



ECKANKAR
THE PATH OF SPIRITUAL FREEDOM
PRESENTS

AN ECK MEMORIAL SERVICE
FOR THE LATE

RICHARD DONWU-MIREKU

DATE: SATURDAY, 4TH JULY, 2020
VENUE: TRANSITIONS, HAATSO, ACCRA
TIME: 8:00-9:00 AM
OFFICIATOR: ASPECT CAIQUO



If you know that death is only an illusion then there is little need for thee to have cause to fear. Truth sustains you, and this clay temple is dissolved when the physical body wears out, but Soul which owes Its origin, life and growth to God will remain forever in the highest mansion of the Lord."

Stranger by the River

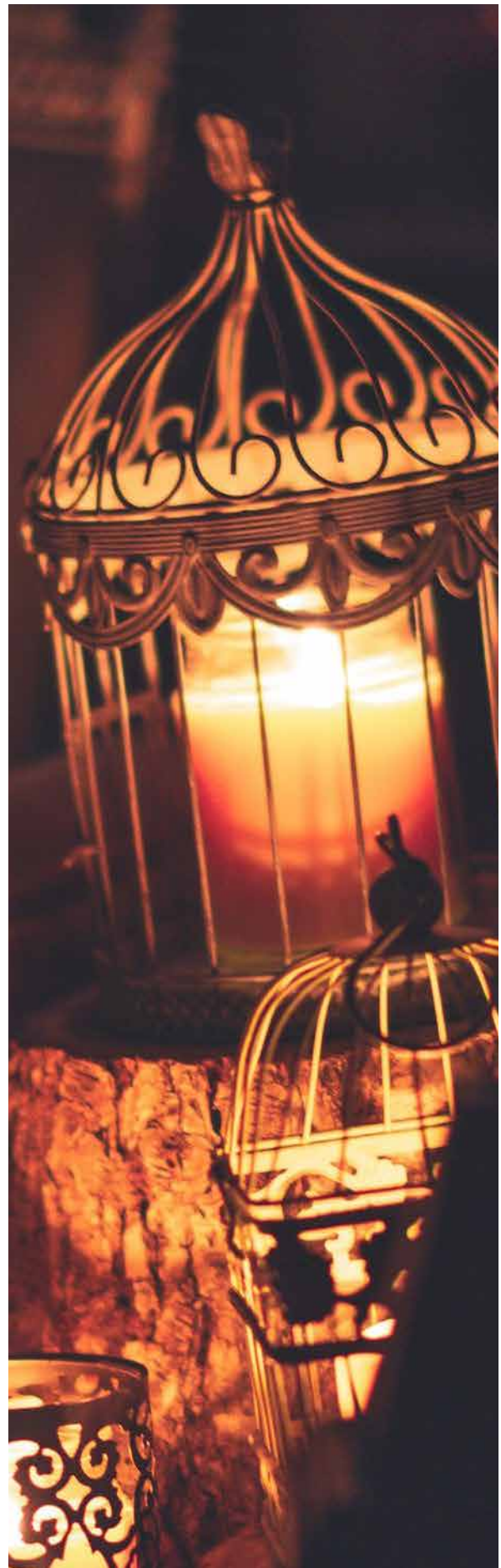
- *Paul Twitchell*

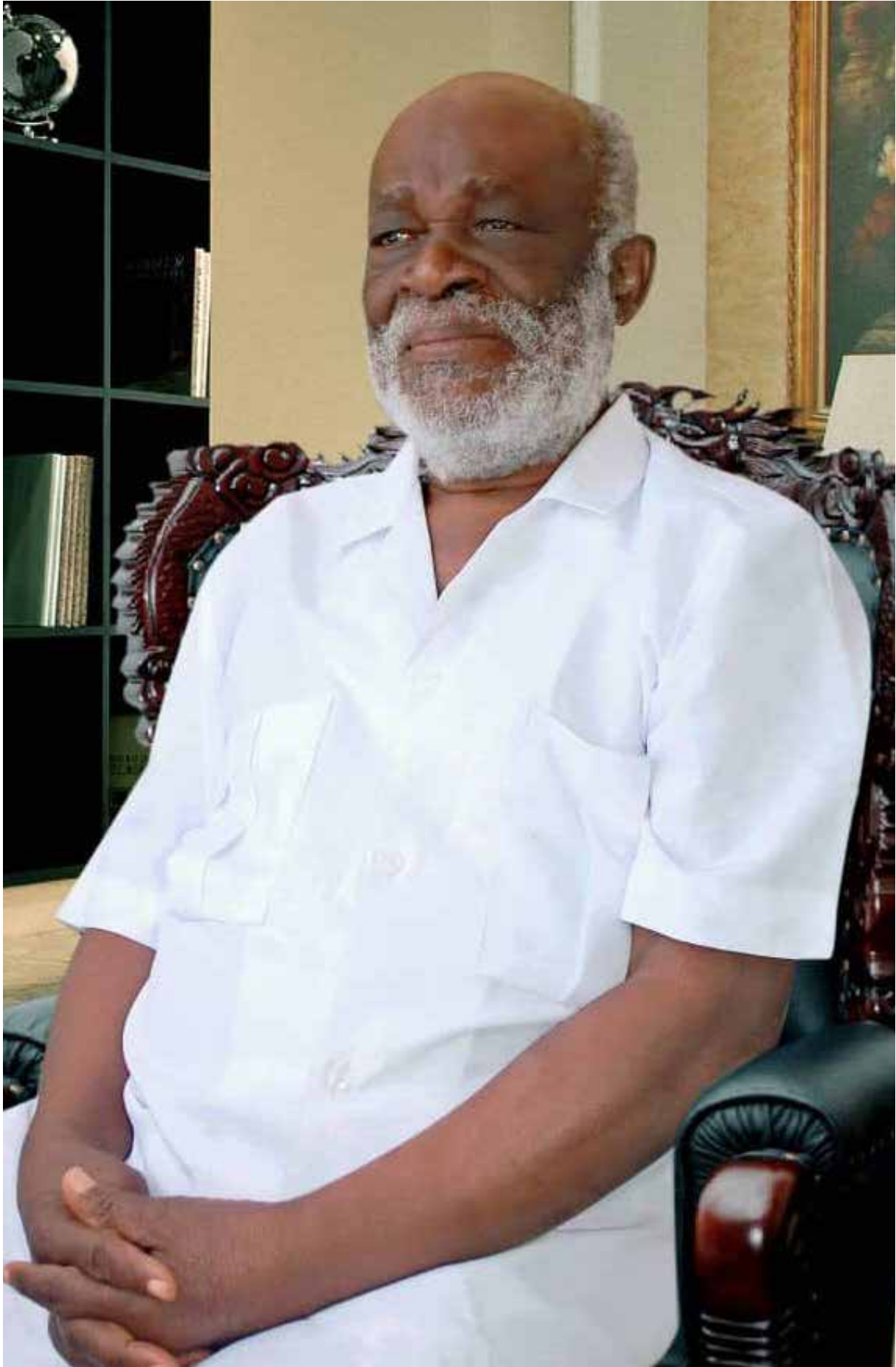


PROGRAMME

8:00 AM - ECK MEMORIAL SERVICE BEGINS

1. OPENING SONG (6mins)
AMAZING HU (ESB NO.1)
2. WELCOME AND OPENING (5mins)
OFFICIATING CLERGY
3. TALK (10mins)
THE SPIRITUAL PURPOSE OF LIFE
4. PRAYER SESSION
 - HU, The Most Beautiful Prayer (10 mins)
(Euphemia Ayiku)
 - The HU Prayer Song (3mins)
5. REMEMBRANCES (15mins)
BIOGRAPHY/TRIBUTES
6. READING AND CONCLUSION (5mins)
OFFICIATING CLERGY
7. COLLECTION OF OFFERTORY BAGS (3mins)
SONGS/INSTRUMENTALS
8. ANNOUNCEMENT (2mins)
9. CLOSING HU SONG (1min)





4 | The Late Richard Donwu-Mireku

BIOGRAPHY

RICHARD DONWU-MIREKU

The late Richard Donwu-Mireku, popularly known among his relatives as Akwaah, was born on Sunday, 26th November 1944 in Nkawkaw. He was the seventh born out of eleven children of the late Emmanuel Peter Kwasi Mireku and the late Margaret Akua Birago of the Aduana clan of Obomeng Kwahu.

His surviving siblings – Moses Kwasi Koranteng, Rev. Apostle John Henock Mireku, Ebenezer Asante-Mireku, Margaret Birago, and Elizabeth Asantewa Mireku – fondly remember and cherish their lifelong experiences.

His father was a firm believer in formal education, due to his significant role in the Presbyterian Church at the time. Richard started his education at Nkawkaw Presby. He continued with his Secondary School education at Accra Academy where he was awarded two (2) scholarships due to his academic brilliance, one from Accra Academy and the other from Cocoa Marketing Board. In his quest to become a professional teacher, he enrolled at Winneba Advanced Teacher Training College. He later furthered his education at the University of Ghana, obtaining an Advanced Diploma in Accountancy.

Richard, bestowed with the gift of enlightening others, started his teaching career at Danteng, later moved to Aprandang, and then to Kwaku Ridge Secondary School, Obo, where he met his better half, Augusta Tenkorang. He also taught in Nigeria and Libya. He was a great Mathematics and English teacher. His selfless devotion to every task he was assigned left a permanent void anywhere he worked and left.

In 1980, Richard and Augusta got married and their union was blessed with four children: Peter Nana Kwasi Mireku; Darwin Mireku; Birago Asantewa-Mireku; and Harold Donwu-Mireku. He, however, took care of a lot more children in his home: Kwaku Sarfo, Ama Asantewa, Abraham, Christiana, James,

Seidu, Nicholas, Rockson, Obaa'fia, Emmanuella, just to mention a few.

After returning home from Libya and years of unsuccessful attempts not to return to the teaching field, he decided to establish a school, an idea that came to him in a dream. With the support of his wife and other relatives, Frus Academy was founded in August 1992, with Harold (his last son) as the first pupil. The school has gone through cycles of challenges and successes, which Richard recounted in his address during the school's silver jubilee celebration. But he was elated with the contributions the school had made towards the enlightenment of the community. True to the school's motto, he believed enlightenment brings freedom to all—an independent mind which translates into an independent being. This was his aim, more than anything else, for establishing the school. Over the last few years, his role in the school was limited to an advisory one as his physical health would support.

Richard had a passion for agriculture, particularly the rearing of animals; this he acquired from his parents who were farmers. You would always find either goats, sheep, ducks or fowls in his home. A section of the land at Achimota, where Frus Academy Pre-School is currently situated, used to be a farmland. He enjoyed boiled or roasted fresh maize with boiled groundnuts from his farm. Of course, he also cultivated plantains cassava, etc. As a principal initiator of the family's Afram Plains farming project, he showed keen interest, constantly enquiring on progress and sharing words of encouragement.

Richard was born and baptized as a Presbyterian. He always believed in a higher calling or will, the Almighty God, and was interested in a disciplined approach to aligning with this will. He always journaled daily happenings in his life including his dreams. He was very much interested in concepts such as listening to God's voice, dreams, life after death, soul travel,

karma, and so on. He, therefore, fell in love with ECKANKAR, the Path of Spiritual Freedom, which is the Religion of the Light and Sound of God, when his elder brother Rev. Apostle John Henock Mireku introduced him to this path. He officially joined ECKANKAR in the early 1980s. He contributed enormously to the development of this religion and spread of its teachings in Ghana. In fact, he rose to become a member of the ECKANKAR Ghana's Clergy.

Richard's life was fraught with a lot of health issues. He recounted a period of severe headaches which hampered his education at a point. His calm and peaceful demeanor might have led him to keep a lot of things to himself. Although willing to help anyone he came across, he was not predisposed to asking for help. Years of hard work and being on medication took a big toll on his physical body.

Akwaah, As you told your sister, Elizabeth Asantewa Mireku, and a few close friends, your work here on the physical plane is finished. You chose to exit this world to be with your Maker on that fateful day of 3rd June, 2020.

May God make this transition smooth and peaceful.

May the blessings be!



Akwaah, As you told your sister, Elizabeth Asantewa Mireku, and a few close friends, your work here on the physical plane is finished. You chose to exit this world to be with your Maker on that fateful day of 3rd June, 2020.





**TRIBUTE
BY WIDOW**

*Singing HU each day
can lead to a deeper
understanding of yourself,
and why things happen the
way they do in your life.*

Rich, Akwaah, as I affectionately called you, I never imagined that I would be writing your tribute so soon, even though you haven't been well for some time now. As sure as death is inevitable, one of us had to taste it first. I am grateful that you knew your maker and so have gone to be with him.

Life with you for the past 40 years has been amazing. You were not just my husband, but a father too.

Our home was open to everyone because of your kindness. So many children who were not your own have gone through your hands because of your love for education. You ensured every child had education, even if this meant cancelling school fees debts.

You were so accommodating that our home became a dwelling place for family members.

Rich, you won my heart with your nature. You were so quiet, collected, accommodating, patient, tolerant and serviceable. We became husband and wife after my training college education in 1980.

I have learnt so much from you. You taught me never to get into confrontations with anyone no matter the level of provocation. You always wanted things done right, and so cutting corners was a no-no for you. Your foresight and discipline were simply unmatched. You were very independent; never wanted to be a burden on anyone.

Staring at the little dots in the sky and wondering which one is you, I keep asking the same question, why? Why now? The only answer that comes to me is that you knew. You knew it was time for you to move on, because you kept saying you were tired. Since the 25th of May you were admitted to the hospital, no words did you speak. You looked so well on the morning of your demise, and we all thought you were recovering, but little did we know that was your farewell message to us.

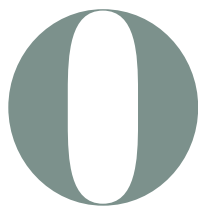
I thank God for the wonderful time we shared together. My life with you was never bad. I pray for a new dawn and sunny days, as I stand here beside your body.

Farewell thee well, Rich. Damirifa Due! Due!! Due!!!

TRIBUTE

BY CHILDREN





Over the years, the all-too familiar sight of seeing some of our friends pay tribute to their beloved fathers, on a solemn occasion such as this, always sent chills down our spine.

Dad, we hoped and prayed you would continue to brave your ill-health and live for more years, but God had different plans for you.

Opanin Kwadwo Baah (as we affectionately called you), you were everything we could ever seek in a father. You were a protector, provider, promoter and spiritual pillar.

As a protector, you were bold and went to great lengths to ensure the safety of your family and several others who lived with us. Among other feats, you will forever be remembered for successfully overcoming a twelve-foot python that invaded our home in September 1991.

Kwadwo Baah, you were a great provider who would bend backwards to make sure that the needs of your family were always met. In the early years of your marriage, you left Ghana to seek greener pastures with an eye to create a bright future for mum and us. You were first in Nigeria and later in Libya. In April 1986, you found yourself in the midst of the bombings of Tripoli by the United States of America but, with the protection of the Inner Master, you came out unscathed.

Dad, you were a staunch believer in education as a great equalizer. Not only did you give your children good education but also strove to educate the entire community in which you lived. Frus Academy, the school you founded in 1992, ensured that children living in Achimota could have access to quality education regardless of their family's socio-economic status. Indeed, running a school in our home was very beneficial and meant that your children and the children of other family members could be schooled for free. This we believe made you one in a million and a man with a generous heart.

Dad, you were our Mathematics teacher; all of us fondly remember the assistance you provided

with our Mathematics assignments. You were also a disciplinarian who believed in spare the rod and spoil the child.

Oh, what a dad we will miss and a void that cannot be filled by anyone! Your passing has indeed created a huge vacuum in our hearts. But we thank God that you have given us so much to live for and imparted in us such timeless values as humility, respect, honesty, charity, tolerance, contentment and detachment.

As spiritual head of the family, you saw to it that we attended ECK Satsang classes as well as ECK Light and Sound Service every Sunday. You also took family initiations very seriously. In 1986, you took the entire family all the way to Liberia for family initiation, a mark of true spiritual leadership! You required of us ultimate commitment and dedication to all ECK activities.

If we ever forgot anything you taught us, one thing that would be impossible to forget is surrendering our challenges in life to God. You always crooned into our ears the power of surrendering each day to the ECK—or the Holy Spirit. And indeed, it is the practice of the Spiritual Exercises of ECK and surrendering to the Inner Master that has brought all of us this far.

As a father, you were a great listener and always available to support us—you were simply too kind! You were present during our graduations, marriage ceremonies and children christening, just to mention a few. You gave us space to be ourselves and learn.

Oh, what a void your demise has left!

Our hero is gone!

Thank you, daddy, for all the wonderful times we had and the affection you showed us. They will forever be etched in our memory.

You will forever live in our hearts, Daa!!!



OTHER CHILDREN



TRIBUTE

BY CHILDREN-IN-LAW

I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing. 2 Timothy 4:7-8 (NIV).

Indeed, our father-in-law has really fought the fight, and we can say he deserves every prize the Lord has for him.

Daddy, as we called you, you were father in every aspect of the word. Daddy, you treated us like your own children and showered us with love and affection. We were special to you.

You graciously accepted us as your children and wholeheartedly welcomed us into your family.

You lived all your life as a philanthropist, never fancied recognition, sacrificing to make life meaningful for all. You believed in touching lives and this you did well. Your legacy lives on, the numerous people you educated are a testament to your person.

We will miss your stories and history lessons. You shared a lot of stories about the Presbyterian Church in your days in Kwahu. We recall our regular discussions on your spiritual journey, the Bible, reincarnation, soul, karma, just to mention a few.

We admire your non-discriminatory nature and love for education. You showed us that every life is important and encouraged us to open our homes and hearts to all.

You always made time to show up at every function. You visited us in the hospital each time you heard we were unwell. You were a gift to the family. We will dearly miss you, but we are consoled by the fact that you lived your life to the fullest.

We had a great Dad!

We therefore have greatness in us too.

Rest In Peace, Daddy, till we meet again!



TRIBUTE

BY GRANDCHILDREN

Grandpa Achimota as we always referred to you. You left without saying goodbye!

Our dear Grandpa! We will really miss you. We miss the way your eyes lit up whenever we came to visit.

Grandpa, you were unique; you were kind and gentle and showed us the importance of education at our little age.

Grandpa you also showed us the importance of family as we saw you at every family gathering no matter how weak you were.

We've been told by our parents that you are gone to Heaven, so we believe you are with the angels.

We shall never forget the precious moments that we shared together. Your memory will forever remain fresh in our minds.

You are still with us as we have your surname: Kwaku Nyamekye Donwu-Mireku and Jerome Aseda Donwu-Mireku Dickson

So, until we meet again, we say goodbye, and may the good Lord give you peaceful rest.

Rest well in the Lord till we meet in paradise!





TRIBUTE

BY ECKANKAR GHANA SATSANG SOCIETY To the Memory of Richard Donwu-Mireku

"If you know that death is only an illusion then there is little need for thee to have cause to fear. Truth sustains you, and this clay temple is dissolved when the physical body wears out, but Soul which owes its origin, life and growth to God will remain forever in the highest mansion of the Lord." Stranger by the River - Paul Twitchell.

These words of Paul Twitchell, the Modern Day Founder of ECKANKAR, the Path of Spiritual Freedom, are a source of consolation and assurance for all of us who were privileged to share in the life of Richard Donwu-Mireku.

Uncle Richard, as we affectionately called him, loved and served the ECK Community in Ghana over several decades. Over the years he worked as a key member of the Seminar Services Team in the Registration Area. His very clear and beautiful handwriting was a constant reminder of his exceptional qualities as a trained teacher.

During the years when ECKANKAR Ghana operated from the Accra Technical Training Centre in Kokomlemlle, Richard served as a key member of the Finance Team. He diligently organized the collection and management of the Organization's funds.

Today, as we pay tribute to him, we remember with boundless love and great affection his quiet and calm disposition. He naturally exudes such peace and tranquillity even in very trying situations. This is borne of his deep love and understanding of the ECK Teachings.

He will always attend the various training programmes organized for members, readily sharing his deep insights with other attendees.

Even with some measure of difficulty in mobility during the latter years, Uncle Richard still showed up at the Temple of ECK Accra on Sundays to enjoy the ECK Light and Sound Service.

With the holy fire of God's love ever burning in his heart, Richard Donwu-Mireku loved to serve in ECKANKAR Ghana's effort to pass on the message of spiritual freedom to others. He always had ECK Brochures and HU Cards handy to share with seekers of truth.

Uncle Richard took a very active part in the fundraising activities geared towards the construction of the Temple of ECK Accra. He would always take the front seat during our Fundraising events and contribute generously towards the success of the programme.



Uncle Richard had found through personal experience the truth in the following quote from the book *The Sound of Soul* by Harold Klemp, the Mahanta, the Living ECK Master, Spiritual Leader of ECKANKAR:

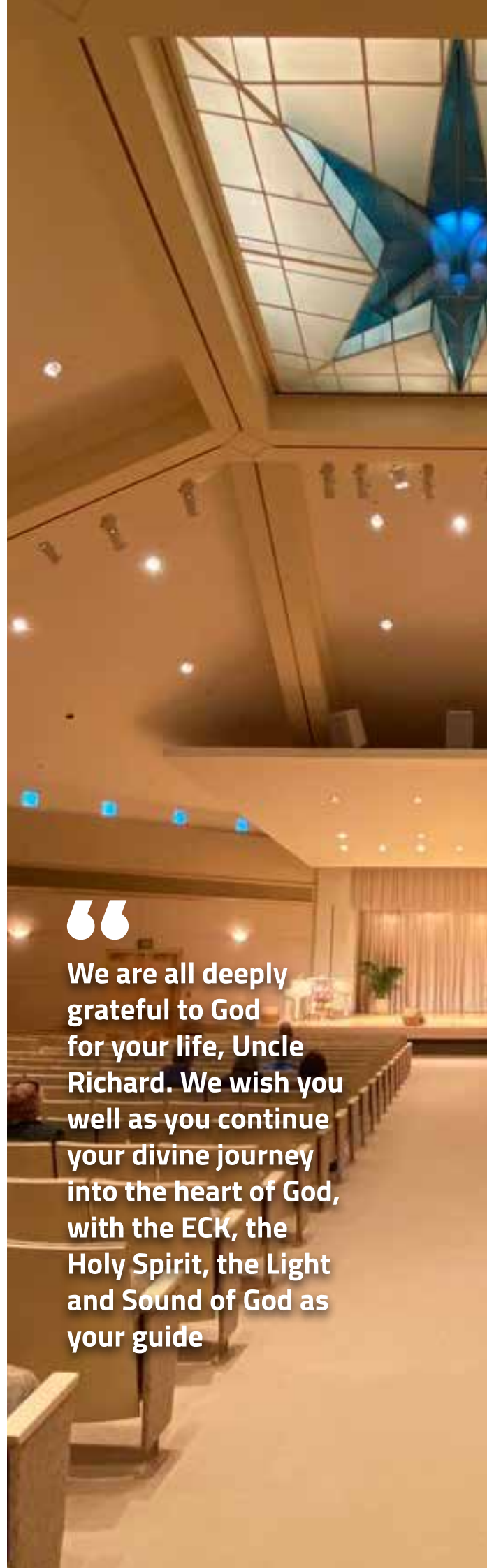
You can get to the most secret part of yourself through contemplation, through the spiritual exercises of ECK, through the sacred sound of HU. Contemplation is a conversation with the most secret, most genuine, and most mysterious part of yourself. Sing HU and listen with love.

-Harold Klemp, The Sound of Soul, p.23.

Richard Donwu-Mireku is a truly cherished member of the ECK Community in Ghana. His passion, contribution and service to ECKANKAR Ghana will forever remain in our hearts.

We are all deeply grateful to God for your life, Uncle Richard. We wish you well as you continue your divine journey into the heart of God, with the ECK, the Holy Spirit, the Light and Sound of God as your guide.

May the Blessings Be!



We are all deeply grateful to God for your life, Uncle Richard. We wish you well as you continue your divine journey into the heart of God, with the ECK, the Holy Spirit, the Light and Sound of God as your guide



SIBLINGS







SONG

ECK Song Book No. 1

AMAZING HU

(The ECK Version of "Amazing Grace")

1. Amazing HU, how sweet the Sound
That touched a Soul like me!
I once was lost, but now I'm found
Was blind but now I see
2. 'Twas HU that taught my heart to sing
And HU my fears relieved
How precious did HU then appear
The Hour I first believed
3. Through many dangers, toils and snares
I have already come
'Tis HU has brought me safe thus far
And HU will lead me home
4. The HU has given life to me
Its sound my hope secures
My shield and portion HU will be
As long as life endures
5. The earth will someday pass away
The sun forbear to shine
But God who sent me here below
I'll be forever Thine.

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Lyrics adapted by Joan and Harold Klemp from
"Amazing Grace"
By John Newton (1725-1807)



ECKANKAR

The Path of Spiritual Freedom

“The purpose of ECKANKAR is to make God an everyday reality in your life.

As Soul, you have the God-knowledge within you. The teachings of ECK will awaken the knowledge and love for the divine things that are already in your heart.

The road to God is the adventure of a lifetime.”

“The simple teaching of ECKANKAR is this: to make contact with the Light and Sound of God, which has the power to give spiritual liberation in this lifetime.”

— Harold Klemp.

ECKANKAR’s goal is to help you find more spiritual freedom. You can do this through personal experience with the Light and Sound of God. ECKANKAR teaches that we can have this experience through simple spiritual exercises. Members of ECKANKAR come from many religious and social backgrounds, yet they share common goals: to know themselves as Soul and to serve God. What does this mean? It means to have an unlimited view of yourself and others as immortal spiritual beings. It also means being true to yourself and living in harmony with all life.

For further information on local ECKANKAR events, please contact:

ECKANKAR GHANA SPIRITUAL CENTRE

THE TEMPLE OF ECK, ACCRA

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APPRECIATION

The family of the Late **RICHARD DONWU-MIREKU** wish to convey our profound appreciation for your commiseration and support during this difficult time.

Thank you all sincerely!