# **Burial Service**

For the Late

# Mrs Esnestina AKWELEY AYELEY ABBEY

(Nee Larmie of Agbon Asere Accra, Ga Mashie)

at the Transition Funeral Home, Haatso- Accra on Friday, 03 July 2020 at 11:30 a.m.

Interment at the Osu Cemetery

# The Late



Mrs Ernestina

AKWELEY AYELEY ABBEY (nee Larmie of Agbon Asere Accra, Ga Mashie)

### **OFFICIATING CLERGY**

- 1. Very Rev. Dr. Emmanuel I. K. Addo
- 2. Rev Can Antwi- Tetteh
- 3. Rev Can Patrick Okaijah- Bortier
- 4. Rev Fr Frederick Larmie
- 5. Ord Kenneth Nii Adumuah Ashong

# CHOIR HEAD

Mrs Victoria Sottie

# AT THE ORGAN

Mr Reginald Nii Ayi Quaye

# ORDER OF SERVICE

#### BURIAL SERVICE

- 1. Opening Hymn: A&M 165- 'O God our Help in Ages Past'
- 2.Introduction and Filing Past: MHB 80- 'Thee will I praise with all my Heart'
- 3. Opening Prayers
- 4.Psalm 121
- 5.Biography
- 6. Hymn A&M 196: 'Guide me, O thou Great Redeemer'
- 7. Scripture Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:20-26
- 8. Hymn A&M 172- Praise to the Holiest in the Height'
- 9.Homily
- 10.Offertory/ Blessing of Offertory- Local choruses
- 11. Thanksgiving Prayer
- 12. Hymn A &M 290- 'Through all the changes scenes of life'
- 13. Absolution of the Dead- Dead March in Saul
- 14.Recessional Hymn; A& M499- 'On the Resurrection Morning'

#### AT THE GRAVE SIDE

- 1.Processional Hymn: A & M 609
- 2. Sentences and Prayer
- 3.Hymn: A & M 401
- 4.Committal & Prayers
- 5. Laying of Wreaths
- 6. Vote of Thanks (by Family member)
- 7.Hymn: A & M 27
- 8.Benediction

# **Biography** OF THE LATE MRS ERNESTINA AKWELEY ABBEY

Thee will I praise with all my heart, And tell mankind how good Thou art How marvelous Thy works of grace Thy name I will in songs record And joy and glory in my Lord Extolled above all thanks and praise

A helpless soul that looks to Thee
Is sure at last Thy face to see,
And all Thy goodness to partake
The sinner who for Thee doth grieve
And long, and labours to believe
Thou never, never wilt forsake.- MHB 80

Ernestina Akweley Ayeley Abbey (nee Larmie of Agbon Asere-Accra, Ga Mashie) was born in Accra on the 24h of February, 1961 to Ebenezer Okai Mensah Larmie and Elizabeth Naa Adukwei Larmie (nee Allotey) both of blessed memory. Tina as we affectionately called her, together with her twin brother, Ernest are the second of five siblings.

She started her primary education at the Abossey Okai Methodist and completed at the Abossey Okai Anglican Primary School in Mataheko, Accra. Akweley continued at the Bishop Girls School where she sat and passed the Common Entrance Examination in 1976 and was admitted to Christian Methodist Secondary School. She wrote and obtained her GCE Ordinary Level Certificate in 1981.

Taking after her mother's profession as a Teacher, she proceeded to the Accra College of Education and obtained her teaching certificate in 1984. She later attended the University of Cape Coast and obtained her Diploma Certificate in Basic Education in 2008. Much to everyone's amazement and as a testament to her tenacity in life, she recently enrolled at the University of Education, Winneba to obtain a Bachelor's Degree in Ghanaian Languages, 2nd Class Upper Division in 2018.

Tina taught in numerous schools in and outside of Accra. Her first posting was to Derby Avenue Catholic School. She later transferred to St Peter's Catholic School, Osu and later to others such as Holy Child School, Sakumono, Kpehe Roman Catholic JHS, St Francis Xavier Catholic JHS, Accra New Town and until her death at Osu Presbyterian SHS. Without doubt, Tina has impacted multitude of young lives through her chosen vocation.

Tina began her marriage life in December, 1983 with Mr Joseph Abbey, and with whom they were blessed with four children: Gloria, Angela, Robert and Isaac. She was a devoted wife and a loving mother to her children She supported her husband to take care of their children's needs at all times, through thick and thin.

Akweley was a confirmed Anglican and a chorister for many years at the St Luke Anglican Church, Kwashieman. She later joined the Catholic Church after marriage. She was a very spiritual person and this was manifested in every aspect of her life. It is moving to hear her sing her favourite hymns in the local language, Ga. These are devotional hymns we all shared with our late mother of blessed memory.

Tina has been in and out of hospital a couple of times in the past few years and always came out looking better. Lately, she was discharged from the Korle Bu Teaching Hospital on Thursday, 4th June 2020 and we were all excited about her resilience and steadfast faith in God. Unfortunately, a day after being discharged from hospital on Friday, 5th June 2020, she died peacefully at home in the arms of her loving husband.

Tina, we wish you farewell and pray that you safely reach the Lord's bosom, where you truly belong. You have fought a good fight and won the race. Your crown awaits you in heaven.

Tina, yaa wo odzogbann. AMEN

# TRIBUTE TO MY PRECIOUS AND BELOVED WIFE

When I was getting ready to enter into marriage, I asked God to give me the most precious woman of His choice to marry. After constant prayer and fasting my prayer was answered after twelve years. Under the divine will of God, and through mysterious circumstances, He gave me a lovely and precious woman by name Ernestina Akweley Ayeley Larmie.

On the 31st of December, 1983, we started our marital journey as husband and wife. The journey was not an easy one. We climbed over mountains, descended into valleys, passed through muddy waters and travelled through thorny paths all in search of peaceful, happy successful marriage. In all these, my wife, Akweley, affectionately called Mama Tina was not at all disturbed by those formidable forces. She held firmly and with soothing words and singing of praises gave me hope and confidence to continue our journey. It was indeed a sentimental journey.

Mama Tina as a wife was always in the kitchen and the house did not lack anything as far as food was concerned. Her presence always radiated light, sunshine, joy and optimism. Her nature was warm, helpful and always full of smile. She was very much particular about the dresses I wore and whenever she demanded for a change in shirt or trousers and I become angry she said quietly; "If I do not tell you, who else will tell you".

All her life was devoted to the service of mankind. Your great hospitality and cheerfulness won the admiration of all who visited our home and you made me feel proud about the positive remarks they always made about you. Every Sunday, early in the morning she would be the first to be in the sitting room and she would clap and call all of us to come and fellowship.

Throughout our thirty-seven years of marriage, no insult ever came from her mouth. She did not quarrel or fight, either with me or anybody at her place of work and within her neighborhood.

You were so close to God that you started giving messages to people including pastors, prophets and prophetess and they all came to pass.

On that fateful day when the doctors pronounced you dead in the house, you lay peacefully like a warrior taking her rest.

Mama Tina, though you are gone, my love for you will keep increasing as the sun rises and sets and it will never grow cold until God's appointed time we all meet again.

Farewell my sweet and beloved Mama Tina Yaaw) ojogbann K3yashi w)baaa kpe ekon.

# TRIBUTE BY CHILDREN

Our beloved Mom, an exceptional and a strong loving woman. What a blessing to have her as our own, so brief was her time we hardly knew. Her journey has now ended. Oh Death where is thy sting? Oh grave where is thy victory? But thanks be to God who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Mama Tina was the life of our family, Nothing breaks our hearts more than having a world that no longer has her in it.

She was the greatest gift God gave to us, an amazing and beautiful soul that loved the Lord with all her might and strength who raised us according to her godly attributes.

Remembering the beautiful moments we shared with her only brings memories of a life that has been well lived and this gives us the assurance that she is in a better place.

Our days and years together with her has seen rough paths, trying times and moments where we have reached our lowest points, through it all she always urged us on.

Her exceedingly strong faith in God has been a pillar of motivation to us and her bold words of "Don't panic" this is a test, Is there anything that God cannot do will continue to ring in our minds.

She had the ability to contain her strength and hold on for ours as well. We wholeheartedly have relied on her counsel and support for every single thing.

We remember times where we all would sit together and talk about everything, something we did most often, she was a great listener, always keen to know what was going on in our personal lives and open minded as she was, without judgement, would take on long discussions and give advice for what's best never missing to end every conversation with a prayer.

Our household was always filled with food as she never missed to cook and encouraged a healthy eating habit for us all. She would get us all together every morning for our usual morning devotion and will make each and every one of us sing a song beginning from the youngest to the oldest as was the same routine with our prayers.

She was our friend and confidant, our teacher, our hero and inspiration. We never saw her walk on water or turn water into wine but to us she was the God we could see and touch, talk with, eat with, play with and pray with.

Mama Tina was also a jovial person, had a great sense of humour, she loved and cared for everyone she came across making her a mother to all!

She believed greatly in education and even as she made sure we got to the highest level in our educational standards, she joined the race in her later years by upgrading herself on any chance or opportunity that was opened to her.

Her qualities have been portrayed in such a way that has only defined her personality. A great and extraordinary one indeed! Her smile has always shown hope and brought healing to our hearts. Her happiness always been contagious to all around her, And anytime she prayed, it shook the gates of hell. No child should ever have to describe their dearly beloved mother on a piece of paper but God's ways has never been our ways, we will only live in the moments when we still have them around.

Not every soldier is that of war, Mama Tina has fought both the spiritual and physical battles and has won them all! She hasn't fallen now in death but moved on to join the real army of God. For the Lord buries his workmen but carries on his work.

Today if we are able to find it in our hearts to smile during this hard time, it is because we see her smiling back from a much better place, somewhere high above the skies, a place where there is no more sickness, sorrows and pain but pure joy, happiness and eternal life.

We cannot deny the fact that, our wish would have been to have her around a little more if we knew of how soon this was going to happen but God needs her more His will has been done.

Mama Tina was the best mum we could ever ask for, to have shared our struggles and pains and most importantly for her unconditional love.

You will forever be in our hearts.

Words can only describe something with limitations but never does it stand qualified toexpress how we feel about our dear and beautiful Mother. Seashells has always reminded us that, every passing life leaves something beautiful behind, our verse for you today is 2nd Corinthians 4:16, "That is why we never give up, though our bodies are dying, our spirits are being renewed everyday"

You continue to LIVE ON and your reputable legacy will continue to grow and bear much fruit. Our Dearest Mom, you'll forever be in our hearts

WE LOVE YOU DEARLY! Mama Tina, YAA WO OJOBGANGG TILL WE MEET AGAIN

### TRIBUTE BY BROTHERS AND SISTERS

It is said in life "time heals wounds that we suffer in this journey" but time can never erase from our minds the substantial legacy that our Beloved Sister has left on our minds.

Fingerprints don't fade away from lives you touched, Sister Tina, you will always be in our hearts. She is gone from our sight, but never from our hearts!

Our dearly beloved Sister has been taken away from us. It's sad when someone you cherish departs, and they step from time into eternity. We are deeply sorrowful about the loss of our Dear Sister. We may not understand, but we have hope we will meet again. We also know that humanity has been overshadowed by divinity.

It looks like we have lost more than we can bear. How will we cope without you, Tina? You are our Sunshine! Death has taken away our joyous and lively Sister. We never imagined life without Sister Tina; a huge and tangible part of us is missing.

10

If there's a way, we'll be back after we have departed from this world into families again. We will want you as our sister, Tina.

A godly, a spiritual and powerful prayerful woman, has been taken away from us. We like what Apostle Paul said, "to be absent from the body and to be at home with the Lord". In these moments of pain and sorrow times like this, O God our help in ages past. Our Hope for years to come and our Shelter from the stormy blast.

Sister Tina is always there to lend a listening ear, a helping hand and welcoming home to all of us. We have always admired your resilient and persistence spirit, Sister Tina. You never gave up until death snatched you from us. Death! you are so cruel, you've taken away our beloved Sister.

Your unshakable faith in God was an example to all of us that God rules and reigns in our affairs. You were a mother to us; your kindness and sweet spirit were unimaginable. You protected and shielded us in every way you could.

Tina, as we affectionately called her was the best Sister that anyone could have asked for in life. The funniest, intriguing, curious, exciting, welcoming and joyful fellow to be with.

We have lost a jewel, a precious one and a golden spirit. We may have lost a diamond personality, but she still glows in our heart.

Rest in peace, Sister, you have arrived!

Sister Wo ojogban!

## TRIBUTE BY NIECES AND NEPHEWS

Praise to the Holiest in the height, And in the depth be praise; In all His words most wonderful, Most sure in all His ways.

This was one of your favorite songs and as this verse echoes in our ears daily, we have the assurance that indeed God is sure in all His ways therefore, you parting with us is no mistake, but another gift from the Father.

Mama Tina you were not just our Aunty but our mother and friend. One thing we will always remember you by is your love for music. You always made sure that at any function before we all parted ways, we would have at least sung a song of praise to God for making the day possible.

Your love for God was impeccable. Your love for food, especially your waakye, is one we will never forget. Your good sense of humor and your ability to make a joke out of situations bothering us was amazing because it always left us feeling lighter and less worried.

We will truly miss the way you used to worry us. The nicknames, your laughter, your smile.

Mama Tina you were truly a fighter and if we have learnt nothing at all from all the things you taught us, just looking at your life is enough to know that we have to be strong, to fight through all our battles and hold on to the faith that He who has called us is faithful and will bring everything to a perfect end.

So indeed you have reached your unexpected but perfect end and today as we say goodbye we will stay strong like you did and

hope for the day we will see each other again.

Our dear Mama Tina this is it. En3 ji osane k3 olala. For as heaven receives you today we know that you will be praising the Savior all the day long.

You will forever hold a special place in our hearts Aunty.

We love you. Sleep well. Wo ojogban

# TRIBUTE BY IN- LAWS

The warm and glorious smile that meets you whenever you visit her will be missed and never forgotten. She will smile whilst mentioning your name.

"Mamatina" as we all call her was the mother-inlaw every man would proudly have. She was a Godly woman. Even when you go wrong, she will gently advice you in resolving any issue thereof.

One thing that we will never forget about you was your love for God. There is no way any conversation with her will end without the mention of God. Many atimes she will SING whilst smilling, pray and bless you. Mamatina was there for everyone.

As painfully as we say goodbye to you, we are consolled in our hearts that you are in a peaceful place with Christ Jesus. We will keep your advice and memories with us until we are re-united one day with you but until then, Rest thee well Mamatina.

### TRIBUTE BY ELEMENTARY SCHOOLMATES

"The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away. Blessed be the name of the Lord. Hallelujah" Job 1: 21B

We are greatly saddened by the demise of our dear sister and classmate, Ernestina Akweley Abbey (nee Larmie), who we affectionately called Akweley. We have lost a great and inspirational friend. Even though we were aware of her medical issues, we never thought she would leave us so suddenly, but the Good Lord knows best.

We started our elementary education with Akweley way back in the late sixties. Our dear sister was regular and punctual at school. She had a quiet disposition but was a very active contributor in class because of her academic brilliance. She was loved and admired by all because of her respectful, disciplined, soft-spoken and jovial nature. She never offended anybody, and we will never forget her infectious smiles. and how friendly she was.

She was also a compassionate person, and was always available to help everyone, especially her twin brother Okoe. After we parted ways after completing elementary school, we still interacted with each other. There was a period thereafter when we all lost contact with each other. Just a couple of years ago, a few of us decided to seek out our lost friends by creating a WhatsApp platform to reminisce on our elementary school heydays. That was when we re-established contact with our late colleague Akweley. Even though she was rather quiet on the platform, she always offered good advice anytime she contributed.

Alas, our classmate Akweley is no more with us, and as friends we will always be thinking of her. She is gone to a place where we can't see her, but she will always be in our hearts.

She will be greatly missed.

May the family she left behind be strengthened by the most High God.

Akweley! Ernestina! Awwww yaawo ojogbann ye nuntsor 13 mli. Akweley, sleep well, and may your gentle soul rest peacefully in the bosom of The LORD. Hallelujah!

# **PSALM AND HYMNS**

#### **A&M Hymn 165**

#### Stanza 1

O God our help in ages past Our hope for years to come Our shelter from the stormy blast And our eternal home

#### Stanza 2

Beneath the shadow of thy throne Thy saints have dwelt secure Sufficient is thy arm alone And our defense is sure

#### Stanza 3

Before the hills in order stood Or earth received her frame From everlasting thou are God To endless years the same

#### Stanza 4

A thousand ages in thy sight Are like an evening gone Short as the watch that ends the night Before the rising sun

#### Stanza 5

Time, like an ever- rolling stream, Bears all its sons away They fly forgotten, as a dream Dies at the opening day.

#### Stanza 6

O God our help in ages past Our hope for years to come Be thou our guard while troubles last And our eternal home

#### **MHB 80**

#### Stanza 1

Thee will I praise with all my heart, And tell mankind how good Thou art How marvelous Thy works of grace Thy name I will in songs recordAnd joy and glory in my Lord Extolled above all thanks and praise

#### Stanza 2

The Lord will save His people here In times of need their help is near To all by sin and hell oppressed And they that know Thy name will trust In thee, who, to Thy promise just Hast never left a soul oppressed

#### Stanza 3

The Lord is by His judgements known, He helps His poor afflicted one, His sorrows all He bears in mind; The mourner shall not always weep, Who sows in tears in joy shall reap, With grief who seeks with joy shall find.

#### Stanza 4

A helpless soul that looks to Thee Is sure at last Thy face to see, And all Thy goodness to partake The sinner who for Thee doth grieve And long, and labours to believe Thou never, never wilt forsake.

#### Psalm 121

- 1. I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills: from whence cometh my help.
- 2. My help cometh even from the Lord: who hath made heaven and earth.

- 3. He will not suffer thy foot to be moved: and he that keepeth thee will not sleep.
- 4. Behold, he that keepeth Israel: shall neither slumber nor sleep
- 5. The Lord himself is thy keeper: the Lord is thy defence upon thy right hand
- 6.So that the sun shall not burn thee by day: neither the moon by night
- 7. The Lord shall preserve thee from all evil: yea, it is even he that shall keep thy soul
- 8. The Lord shall preserve thy going out, and thy coming in: from this time forth for evermore.

#### **A&M Hymn 196**

#### Stanza 1

Guide me, O Thou great Redeemer Pilgrim through this barren land I am weak, but thou art mighty Hold me with Thy powerful hand Bread of Heaven Feed me now and evermore

#### Stanza 2

Open now the crystal fountain, Whence the healing streams do flow Let the fiery cloudy pillar Lead me all my journey through Strong Deliverer Be Thou still my strength and shield

#### Stanza 3

When I tread the verge of Jordon Bid my anxious fears subside Death of death, and hell's destruction Land me safe on Canaan's side Songs of praises I will ever give to Thee

#### Hymn A&M 172

#### Stanza 1

Praise to the Holiest in the height And in the depth be praise In all His words most wonderful Most sure in all His ways

#### Stanza 2

O loving wisdom of our God When all was sin and shame A second Adam to the fight And to the rescue came

#### Stanza 3

O wisest Love! That flesh and blood Which did in Adam fail Should strive afresh against the foe Should strive and should prevail

#### Stanza 4

And that a higher gift than grace Should flesh and blood refine God's presence and His very Self And Essence all- divine

#### Stanza 5

O generous love! That He who smote In man for man the foe The double agony in Man For man should undergo

#### Stanza 6

And in the garden secretly And on the cross on high Should teach His brethren and inspire To suffer and to die

#### Stanza 7

Praise to the Holiest in the height And in the depth be praise In all His words most wonderful Most sure in all His ways

#### Hymn A &M 290

Through all the changing scenes of life In trouble and in joy The praises of my God shall still My heart and tongue employ

O magnify the Lord with me With me exalt His name When in distress to Him I called He to my rescue came

The Hosts of God encamp around The dwellings of the just Deliverance he affords to all Who on His succor trust

O make but trial of His love Experience will decide How bless'd are they, and only they Who in His truth confide

Fear Him, ye saints, and you will then Have nothing else to fear Make you His service your delight Your wants shall be His care

To Father, Son, and Holy Ghost The God whom we adore Be glory, as it was, is now And shall be evermore

#### A& M 499

On the Resurrection morning Soul and body meet again No more sorrow, no more weeping No more pain! Here awhile they must be parted And the flesh its Sabbath keep Waiting in a holy stillness Wrapt in sleep

For a while the tired body Lies with feet toward the morn Till the last and brightest Easter Day be born

But the soul in contemplation Utters earnest prayer and strong Bursting at the Resurrection Into song

Soul and body reunited Thenceforth nothing shall divide Waking up in Christ's own likeness Satisfied

Oh! The beauty, Oh! The gladness Of that Resurrection day, Which shall not through endless ages Pass away

Oh that happy Easter morning All the graves their dead restore Father, sister, child and mother Meet once more

To that brightest of all meetings Bring us, Jesu Christ, at last By Thy cross, through death and judgement Holding fast.

#### **A&M Hymn 609**

Safe home, safe home in port Rent cordage, shatter'd deck Torn sails, provision short And only not a wreck But oh! The joy upon the shore To tell our voyage- perils o'er! The prize, the prize secure
The athlete nearly fell
Bare all he could endure
And bare not always well
But he may smile at troubles gone
Who sets the victor- garland on

No more the foe can harm No more of leaguered camp And cry of night alarm And need of ready lamp And yet how nearly had he fall'd How nearly had that foe prevail'd

The lamb is in the fold
In perfect safety penn'd
The lion once had hold
And thought to make an end
But One came by with wounded Side
And for the sheep the Shepherd died

The exile is at home
O nights and days of tears
O longings not to roam
O sins and doubts and fears
What matters now grief's darkest day?
The King has wiped those tears away

#### **A&M Hymn 401**

Now the labourer's task is o'er Now the battle day s past Now upon the farther shore Lands the voyager at last Father, in Thy gracious keeping Leave we now Thy servant sleeping

There the tears of earth are dried There its hidden things are clear There the work of life is tried By a juster Judge than here Father, in Thy gracious keeping Leave we now Thy servant sleeping There the sinful souls, that turn
To the Cross their dying eyes
All the love of Christ shall learn
At His feet in Paradise
Father, in Thy gracious keeping
Leave we now Thy servant sleeping

"Earth to earth, and dust to dust"
Calmly now the words we say
Leaving him to sleep in trust
Till the Resurrection day
Father, in Thy gracious keeping
Leave we now Thy servant sleeping

#### **A&M Hymn 27**

Abide with me: fast falls the eventide The darkness deepens: Lord with me abide When other helpers fail, and comforts flee Help of the helpless, O abide with me

Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day Earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass away Change and decay in all around I see O Thou, Who changest not, abide with me

I need Thy presence every passing hour What but Thy grace can foil the tempter's power?

Who like Thyself my guide and stay can be?

Through cloud and sunshine, Lord abide with me.

I fear no foe with Thee at hand to bless Ills have no weight, and tears no bitterness Where is death's sting? Where Grave, thy victory?

I triumph still, if thou abide with me

Hold Thou Thy Cross before my closing eyes

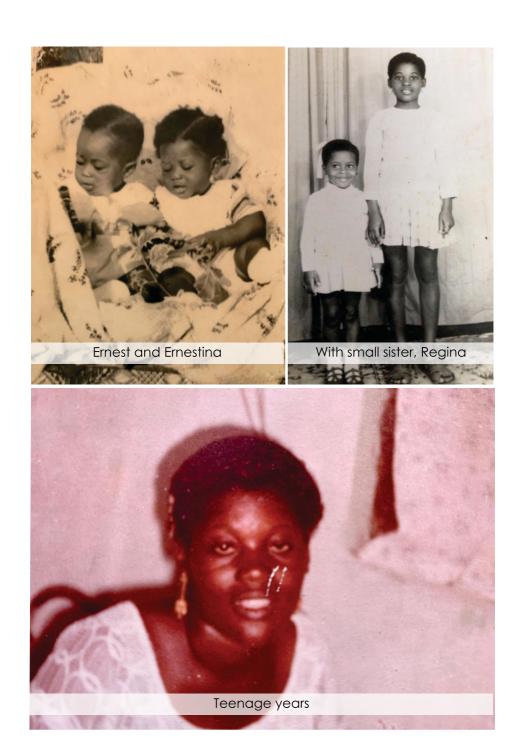
Shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies

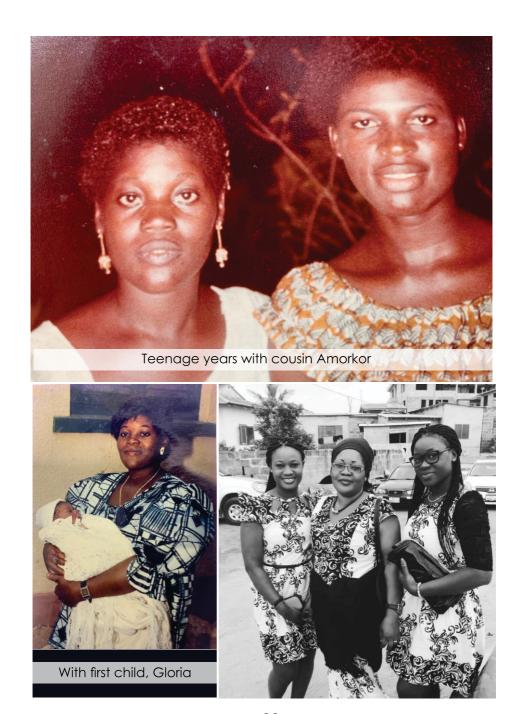
Heav'n's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee In life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.

There no more the powers of hell Can prevail to mar their peace Christ the Lord shall guard them well He Who died for their release Father, in Thy gracious keeping Leave we now Thy servant sleeping

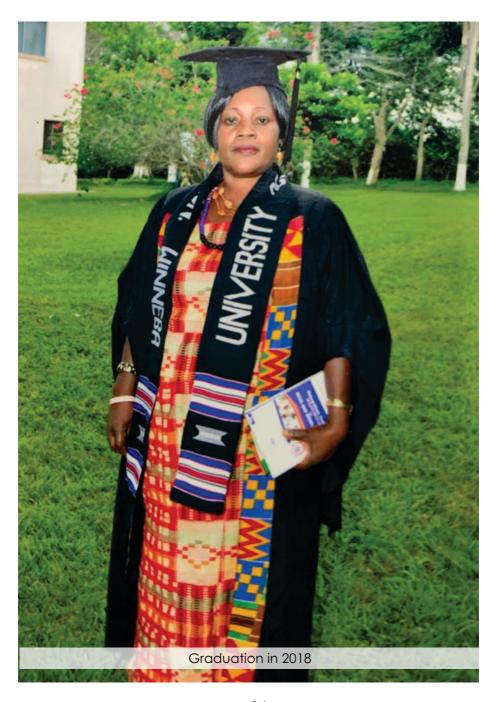
# TINA'S EARTHLY JOURNEY....

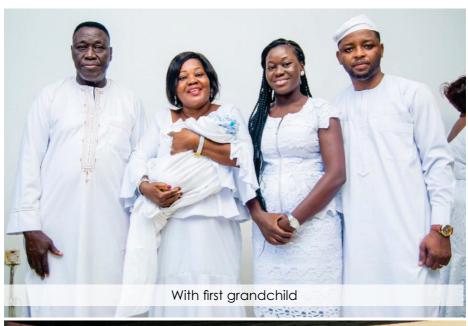






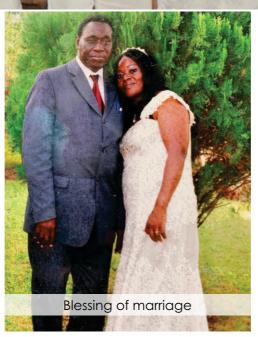


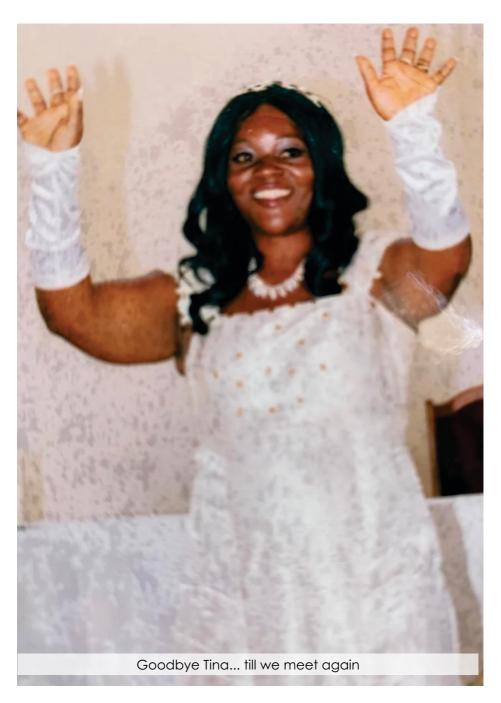












# Appreciation

The Larmie and Abbey families wish to express their profound appreciation to everyone for their prayers and support during these trying times.

God richly bless you.