
for your show of sympathy, prayers and support
during their bereavement.

We thank you for honouring
the memory of their Beloved Father

GOD BLESS YOU ALL.

