

PANIN



Mad. Janet Abena
DUFIE AGYAPONG
a.k.a **SISTER ATAA PANIN**

1956 - 2021



ORDER OF SERVICE FOR

Mad. Janet Abena DUFIE AGYAPONG

Wednesday, October 20, 2021
THE TRANSITIONS FUNERAL HOME,
Atomic-Haasto Legon

OFFICIATING CLERGY

Apostle Benjamin Fiifi Karikari
Accra

Pastor Daniel Annan
Tema

Pastor Maxwell Agyapong
Cape Coast

Pastor Afriyie Gyamfi
Koforidua

Pastor Joseph Owusu Agyemang
Ho

Pastor Philip Amponsah
Amasaman



ORDER OF SERVICE CONTINUED

BURIAL (SERVICE OF HYMNS & TRIBUTES)

1. Opening Prayer (Rev. Minister)
2. Congregational Singing & Worship
3. UGC Hymns of Praise (7)
4. Bible Reading (John 11:32-44)
5. UGC Hymns of Praise (45)
6. MHB (When Peace like a River)
7. Filling Past the Body
8. Tributes
 - *Biography*
 - *Tribute by children*
9. Offering/Offertory
10. UGC Hymns of Praise (6)
11. Sermon (Rev. Minister)
12. Announcements (Family & Church)
13. Closing Hymn MHB (To God Be The Glory)
14. Closing Prayer (Rev. Minister)
15. Benediction (Rev. Minister)

GRAVE SIDE SERVICE

1. Opening Prayer (Rev. Minister)
2. UGC Hymns of Praise (46)
3. Lowering of Coffin
4. Bible Reading (1 Thess. 4:13-18)
5. Committal
6. Filling Past the Body
7. Laying of Wreaths
8. Closing Prayer/Benediction (Rev. Minister)

MEMORIAL & THANKSGIVING SERVICE

PART I

1. Opening Prayer
2. Congregational Singing
3. Worship
4. Announcement
5. Offering
6. Songs Ministrations
7. Sermon/Altar Call

PART II

1. Opening Prayer
2. UGC Hymn of Joy (18, 19)
3. Scripture Reading (Rev. 22:1-5)
4. Hymns of Victory (36)
5. Short Biography by Family
6. Remembrances
7. Prayer for the Family of the Deceased
8. Official Removal of Name of Deceased from Church Register (Psalm 89:4-5)
9. Observation of a Minute Silence for Deceased Member (Committal Of The Soul)
10. Vote of Thanks
11. Closing Prayer
12. Benediction

BIOGRAPHY OF MAD. JANET ABENA DUFIE AGYAPONG



*Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.
1 Corinthians 15:51-52*

Early Years and Education

The late Madam Janet Abena Dufie Agyapong whose mortal remains lie before us was the elder of a set of twins (Ataa Panin) born on 20th September, 1956 at Bekwai – Ashanti. Her parents both deceased, were Opanin Alfred Kwabena Sarpong Agyepong of the Agona family of Amofo, near Bekwai and Obaapanin Mary Ama Buabeng Ankobia of the Aduana family of Essumeja – Asantemanso, Bekwai.

Sister Ataa Panin began her formal education at the Methodist Primary School, Bekwai from 1960 to 1966. She continued at the Anglican Middle School, Bekwai the same year and passed the Middle School Leaving Certificate Examinations in 1970. She then gained admission to the SDA Secondary School in Bekwai in 1970. Inspired by her mother, who was a midwife, she applied for and gained admission to the Enrolled Nurses Training School at the Tema General Hospital in 1974. Eventually, she qualified as an Enrolled General Nurse in 1976. This was the first of many achievements to follow.

Nursing Career

Sister Ataa Panin's nursing career was characterized by a number of transfers across Ghana. Her first official posting was to the Tema General Hospital and thereafter, the Ada Health Centre in 1981- where she remained for a year. She later moved on to the Asankragua Hospital where she was stationed for four years.

In 1986, she was again transferred to the Tamale Regional Hospital and subsequently moved on after five years to the Bolgatanga Regional Hospital in 1991. In Bolgatanga, she had the opportunity to train as a midwife at the Midwife Training School and graduated in 1996. She continued to work there as a Staff Midwife- this time until 1999, when she was transferred to the Kaneshie Polyclinic. Again, she had the opportunity to train as a Family Planning Nurse at the Public Health School, Korle Bu in 2000. Her last transfer was to the Dansoman Polyclinic in 2008 and retired as a Principal Midwifery Officer in 2016.





There is a popular saying that “a rolling stone gathers no moss” but in the case of Sister Ataa Panin, it was different. The series of transfers came with new responsibilities which exposed her to the many diversities that exist in Ghana. She saw patients in their most vulnerable moments and did her best to help them. She was very loyal and dedicated to her patients, especially the elderly. She visited some of them in their homes to check their blood pressure, sugar level and advised where necessary. All these experiences left an indelible mark on her and instilled a sense of dedication and the will to positively impact others. Her work ethic was eventually recognized and in 1997, she was adjudged the National Best Nurse (Midwifery) and the Regional Best Nurse (Midwifery), Upper East.

Religious Life

Sister Ataa Panin was baptized and confirmed in the Methodist Church, Bekwai but later found Grace to worship at the Universal Gospel Centre since the time she was stationed at Bolgatanga and never looked back. She allowed her house to be used for house fellowship by the UGC missionaries anytime they visited Bolgatanga. In Accra, she was a regular facilitator of the Women’s Fellowship programs on health and other feminine issues.

Family & Personal Life

In the family, she played several roles. She was the one who kept the purse whenever there was a funeral



or any other event in the family. She diligently accounted for all contributions and expenses whenever the family met to settle accounts after the event.

Anytime we travelled to Bekwai, our Sister was the one who did the cooking and ensured that everyone was served. Her service to family and friends was exceptional and she was diligent in every assignment she undertook.

Whenever she was on leave, our Sister would travel to Bekwai to take care of our late mother. When the Old Lady resisted all attempts to relocate to Accra for proper care, it was Ataa Panin who managed to change her mind.

Panin, despite her health challenges, taught us to live in the present and never dwell on things we cannot change. She taught us to let things go and always let God lead. You instilled in us continuous faith in the Lord and never failed to share words of encouragement even in the toughest of times. She never shirked her responsibility by being present at all family events or gatherings.

She was a woman of her words, one who walked the talk, and one who held and kept her promise. Her love and care made the difference in our lives. Sister Ataa Panin, you took everything in your stride. You were confident, good natured and intelligent.

Sister Atta Panin had a son but unfortunately, she lost the boy. She was not deterred by this loss early in her life but took the opportunity to love and maintain a good relationship with all her nephews and nieces and others outside the family.

On September 2, 2021, our Sister was rushed to the Korle Bu Teaching Hospital and we had hoped that like the other two instances when she was admitted at the hospital she would recover and come back home. The outcome this time was different. Our Sister was called home on September 13, 2021, a week to her sixty-fifth (65th) birthday.

Panin, your welcoming and infectious smile is one of the best traits that will stay with us. You truly have left your name in the sands of time.

*Fare thee well,
Sleep on Sister
Da Yie!*



TRIBUTE BY BROTHERS & SISTERS



Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

Philippians 1:6

There is nothing certain in a person's life except this: That we must lose it. Difficult to accept, yet very true. Very difficult to understand, yet very real, the fact that Sister Ataa Panin is no more. Little did we know that on the Monday 13th September, 2021 – a week to your 65th birthday – God was to take you on an eternal journey. We believe God saw that you were getting tired, and the cure was not to be. God in His wisdom extended an invitation to our Dearest Sister to join Him without considering us in the equation.

Sister, you were a woman of substance with a good heart and a source of blessing to us. You were the kind of sister everyone would wish to have. Janet, you were truly a sister with a difference. Throughout your existence, you have been there for us. We cannot find the exact words and expressions to convey to the world how precious you were to the family.

Your departure has created a vacuum, a big black hole, like a meteor falling from the skies into our hearts. We loved you so dearly in your lifetime, and even in death we will do the same. Your sudden demise has totally shattered and broken our hearts. You did not go alone; part of us went with you. Sister, your death is not an end, because your virtues will continue to vibrate in us, our children and generations to come.

Oh Heavenly Father, we pray for strength for this difficult time and for these difficult moments. Teach us acceptance of what we cannot understand. Teach us understanding of what we cannot change. For our lives, dear Lord, are in your good hands. You give life, and sustain life and grant eternal life. You, and you alone know the sorrow in our hearts. Keep us, comfort us, and surround us with the love and presence of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, who loves us.

Janet Abena

Dufie Agyapong

Sister Ataa Panin!

Da yie!!! Nyame Nfa wo Nsie !!

Amen.



Mrs. Monica Afari



Mrs. Florence Bandoh



Mrs. Lydia Blankson



Mr. Alex Agyapong



Mrs. Genevieve Boakye



Mr. Osei Hyiaman



Mr. Emmanuel Marfo



Mr. Joseph Boakye



Mr. Ernest Boakye



Mr. Akwesi Boakye



Mrs. C. Birikorang



Mr. Kofi Poku Boakye



Ms. Joanna Edusei



Mr. Emmanuel Edusei



Dr. Bawuah Edusei



Mr. Joseph Obeng



Mr. Osei Kofi



TRIBUTE TO MY SISTER

BY MRS GENEVIEVE ABENA DUFIE BOAKYE
ALIAS SISTER ATAA KAKRA



Be still and know that I am God

Psalm 46:10

Dear Panin,
It is hard to put into words how my life has changed after your untimely departure. We have shared a special connection since birth. Whether near or far I have lived each day of my life by your side. Twins have an unspeakable bond and with your passing a part of me leaves. I will be grateful for your words of encouragement, incredible generosity and unconditional love.

As young girls we did everything together and grew into two unique women who complemented each other in the ideal way. We took on different roles when needed to uplift each other. You were my best friend, council and greatest support. You always supported me without judgment and with open arms. You extended your kindness not only to me but to the whole family with your tireless dedication to anyone in need.

Today Panin you are no more and it is hard to imagine what life will be like without you. You were always by my side with every experience and every trial that came my way. When I lost my son and my husband, you were there as my rock. Now who will I turn to? Gone are the days of us finishing each other's sentences and anticipating each other's every need. Whenever I called, you would always greet me by saying "I miss you Kakra wo ho te sEn." I will miss the comfort of your voice. I looked forward to every trip home because being by your side made me feel complete. The void that exists now is unbearable. I look to God for guidance in honouring your legacy and navigating the world without you.

Although a part of me died with you, a part of



you still lives in me and I will hold onto that for solace in times of sorrow. While death takes our body, God takes our soul. Our mind holds the memories. Our heart keeps the love.

Our faith reminds me that we will meet again. I am comforted with your favourite verse Psalm 46:10 "Be still and know that I am God".

Da yie, Panin! Nyame mfa wo nsie wc asum dwe!

A TRIBUTE TO MY SISTER

BY MAD. LYDIA AGYEPONG



'You have fought the good fight, you have finished the race, you have kept the faith. Now there is in store for you the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will reward to you on that day- not only to you, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.' Amen

2 Timothy 4:7-8

As a staunch Christian, Sister Ataa never wavered in her faith. Though she passed through many difficulties in life, she pressed on as a result of her belief in the Almighty God. She regularly attended church and found joy in the presence of the Lord. Jesus Christ was a pivot in her life, and she never failed to recognize His power. No matter what she was going through, if one were to ask her how she was doing, her response was always, "Yesu adom oh..."



her role and nurtured them with love. Ataa was such an amazing mother that when my youngest, Papa Nyame, was in kindergarten, he would get confused and could sometimes not tell us apart. I am immensely grateful to her for this sacrifice.

Further, as a mother, she maintained good relationships not only with my sons, but with all her nieces and nephews as well. She had a down-to-earth disposition and was welcoming of everyone. Indeed, people felt very comfortable interacting with and confiding in her. She

For as far back as I can remember, Sister Ataa and I have lived together. She remained a sister, friend, confidante, prayer partner and support system throughout the years. We were always at peace with one another. She was also my telenovela watching partner and in instances where I missed an episode, she would accurately narrate everything to me. Oh my! She spared no details. Ataa? Who will I watch TV with now? Who will I chat with? Who will keep me company from now onwards? Ataa, Nyame so.

Inasmuch as our personalities were somewhat different, we complemented one another perfectly. Together, we were a force to reckon with. We were so close that at times, people joked that instead of Ataa Kakra, I was her twin.

Ataa never faltered in her role as a second mother to my kids. During my times of absence, she played

was a friend to all. As a matter of fact, she insisted on being called 'Sister' by everyone. She even mentioned to her grandchildren that as they referred to her sisters as 'Grandma Florence, Grandma Lydia, and Grandma Ataa Kakra, she still would like to be known as 'Sister Ataa'. Oh, how she was affectionate towards these young ones. You should have seen how happy she was when they came to visit her last month. She kept busy joyfully catering to their needs and pampering them like any grandmother would. Unbeknownst to us, those were her last days. They sorely miss her.

Sister Ataa, it is very lonely without you. My days are longer now; my nights, unbearable. Yet, I will continue to look up to my God because he is my peace. Rest well, my sister.

Yen nnya wo so. Nyame mfa wo nsie kɔpem da aa yebɛhyia.

A TRIBUTE TO OUR DEAR AUNT & MOTHER

MADAM JANET AGYAPONG (ATAA PANIN)

FROM ALL CHILDREN, NIECES & NEPHEWS.

“Gone from our sight, but never from our hearts. United with your Maker, you wear the victor’s crown.”

Sister Ataa, as we fondly called our dear aunt, was a mother to us all. She was loving, kind, and generous to a fault. She was a dedicated aunt who always offered her help and service to us whenever the need arose.

Her generosity knew no bounds and we remember the gifts she freely bestowed upon us which included foodstuffs, clothing, electronic devices, and money. She even extended this grace to our spouses, as well as our children.

Sister Ataa Panin was an optimist who held on to her faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Even in her lowest moments, she never failed to utter the phrase, “Yesu adom oh...”. In our times of difficulty, she always encouraged and reassured us that the Good Lord would see us through. She was indeed a beacon of hope.

On Monday, September 13, 2021, our lives changed forever when news of her passing broke. What? Our precious mother was no more. We were shattered. Who would call us frequently to check up on us? Who would lovingly dote on our kids? Who would constantly take our sides to the annoyance of our mothers? But alas! Our hope is in the Lord. For our dear mother knew Him and kept her faith, regardless of what she went through.

Sister Ataa, we will forever love you. You left an indelible mark in our lives and we will never forget you. Sleep soundly, and may you rest peacefully in the bosom of the Lord.

There is only so much we can say; but in a few words, we would like the world to know how much you meant to us:

ERIC KWAAKYE AFARI

Auntie Ataa Panin, you were an incredible sister, aunt and mother. You considered all of us your children and were ever ready to render support both financially and materially. You supplied us with provisions such as wheat, powdered milk, and Tom brown during your early nursing profession at



Asankraguaa. Further, while you were working in Tamale and Bolgatanga, which are both situated in the Northern part of Ghana, you supported us and the entire family generously with Guinea fowls (Akonfem), tubers of yam, and other delicacies. Our Grandma, (may she rest in peace), was always very grateful.

Auntie, you were a cheerful, fun-loving lady, who was full of wisdom. Auntie, you were calm even when a situation seemed unbearable. Admittedly, we have lost a precious jewel. If death were stoppable, we would have kept it from coming your way. Auntie Janet, you always worked hard as a nurse midwife and in the house. Surely Auntie, our love for you will forever remain. You will forever be cherished. Rest in perfect peace.

REV. EDWIN YAW AFARI

It is with deep sorrow and pain that I write this short tribute for my aunt, Janet Agyapong. I was fortunate to spend one of my school vacations with her at her nurses’ quarters in Tema near the Tema General Hospital. She really pampered me. She leaves behind wonderful memories and a personality that we all can learn from to mold



our lives. She was caring, affable, firm, trustworthy and above all, God fearing. May her beautiful soul rest in peace.

served as a guarantor for a friend in need of a SSNIT Students' Loan. Accepting you are no longer with us is a difficult pill to swallow, but I know you are in a better place now and are at rest in the arms of the Almighty God we serve. We thank God for your life and may your soul rest in perfect peace. You will be missed dearly.



EMMANUEL HAYFRON BLANKSON

Rest well, Sister Ataa. We take consolation in the fact that you are in a better place.

I thank the Lord for giving us a wonderful mother who was also the best cook ever!

Indeed, words cannot express our loss. I will forever cherish the memories I have of you.

As the nurse extraordinaire, who had great passion for her work, you maintained a cordial relationship with all. You took it upon yourself to mentor young nurses and always availed yourself when called upon to teach/speak on health topics among others.

Forever in my heart. Farewell, till we meet again.



MICHAEL ARTHUR

A gentle soul and someone you could always talk to. As our Mother's Twin sister, Auntie Panin was another mother who comforted us when times were difficult and provided counsel and sage advice. Fun loving and

always into her music, we enjoyed listening to the latest music whether it was P Square or local Ghanaian music. I cannot express how much she will be missed...until we meet again, rest well sweet Mother.

BRIDGET AFUA SARPONG BOATENG

The Bible says in all things we should give thanks to God so who are we mortals to question our Maker. Maa Ataa, as I affectionately called her, will be missed by my family and I so much. From my



KWESI BLANKSON

One of the most difficult moments in my life was breaking the news of your passing to the children. This was so unexpected and has left us shocked to the core. Death has laid its icy hands on Sister Ataa. On two

prior occasions, I rushed you to Korle-Bu under similar circumstances. Each time we overcame. Unfortunately in this instance the outcome was different. The Lord had a better plan for you and now you reside with angels, looking down on us from heaven.

Sister Ataa was a caring and lovely lady whose generosity knew no bounds. A fact all who knew her will confirm. This generosity was extended to my children whom she adored. I am fortunate her last days were spent with them. These memories they will cherish forever.

Life is a fleeting moment, today we are here and tomorrow we are no more. Oh, what a life! I take pride in the fact that you knew the Lord well and have gone to be with your maker. Rest well. Love you always.



ROBERT HAYFRON BLANKSON

Sister Ataa Panin was a kind and loving person. Always willing to help. She was always there for us, including our friends. In one instance, you willingly



wedding to the naming of all my kids she was present, even last year with all these covid restrictions she made time to join us to name my little girl, Yaa. Growing up, everyone thought she was my mother due to our uncanny resemblance. You

will be dearly missed. The way and tone with which you mention my name, “Nana Sarpong”, was so different. Whenever I delivered, you were ever ready to offer advice with regards to taking care of my babies. I could go on and on about how much of a wonderful person you were but one thing I can say, for sure, is that you were a good woman and one of my favourites among my dad’s siblings.

Damrefa due! Sleep well, Mum.

ALFRED ADJAPONG

Words cannot express how I currently feel, at this time, dealing with the loss of our dear aunt. Her sudden and untimely passing is difficult to process. Yet, as we realize that God has called her home, we can reflect on the times that we spent together and the conversations that we had.



Auntie Panin was one who always focused on the positive and refused to allow for negativity to be

spoken in her presence. Her faith in Christ was steadfast and would often incorporate Bible verses when providing counsel. She taught us to pray in the midst of our troubles. A truly beautiful and gentle soul who always inquired about our wellbeing and told us to keep Christ first. I cherish and reflect on our conversations about family and faith which were both equally important to her.

We love you and we miss you. Until we meet again.



KEVIN BOAKYE

I remember being so excited to meet my “Second Mom” upon my first trip to Ghana and you surpassed my expectations. You were always so loving and caring. Whether it was buying my favorite foods or getting clothes tailored for me, your love knew no limits and you selflessly cared for me. More importantly you provided a calm and positive influence. You were always a light to us. My trips to Dansoman will never be the same without your welcoming presence. Thank you for showing me the value of perseverance in the most difficult of circumstances. You will live on in our memories. Rest well, Mom, you truly made a difference in the world.



EDITH MARFO

On angel’s wings you were taken away, but in my heart, you will always stay. In loving memory of our Aunt Ataa Panin.



ALEX AGYEPONG (JUNIOR)

Aunt Ataa was a peace-loving woman who was present at all family gatherings. She always sought to bring calm when chaos arose. She will be greatly missed. We pray that she rests well in the bosom of our Father.

DR. SHERRY ADJAPONG-OBENG

My dearest Auntie Ataa, this doesn’t even feel real. I have an emptiness that can’t be explained. This is all too much too soon. I will cherish the conversations we had during my trips to Ghana where I would try to get information about what

your childhood was like and how it was growing up with my father and the rest of your siblings. Sitting around with you in the main hall watching your favorite television shows and just being able to be in your presence is time I will always cherish.

The children still remember the songs that you sang to them on their trip to Ghana a few years ago. Your sweet, caring, motherly nature

is something that can never be forgotten. You are a very big part of why I decided to become a physical therapist and I can say you are a big part of why I am the woman I am today. Thank you for all of the love you shared. I love you and will always cherish you in my heart. Rest in heaven's glory until we meet again.



DR BENJAMIN HAYFRON BLANKSON

As a child, I remember calling Sister Ataa, 'Taaataaa'. Till date, this name is my pet name for her. Taaataaa was a strong and selfless woman, who was full of joy and compassion. She was extremely thoughtful

and cared about each and every single one of us. Importantly, she was God-fearing and loved the Lord. Losing my Dad at a tender age, Taaataaa and my mother simultaneously played the role of father and mother in my life and raised me to the best of their abilities. I never lacked a thing.

Her hardworking and selfless nature led her to receive the National Best Midwife award in the mid-nineties. We were overjoyed! What an honour to the family. A dedicated midwife who sometimes caused problems for me. Oh, the injections I have received.

Like any parent would, she paid a keen interest in my academics. She attended all school events and without fail, in preparation for my BECE, woke me up at 4:30 am every morning to study. At times, she would stay up with me just so she could nudge me back awake whenever I began to doze off.

In my early years, we occasionally had little spats and one time, I had been especially naughty. I strongly believed that there would be a cane-in-waiting upon my return from school. Quite surprisingly, Sister Ataa, instead of the proverbial rod, a dish of "Etor" (one of my favorite meals) garnished with roasted groundnut, boiled egg and avocado had been prepared for me. Filled with a sense of shame and regret, I struggled to enjoy my meal. I vowed never to repeat my actions. A great lesson learnt!

My relationship with Taaataaa blossomed over the years and her transition has been a challenge. God knows best. Rest well, my Taaataaa.

DR LORRAINE BOAKYE

Aunty Panin was the most generous person I have ever met. She stopped at nothing to make you feel comfortable and loved. She was incredibly attentive and warm. Her kind heart and positive attitude will always remind me to take time to enjoy life's simple pleasures.



DR. EDMUND ADJAPONG

Our dearest aunt, what a blessing and privilege it was to have you as a part of our family. Auntie Ataa Panin, or Auntie Ataa GH Version as I called her, was such a beautiful, warm and loving person, who left a remarkable legacy here on earth. She was always concerned about our well-being and shared words of encouragement even when you did not know you needed them. Auntie Atta



Panin will never be forgotten and will always be loved by all of us in the family. If only we could have you here longer, your time was so short while you were here with us. I am so grateful that some day I will see you again and get to spend eternity with you.



KWAME MARFO & SIBLINGS

“It broke our hearts to lose you, but you did not go alone. A part of us went with you, the day God took you home.”



Adwoa Marfo



David Marfo



Samuel Marfo

As you will continually be a beacon in our lives; for the timeless memories you have provided us with. Your dedication to our well-being is inexpressible and it's only unfortunate you couldn't stay a little longer to enjoy the fruits of your labour. In all this we can only give thanks to God for your life and



Joseph Marfo



Esme Marfo

know you rest safely in the bosom of our Lord.

May your soul rest in Perfect peace. Aunt Ataa Daa yie



Sister Ataa Panin, Auntie Janet, Abena Dufie, thank you for all you did for us while you were here. We love you and miss you dearly.

Rest well. Till we meet again.



Mrs Ellen Bonsu



Bernice Bandoh



Mrs Ama Yedu



Evelyn Bandoh



Andy Bandoh



Anthony Bandoh



Eugene Bio



Mrs Rosemary Oppong



Kwabena P. Amanfo



Mrs Alice Asare



Ernest Bio



Mrs Francine Gilyard



Mrs Akua Enyan



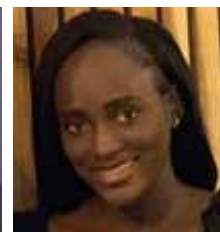
Adwoa Agyapong



Kwadwo A. Osei



Twum Barima Osei



Maame Ama Osei

TRIBUTE BY MRS. JOYCE OWUSU



Sister Ataa Panin, whom we affectionately called Sister Ataa, was like my mother. Yet, I referred to her as my older sister due to the nature of our relationship. The news of her death has greatly shaken my world. I am dumbfounded! Upon hearing the news of her sudden illness and subsequent admission, I had hoped that she would have returned home in good health.



Barely two months ago, on a trip to Bekwai, I joked that I didn't want to hear any news of ill health upon her return to Accra- which was quite characteristic of her after every visit to Bekwai. As a matter of fact, she later mentioned that she was unwell and I was greatly affected. I worried about her and decided to drive her home. I remember playfully telling her "I told you, every time you make this trip to Bekwai, you cause me to worry". We both took my words lightly and chuckled. Little did I know those words were truly reflective of what the very near future had in store for us. I was unaware that this special moment would be our last.

I am still in a state of shock. It's as if a dark cloud has descended upon me and the sun has completely abandoned me. I keep asking myself, "Who will be my companion when we visit Bekwai?" We both had the same interests and we were a tag team when it came to organizing family events: with her in Accra planning one half, I would be in Kumasi planning the other half. We always enjoyed doing this and left no stone unturned. As a result, we readily had a list of vendors, which we maintained good relationships with till date. Interestingly, on our last visit to Bekwai, we joked and stated that we would not organize any events on behalf of the family in the future. We both laughed at our declaration. Little

did we know.

My Dearest Sister, my Dearest Mother! Your death has scraped old wounds raw. When my darling husband was ill, Sister Ataa and I often discussed his situation, as we were both nurses. Her pieces of advice and words of encouragement were very helpful at that time of my life. It warmed my heart to have had her support at my lowest. There wasn't a day we did not communicate. The only day I wasn't able to reach you on the

phone, I panicked! I called Maa Lydia who then told me you weren't well. I had great hope that I would speak to you soon, but death robbed me of that joy!

The news of your demise was least expected! Mother, why now? Who do I communicate with now? Who do I have my heartfelt conversations about life with? Mother! You have left me all alone... all alone in a world I coped best in because of you! My night time in Accra will never be the same! Who do I sleep with when I journey to Accra? Mother! Who did you leave me with? Did you tell the person that I like to be chatted to until I fall asleep? Did you tell the person how I enjoy having hearty conversations?

I have no words to describe how I feel. Your ill health was no secret but I least expected your passing. I have found solace in the word of God. I will look to the skies and know that when the sunbeam finally finds its way above the dark clouds, when the sun rays smiles down at me, it will be you surrounding me in your warmth.

May the Good Lord grant you a peaceful resting place. Till we meet again my Dearest, rest in perfect peace. Amen.

TRIBUTE BY IN-LAWS



*Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?"
The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God! He
gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. 1 Corinthians 15:55-57*

Sister Ataa as she was affectionately known truly embodied everything one could have asked for in a mother-in-law. She was attentive, helpful, and loving. At the most opportune of times, whether we were in Ghana or abroad, I would remember her delivering care packages of goodies to us. From her grandchildren's favorite treats to goodies she knew we would also enjoy. There was no bounds to the love she showered our children and extended to us; and this simple act was a prime example of this. Though we would have wished to spend more time with you here on earth, we are comforted in the knowledge that we will meet you again someday.

Thank you for all you did, Sister Ataa. You will forever be in our hearts.

NANA ADWOA, AFIA DANQUAH, NAANA LAMPTEY



Sister Ataa, Sister Panin, Auntie Jane, Maa Ataa, Dansomanfo) are some of the many names we used to call our dear Sister-in-law. She was so nice to the extent that she didn't really look like an in-law to us. Indeed you were a Sister to all of us.



There was not an event in our lives that you were absent. You were always there for us and whenever we saw you at such events, we were happy that you were able to make it.

We were all worried when we heard that you were sick and had been admitted at Korle Bu. We all rushed to visit you, praying and hoping that you will recover, for we know that you had gone through more serious situations than this and had survived.



Our one and only confidante. We do not feel complete without you. You were so down-to-earth that we feel free around you. You were always ready to serve.

Indeed we have lost a friend, Sister and a real gem. You didn't even say goodbye to us but we know you have gone to be with your Maker. Fare thee well sister, Nyame nfa wo nsie

Da yie. Amen.



AMA MARFO

Aunt Ataa is not just my in-law, she is my mother, sister, friend, doctor, nurse. Sister Ataa Damirifa due, Due ne Amanehunu. Wa kom ansa na Kristo ere fræ wo. Aunt Ataa is someone who will move mountains to make sure your needs are met. She

is someone you can rely on, lean on when you have challenges.

I remember vividly when I returned from the US, I inquired from her of someone who could help me with family planning since she was a nurse. Her response was Ama don't worry at all, in a blink of an eye she told me she had found someone who could help me. She accompanied me to the specialist and to my surprise the consulting team were already waiting for me. She gladly accepted me as a friend and an in-law. Aunt Ataa semenhyia. Whenever any of my children were indisposed, I didn't need to go along with the child, all I had to do was make a phone call. Aunt Ataa, why did you leave me alone? If any child is ill, who do I consult? Today you are no more, I know Angels of

Heaven will carry you safely home.
Aunt Ataa, nante yie.

LESLEY, HENRIETTA & KUMIWAA



*“Even when the fight seems lost,
I’ll praise You.
Even when it extremely hurts
I’ll praise You.
Even when it makes no sense to sing
Louder, then I’ll sing
Your praise.
I will only sing Your praise.” - ‘Even When It Hurts’,
HILLSONG UNITED.*



One special thing about being married to one of the Blankson men was that you got two mothers-in-law, instead of one. Sister Ataa was a very special woman who embraced us even before we officially joined the family. Her warm and kind

nature made us feel welcome. We never felt like strangers whenever we visited or stayed at the Dansoman residence. We were always at home.

Sister Ataa, was generous to a fault. She always gave and never expected anything in return. With her, you didn't have to ask. She only needed to hear you talk about a particular want and she'd immediately offer to get it for you. Her generosity was not limited to her sons and grandchildren- but to us as well.



Sister Ataa was an amazing and doting grandmother who dearly loved her grandchildren. She frequently called to check up on them and had a good relationship with them. She always looked forward to their visits and would indulge them

with her attention whenever they were present. At various times, she would cook for them, feed them (regardless of age), watch television with them, and then watch them happily consume all her data on YouTube videos. Yet, she never complained- and even when she did, she did so with pride. She did this right till the end. It really is heartbreaking to see how the kids are still processing her passing. Even we, the adults, are having such a hard time. How much more they?

Sister Ataa, it's tough trying to get used to your absence- but our source of hope is in Christ. God called you home to a better place. So rest, your race is done.

Till we meet again. Forever, in our hearts.



TRIBUTE BY
GRANDCHILDREN

*May the Good Lord bless you and keep you
safe in His arms forever more.*

*Thank you for all your
love, hugs, kisses, prayers and presents.
will always love you GM*

Grandma, our hero. What wouldn't you do for us? You took care of us, you provided us with everything we ever needed and everything we could possibly want.

We love you so much and even though our time together was short we cherished every single moment.
We are blessed to have met you and make memories with you.

Please protect us and guide us from above.
We will never forget you and will do our best to carry on your legacy and make you proud.



TRIBUTE BY
MARGARET AGYEMAN
(Aunty Maggie/ Yaa Achia)



Sister Ataa was a friend, confidante, lawyer and doctor. Whenever I had any issue with respect to my health or life's dilemmas, I would seek her counsel. Her passing is shocking and unexpected, who will I come to for advise and also ask for interpretation of our telenovelas which we both enjoyed.



I don't have much words to say other than to bid you farewell and rest in the bosom of the Lord. May your beautiful soul rest in peace.

Damirifa Due.

TRIBUTE BY
ESTHER & JUSTINA



*"Give us the wings of faith to rise within the veil,
and see the saints above, how great their joys,
how bright their glories be."*

It is with great sorrow that we bid you farewell, our dear Friend and Sister. This departure is painful when we remember how close we were. You were loving and kind to all of us at all times. But our Maker said come; and you responded to the call of your Maker. No matter what, death is sure, but Christ is the cure. We are comforted you passed on in bountiful Grace.



We cannot forget, however, your kindness and generosity to us and many others you have worked with in the Clinics and Hospitals you have served as an Astute and diligent nurse. All continue to attest to the services you rendered to patients with loving heart.

We hope in resurrection that this relationship will flourish from the bud.



TRIBUTE BY BENJAMIN OWUSU



One minute she was sunshine, light and life. The next she was hooked up to wires, lying in a hospital bed – without hope for recovery.

Sister Ataa I am very sad you are not here with us anymore. I remember Auntie Lydia shouting out your name Ataa, Ataa and you respond sister or yes Auntie Lydia. I also remember all your nephews call you sister Ataa instead of Auntie Ataa. I knew you as sister Ataa.

I remember all the time we spent together in the little hallway in the house watching TV. You were easy to talk to and open to listen. You were a good human being who helped others before helping yourself. You were full of love and had an infectious smile. When I heard you were gone, the first thing I said was Auntie Lydia has lost her best friend. The two of you were inseparable. We know you are gone but we believe you are with us.



Rest in perfect peace sister Ataa.

TRIBUTE BY TINA (SEAMSTRESS)



Awonderful woman who has been a blessing to me.

I was a seamstress to Maa Janet but she took me as a daughter not a seamstress. When I'm in difficult times and I call her, the words from her alone brings me joy, happiness and back to my feet. I confided in you on so many issues and you gave a great counsel supported with prayers, I'm not going to receive those calls anymore and this breaks my heart.

Oh!! What an Angel I have lost.
Rest in Perfect Peace Sister Ataa.



TRIBUTE BY DANSOMAN POLYCLINIC



*Then I heard a voice from heaven saying,
Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.
Yes says the spirit "they will rest from their labor
for their deeds will follow them"
Revelations 14:13.*

*Precious in the sight of the Lord
is the death of his faithful servant.
Psalm 116:15.*

The late Janet Abena Dufie Atta Panin Agyapong was transferred from Kaneshie Polyclinic to Dansoman Health Center in April 2008. Due to shortage of staff at the General Nursing, she was asked to assist at the (OPD) outpatient department temporarily. She later on joined the Dansoman Health Center at the rank of Senior Staff Midwife (SSM).

Sister Janet was one of the hardworking staff in the clinic, she was further asked to move to the recovery ward to assist them. She went to that ward with a smile and made a mark there. She was promoted to a rank of Midwifery Officer (M.O) in 2009 and she rose through the rank to Principal Midwifery Officer (P.M.O).

Auntie Janet or Sister Ataa as friends and colleagues called her, was hard working, punctual and very dedicated. She was friendly to all staff and colleagues, respectful and had good cordial relationship with clients. Her devotion to work was exceptional. Based on that when Dansoman Polyclinic had no store keeper she took it upon herself to be the storekeeper aside her main profession. Auntie Janet worked at the counselling unit as a counsellor and midwife but still doubled as a store keeper. She was selfless and devoted in

the organization of any activities of clinic. She sometimes used her own money on such occasions before she was paid back. Sister Janet was also an executive member of the welfare committee for both General Nurse group and Dansoman Polyclinic by serving as financial secretary and treasurer. Sister Janet, Maami Ataa, Mama Panin, we are therefore finding it difficult to accept the fact that she is no more but we are consoled by the fact that we will meet one day in eternity.

We will miss a sister, a friend, a mother and a colleague

May your soul rest in perfect peace
Damirifa Due
Janet, Awo, Nante Yie.



TRIBUTE BY THE WOMEN'S MINISTRY OF THE UNIVERSAL GOSPEL CENTRE, ACCRA MAIN, DANSOMAN

*“For me to live is Christ and to die is gain”
Philippians 1:21.*

Ka me ho, Awurade, kura me mu
obra asoro okye no te se den ara
Wo nokwardie no nti, megyina ama wo
Hyɛ m'animuonyam, efiri se wo tease daa.

Our hearts are broken as we put these words together in honour of our dear sister, Madam Janet Ataa Panin Agyapong. We least expected to compose these words at this time.

Sister Ataa, as she was affectionately called, was a devoted member of The Women's Ministry. She was someone who never joked with the ministry, even though she was sometimes busy with her workloads, but she always found time to come to meetings.

As a professional Nurse, she never hesitated whenever she was called upon to have a talk with us about our health and other related issues.

Until her death, she was very devoted and committed to the Women's Ministry both physically and financially.

Sister Ataa, your death has come as a shock to the Women's Ministry, most especially, to

your friends in the ministry. We can never forget your zeal and commitment, as well as the support you gave us. Your life and accomplishments are worth emulating; your humane character, humility, dedication and disciplined nature are a lasting monument to your memory.

You lived and your legacy will continue to live in the minds of many. You will always be remembered with nostalgia, filled with love, affection and with gratitude. Your personality, though out of physical existence, shall continue to stand out like a milestone in the midst of time and the good and worthy impressions you created about yourself shall forever remain indelible in our minds and hearts.



Today, you are at rest. Today, you are in a place of peace. We love you but the God who created you loves you more.

May Peace Rest Your Humble Soul. Fare thee well.

TRIBUTE BY THE UNIVERSAL GOSPEL CENTRE, ACCRA MAIN, DANSOMAN

*“And I heard a voice from heaven saying,
Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.
Yes says the spirit “they will rest from their labor
for their deeds will follow them”
Revelations 14:13.*

The scriptural quotation aptly describes the Christian life of our dear mother and sister, Madam Janet Ataa Panin Agyapong. The announcement of her demise momentarily threw the entire church into a strong wave of shock and disbelief. We all could not come into terms with her death and further traumatized our minds with the questions of how and when did it occur. In our mental and emotional struggle to find answers, it became clear that our dear mother and sister had completed her duty on this earth and had been called to rest by her Maker.

Today, the church leaders and the entire congregation of the Universal Gospel Centre are gathered here to celebrate and honour our departed mother and sister, Auntie Ataa, as she was affectionately called, and we are deeply overwhelmed with grief as we pay our last respect to her. Indeed deep down in our hearts, we are shattered with sorrow and sincerely share in the grief of the family and all assembled here.

Auntie Ataa, for whom we are all gathered here today, was a strong and dedicated member of the Universal Gospel Centre (UGC) and worshipped with us at the Accra Main Assembly at Dansoman. Her association with the church began way back at Bolgatanga in the Upper East Region in the latter part of 1994, when the church embarked on a series of evangelism/mission programs there with the intention of planting a branch of the church at Bolgatanga. Auntie Ataa, then a practicing young midwife at the Bolgatanga Government Hospital and based

on her strong love for our Lord Jesus Christ and the propagation of the gospel, allowed her residence to be used for house fellowship by the UGC evangelism team. That residence became the home for the UGC missionaries anytime they visited Bolgatanga until she was transferred to Accra.

In Accra, Auntie Ataa never ever relented in her love and desire for God’s work and worshipped with the church at Dansoman and gave her all to the service of God and the church. In the writings of one eminent poet is the philosophy that “there is no condition that confines individuals to attain honour or dishonor. All that must be done by individuals, is for them to play their parts very well and that surely bestows on them honour and glory”. Auntie Ataa did indeed play her part very well, and that our converging here today to honour her through this solemn celebration is well in place.

Auntie Ataa contributed immensely and meaningfully and with passion towards church programs and activities and never was she absent at any activity organized by the church. As a member of the church’s Women Ministry, the services she rendered to the Group was quite immeasurable. She was a regular facilitator at Women Ministry programs, especially with issues of health, mother care and Godly motherhood. It is worthy to note and to the glory of God that Auntie Ataa never allowed her unfortunate physical incapacitation to be a stumbling block in her love and desire to serve the Lord. No doubt she was counted among the stalwarts who could

be relied on in the Group. She was always willing and ready to share ideas and experiences with her fellow women.

Our departed mother and sister, whose mortal remains lie before us, will always be remembered with nostalgia. Her quiet and unassuming nature coupled with her compassion, humility, love and respect for people both young and old will remain unparalleled for a very long time. She was ever ready to share, encourage and help. She exhibited these qualities and virtues in abundance and to the admiration of all and sundry.

How we would have wished she stayed a bit longer, but the Good Book says in Ecclesiastics 3:1-2 that “There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the sun. A time to be born and a time to die.” Yes, it is also true as observed by some traditional poets that, “the person that the living would like to keep forever is the one that death joyfully snatches away”.

Auntie Ataa, your sudden death has indeed filled us with great sorrow and pain. However, we thank the Good LORD for giving you such a life on earth for us to have enjoyed your rich attributes. You have inspired and will continue to inspire

those whose lives you touched. It is a privilege to have had you in our lives, and though we will miss you dearly, we are blessed to have known you. Your indelible footprint exhibited through your warm, open and welcoming personality will live on forever in our hearts.

God in His infinite wisdom has called you from this turbulent world to a well-deserved eternal rest. We therefore join in the large but solemn chorus to wish you farewell. We believe you are in a peaceful and glorious rest with the Good Lord.

“Our sister, you died where nature’s morning almost touched noon, and while the shadows still were falling towards the west.

You had not passed on life’s highway, the stone that marks the highest point, but, being weary for a moment, laid down by the way side,

and using your burden for a pillow fell into the dreamless sleep that kissed down your eyelids still.”

FARE THEE WELL. WE HOPE TO MEET AGAIN SOMEDAY. GOOD BYE.





Gallery









Hymns

TO GOD BE THE GLORY, GREAT THINGS HE HATH DONE

To God be the glory, great things
He hath done,
So loved He the world that He
gave us His Son, Who yielded His
life our redemption to win,
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;
Oh, come to the Father, through
Jesus the Son,
And give Him the glory; great
things He hath done.*

Oh, 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.

WHEN PEACE, LIKE A RIVER, ATTENDETH MY WAY

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
*It Is Well 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 has regarded my
helpless estate, and has shed his
own blood for my soul.

Refrain

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

U.G.C. HYMN NO. 6 ME HONHOM BEDI AHURUSIE

Me honhom bedi ahurusie
Wɔ ɔman kɛsɛ bi mu
Me kraa bɛnya atenays
Wɔ kuro papa no mu
Enti nokware mu mesom wo
Mesom wo akɔ awies

M'ani bɛgye da a edi akyire
Wɔ aheman kronkron no mu
Mɛnya abotire a ɛnsɛ da
Wɔ ɔbɔadɛ no nsam
Enti mede ahopopɔɔ bɛsom
Mesom wo ahopopɔɔ mu

Mede me nipadua nyinaa
Bɔ afɔdɛ ma tweaduampɔn
Anidasɔɔ mu na mesom wo
Kosi sɛ wo bɛsan aba
Na m'anya wo nsam akatua pa
Mesom wo na m'anya akatua
pa

U.G.C. HYMN NO. 7
ƆSƐ AYƐYI ME
NYANKOPƆN

ƆsƐ ayeyi me NyankopƆn
SƐ ayeyi
ƆsƐ ayeyi Ɔsorosoro hene no
SƐ ayeyi
W'ama ne basa so
Nkunidie ayƐ yƐn dea
ƆsƐ ayeyi me nyankopƆn
SƐ ayeyi

ƆsƐ ayeyi Ɔsoro boafɔ
SƐ ayeyi
ƆsƐ ayeyi Ɔkronkronii no
SƐ ayeyi
Ne nokwaredi nsa no
Da yƐn so aberƐ nyinaa
ƆsƐ ayeyi agya Onyame
SƐ ayeyi

ƆsƐvayeyi Israel pɔnfo
SƐ ayeyi
ƆsƐ ayeyi Ɔteneenii no
SƐ ayeyi
Ɔno ne me botantim
Ne nko so na m'ani da
ƆsƐ ayeyi yƐn Awurade
SƐ ayeyi

ƆsƐ ayeyi Ahene mu Hene
SƐ ayeyi
ƆsƐ ayeyi Awura mu Owura no
SƐ ayeyi
Ɔka yƐn ho aberƐ nyinaa
Yennsuro tamfo bema
ƆsƐ ayeyi daa nyinaa
ƆsƐ ayeyi
sƐ ayeyi Owura Yesu
SƐ ayeyi
ƆsƐ ayeyi yƐn ntamgyinafɔ
SƐ ayeyi
Wama yƐn anidasɔ
Na yƐn kraa anya anigye
ƆsƐ ayeyi mprenpren boafɔ no
SƐ ayeyi

HYMN 36

Yɛbɛhu Awurade Kristo
Anim ne anim wɔ daakye bi
Na yɛaka sɛ Awurade Kristo
Woyɛ ɔhene ampa.

Chorus (Ngyeso)
Kristo bɛba abɛfa yɛn ako
Aheman kronkron no mu
ɔman fɛsɛbi a w'ammfa nsa ansi
Mu na ahoteefɔ. nyinaa bɛkɔ

Yɛbɛkɔ yɛn gyefo no nkyɛn
Nna a edi akyire aheman no mu
Yɛbɛbɔ no abodin sɛ gyefo
Woyɛ ɔhene kɛsɛ

Yɛnɛ abɔfɔ bɛbom
Asɔrɛ Awurade ahennwa n'anim
Yɛbɛto nnwom ayi wo ayɛ sɛfirisɛ
Woyɛ ɔhene kɛsɛ

Yɛbɛkoto asɔrɛ
Yɛn gyefo no dabi dabi
Asomdwoɛ hene no ne yɛn
bɛtena
Animuonyam no mu

Yɛbɛhyɛ ahenkyɛ bi
ɛrensɛ da kosi awies
Abɔdɛ nyinara mu yɛbɛhyɛ
Awurade animuonyam

U.G.C. HYMN NO. 45
MEDƆ WO AWURADE

Medɔ wo Awurade
Mɛsom wo wɔ nokware mu
Mede me ho nyinaa bɛma wo
Na mɛtena ase atwɛn
W'animuonyam da no

Mɛdɔ wo Awurade
Me mu ade nyinaa bɛsɔrɛ wo
Mede me nne bɛhyɛ
w'animuonyam
Na mɛka sɛ Kristo yɛ
Animuonyam hene

Mɛdɔ wo m'Agyɛnkwa
Wonko na wowɔ tumi
Mɛma me nsa so ato dwom sɛ
Tumi nyinaa yɛ Awurade wo
dea

U.G.C. HYMN NO. 46
MERENNA NNA PRƐKO

Merenna nna prɛko
Mɛsɔrɛ daakye bi
Ɔsɔrɛ a edi kan no mu
Ne Agyɛnkwa no ako
N'animuonyam kuro no mu

Kuro kronkron bi
Wɔ hɔ a w'asiesie
Retwɛn awufɔ a wɔwɔ
Awurade mu nyinaa
Akontabuo da no yɛnɛ
Agyɛnkwa no bɛtena

Mɛgya nipadua yi
Honam asaase yi so
Na me honhom no ako agya
no nkyɛn
Wɔ kuro kronkron no mu
Daa anigye kuro no

Appreciation

The entire family of

MADAM JANET ABENA DUFIE AGYAPONG

wish to express our deepest gratitude to the innumerable people who prayed for us, with us and encouraged us during our difficult moments of grief. Of great comfort has been your expressions of condolences and sympathy conveyed to us in diverse ways.

We are most grateful to all who offered valuable donations and assistance towards the funeral arrangements. Your kindness has meant so much and everything you have done is truly appreciated.

May God richly bless you.