

In Loving Memory



Nathaniel Kofi Opoku
OFORI

Chef Koffie

1968 - 2021

On Friday, 28th January, 2022.
at Transitions Place





My Journey has just begun

Don't think of me as gone away
My journey's just begun
Life holds so many facets
This earth is but one
Just think of me as resting
From the sorrows and the tears
In a place of warmth and comfort
Where there are no days and years
Think of how I must be wishing

Think of how I must be wishing
That you could know today
How nothing but your sadness
Can really go away
And think of me as living
In the hearts of those I touched
For nothing loved is ever lost
And I know I was loved so much.

Ellen Brenneman



BIOGRAPHY OF THE LATE MR. NATHANIEL KOFI OPOKU OFORI (a.k.a Chef Koffie)



“Although your journey on earth is over, your journey to Eternity has just begun. You have left to rest from the sorrows and tears of the earth”.

On Friday, October 18, 1968 at the Korlebu Teaching Hospital, the late Nathaniel Kofi Opoku Ofori was born as the first child to the late Opanyin Alexander Kwame Ofori Dodi of the Oyoko family, Gyakiti and Asona family of Anyaase and Madam Mercy Kwakyewaa Dodi of Oyoko family - Gyakiti. He was named after his paternal grand uncle; Nana Opoku and being a Friday born, he become known as Kofi Opoku, mostly rhymed Kofi Poku within close associates and family circles. In consonance with the faith of his parents, Kofi was baptized into the Presbyterian Church of Ghana and was nurtured as a Christian. He was the only son among the five children of his parents.

Kofi had a stint of primary education at the Rev. John Teye Memorial Institute near Pokuase in Accra up to class four. He continued the basic education at St. John primary where he sat for the Common Entrance Examination in 1981. Afterwards he enrolled for the second cycle education at the Bompata Secondary School in the Asante Region, and he was assigned to House Four (Katanga). His peers shortened his first name and simply called him Nat. In pursuit of his aspiration to be an Accountant, Nat studied Business at Bompata and sat for the Ordinary Level Examination in 1986. During his formative years, together with some cousins, he spent vacations feeding his father's poultry birds and undertook collection of eggs from hen coops and packed them for sale. Perhaps that sharpened his prowess for industrial excellence.

Upon completion of his secondary education, Nat made a daring move to join two of his paternal uncles in Nigeria. Traveling to Nigeria for greener pastures was the order of the day for most young people in Ghana at the time which may have influenced Kofi's decision to make that trip as a springboard for launching into a prosperous future. However, judging his





'cool and collected' demeanor and strong attachment to his parents at the time, one could not envisage how he would cope with the vagaries and hostilities of the outside world. His parents were thus concerned when they got to know he had left. As providence would have it, the trip to Nigeria changed his course from pursuing accountancy to becoming a celebrated Chef. He worked with Service and Supply International (SSI) providing catering services on an oil Rig at Port Harcourt. Kofi showed promise in the catering industry and had the opportunity go to London for a training programme and acquired the relevant certification in the catering profession. He indeed had an innate knack for cooking, and he was excellent at it. On the Rig, a key stakeholder of SSI of Indian origin named Sanjay got acquainted with Kofi owing to his hard-working disposition.

Sanjay had a contract to operate the Anyinam Lodge at Obuasi where the miners of Ashanti Gold Fields, mostly the foreigners had their meals. Kofi returned to Ghana to handle the business in the 1990s for a great while. During the construction of the Takoradi Thermal Plant at Aboadze, Kofi was on board with Sanjay's SSI to provide catering services to the foreign contractors. Still working with Sanjay's SSI, Kofi was taken to Mali to provide similar services for a mining company and subsequently to Cameroon to work on a Rig for the same purpose. Chef Kofi was bilingual; he spoke French fluently. This made his assimilation into the Malian and Cameroonian work force seamless.

Kofi Opoku later returned to Ghana and set up his own restaurant at Obuasi which was operational for a brief period. He also had contract with Sandvick for provision of catering services for some years. Kofi became the country representative for Enterprise General Traore of Mali for some years and later became responsible for the Ghana Branch; Enterprise General Traore of Ghana Limited (EGTG) when it was set up. He held this position till his demise. His healthy working relation with his employers and staff was evident in all manner of ways.

While working at Obuasi upon his return from Nigeria, Chef Kofi got married to Ernestina Gamah with whom he had three children, with one of them gone ahead into eternal rest. Chef had a child from previous





relationship. He is thus survived by three children: Margaret C. Ofori, Bernard B. Ofori and Amanda Ofori.

Chef Kofi got beset with some challenges that got him devastated a few years ago. He found solace in the warmth extended to him by the family of the Late Prophet Kwame Darko Mensah of God's Disciple College Church. He experienced a new life in Christ and was a devoted member of the God's Disciple College Church. He also became an integral member of the family of the Late Prophet Kwame Darko Mensah and lived with them till his death.

Kofi sadly passed away on the 26th of December 2021 at the University of Ghana Medical Centre after a short illness.

The family is deeply comforted by Kofi's countenance and expressions of faith in Christ which was more expressed even on his sick bed. We are also comforted that even in death Kofi belongs to the Lord. "For if we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord. Therefore, whether we live or die, we are the Lord's." Romans 14:8 NKJV

Chef Kofi remained thankful to the family of the Late Prophet Kwame Darko Mensah and would always request us to express same to the family at each visit. He was also very appreciative to the Management and staff of EGTG for their support in diverse ways.

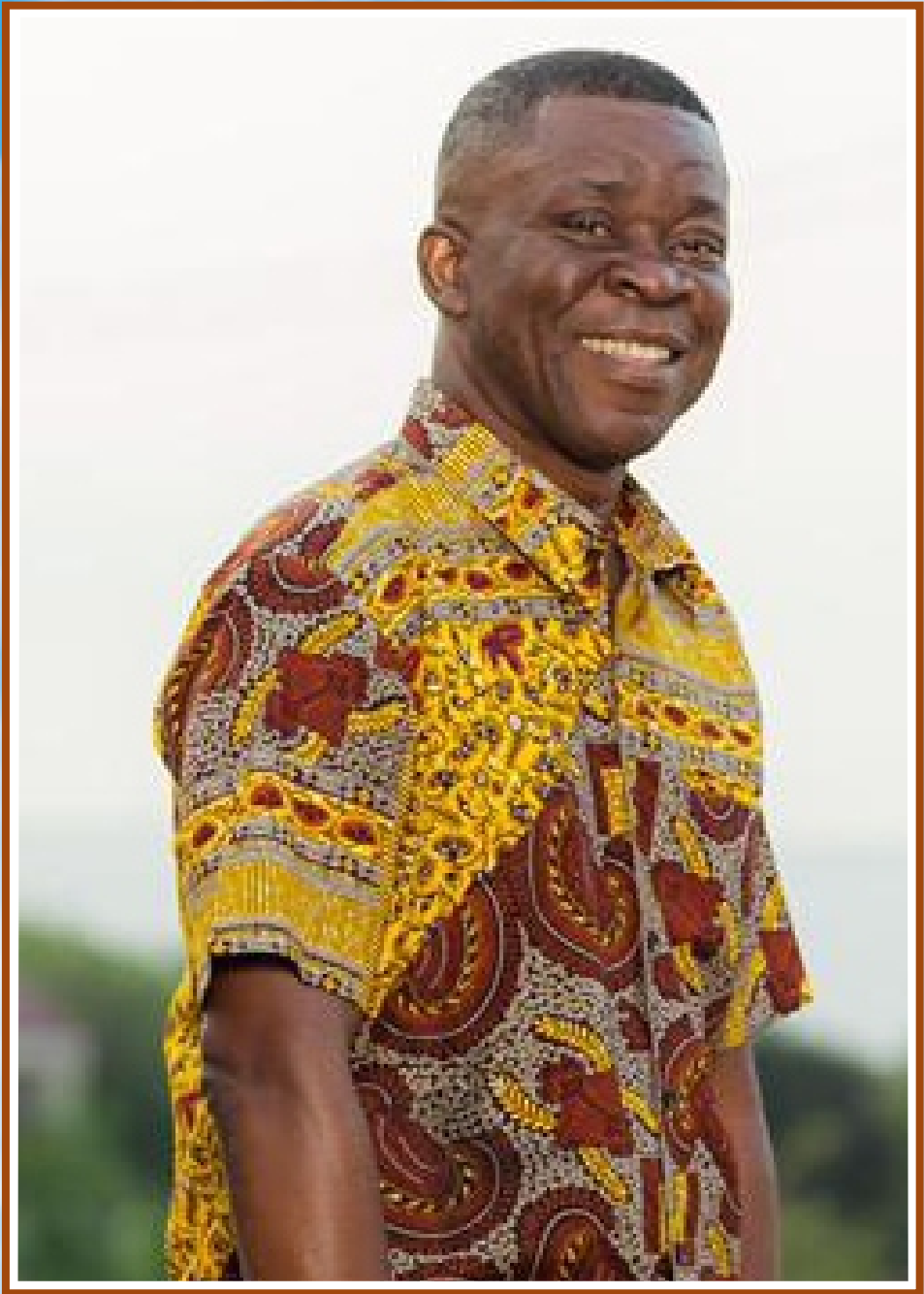
We wish to reiterate Kofi's heartfelt gratitude to the Leadership of God's Disciple College Church, the family of the Late Prophet Kwame Darko Mensah, Mr. Samuel Dadze his mother and siblings and many more for their invaluable help during his challenging moments.

As the scriptures say in **1 Thessalonians 4:13-14**, "***But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died***", we believe that he has found eternal peace with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

May his soul rest in perpetual peace with the Lord.







Appreciation

*With Sincere Gratitude
We Are Deeply Grateful For The Sympathy, Love And Support
You Have Extended To Our Family During This Difficult Time.
God Bless You.*



Family Of The Late

Nathaniel Kofi Opoku Ofori