

BURIAL & MEMORIAL SERVICE  
FOR THE LATE

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OBAAPANYIN  
RITA YAA YEBOAH  
1930-2024

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CHURCH OF PENTECOST  
SOWUTUOM DISTRICT,  
NAZARETH ASSEMBLY

BURIAL SERVICE FOR THE LATE

# OBAAPANYIN RITA YAA YEBOAH

17TH AUGUST 2024  
7:30AM

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## OFFICIATING MINISTERS

ELDER ANTHONY APPIAH – PRESIDING ELDER

ELDER ISAAC OBENG

ELDER PAUL YEBOAH

PASTOR HAROL ADU BOATENG

DEACONESS VICTORIA AFARI

DEACONESS FREDA MBROH

MADAM EUNICE ASARE

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## ORDER OF SERVICE

### PART 1:

File Past & Instrumental

Prelude (7:30 Am – 8:15am)

Call To Worship And Opening Prayer (8:30am)

Closure Of Casket By Family

Introduction And Acknowledgement

Songs

Yereko Kuro Fofor Ne Me

Bible Reading - I Corinthians 15:5- 58

English - Deaconess Freda Mbroh

Twi - Madam Eunice Asare

Prayer Of Thanksgiving

Biography – Family Member

Tributes

By Children

By Grandchildren

By Church Of Pentecost

Offetory /Choruses

Sermon

Altar Call

Prayer For Bereaved Family

Closing Song

Vote Of Thanks

Announcement

Closing Prayer

Recession

### PART II – AT THE GRAVESIDE (PRIVATE BURIAL)

Prayer

Committal

Laying Of Wreaths

Prayers

Benediction

Departure



# BIOGRAPHY OF OBAAPANYIN RITA YAA YEBOAH

Ecclesiastes 3:1-4, 11 (NKJV)  
To everything there is a season,  
A time for every purpose under heaven:  
A time to be born and a time to die;  
A time to plant and a time to pluck what is planted;  
A time to kill and a time to heal;  
A time to break down and a time to build up;  
A time to weep and a time to laugh;  
A time to mourn and a time to dance  
... He has made everything beautiful in its time.  
Also, he has put eternity in their hearts, except that  
no one can find out the work that God does from beginning to end

Obaapanyin Rita Yaa Yeboah was born at Aboso Nsuaem in 1930 to Nana Kwasi Boah, Chief of Aboso Odumasi and Maame Afua Dumah, both of blessed memory.

She was the third of 10 children. Like many girls of her time, she did not go to school. Having been born in a predominantly farming community, she helped with work on the cocoa and food crop farms of the family, sale of farm produce on market days and in looking after her younger siblings.

She was hardworking on the farms and a savvy trader of the farm produce and other items she traded in as a young girl, despite her lack of formal education. She was industrious and showed a lot of potential for entrepreneurship.

In 1950 she married her late husband, Paul Kwaw Andoh, a young man who had travelled to Aboso to work. In 1953, they were blessed with their first child who unfortunately, did not live for long. Not long after the birth of their second child, Obaapanyin joined her husband who had then relocated to Accra, to start a new life in the big city.

In Accra, Obaapanyin flourished as a trader, trying her hands at different things at different times as she saw the opportunity. By God's grace, her hard work paid off, whatever she touched flourished.

From the proceeds of her hard work, she supported her husband in the upkeep and education of the children and also supported the larger family generously with her money. She brought various relations to join her family in Accra, starting with one of her late brothers, who joined the family as a young man to continue his education.

She stretched out a hand of generosity to many in the family and was also known for her principled personality, particularly in the area of ensuring fairness to all. During her travels to the village, it was common for her to be drafted into the settlement of domestic disputes because her sense of impartiality and fairness was known to all. Obaapanyin Rita lived a long and healthy life, hospital was not a place she visited often till the last few years of her life when old age caught up with her. She worked hard as a daughter of the family, a wife and above all, as a mother.

Obaapanyin! Maame Yaa! Indeed, there is a time for everything under the sun. You did your bit, it is now time to rest. The entire extended family wishes you farewell. Maame, Damirfa Due! Till we meet again.

# TRIBUTE BY CHILDREN

Rev. 14:13 (NKJV)

*Then I heard a voice from heaven saying to me,  
"Write: 'Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on'.  
"Yes" says the Spirit, "they will rest from their labors, and their  
works will follow them".*

**MAAME!** That is how we called her. **ABENAA MAAME** was our nickname for her. Maame, the third of 10 children did not have the benefit of any formal education so she could not help us with learning to read or write, yet, she was our early educator and the early moral compass in our lives.

Originally baptised as a Catholic, good character and a good name were her guiding principles. Dishonesty, theft, lies and cover up were conduct she did not tolerate. When any of us fell into any of those situations, she was generous with the rod, leaving us in no doubt that we could not cross her boundaries without consequence.

Ours was a very modest family, yet in keeping with her principle of honesty, she taught us to be content with what we had. We were not allowed to have in our possession things that were not given us by Maame or Papa.

If any "contraband" item was found in our possession, we had to account to her, to her satisfaction or return it to the owner. A couple of times, one of the boys had accounted for some "contraband" by saying he found it on the ground.

When this explanation came up a third time, Maame took control of the situation and said "You are not the only one who lives in this neighbourhood, you can't be the only one who finds things on the ground; go back to where you found this thing and put it back there".

Maame taught us to be trust worthy stewards, particularly of money. When she sent any of us on an errand, whether a one item errand or a long shopping list errand, we had to account for the purchases made to the last pesewa. If we received more change than was due us for anything she sent us to buy, she ordered us to send it back. There was no monetary reward for doing any errand for her or the family, for that matter. The proverbial "tsobo" did not apply in our home because of her vigilance.

Despite her lack of formal education, Maame was a very industrious trader with a sharp business acumen, for decades selling at the Makola Market and at home. At various points in her long trading life, she sold different things like cloth, cosmetics, provisions, fresh fish, smoked fish and general food items.

Maame continued her trading business till she became too old to keep on with it. Probably because she had no formal education, Maame was very passionate about education.

From the proceeds of her hard work, she put in every physical and financial effort to ensure that all of us received higher education.

She provided not just for us, the family back in the village looked up to her for help, which she offered generously. At various points in time, younger brothers, nephews and nieces joined us in Accra to school, work or help with her trading.

In 1977, her late husband and our father became very ill and spent many months in various hospitals, a situation that incapacitated him for years, making it impossible for him to work. For all that Papa went through, the emotional trauma for Maame, the rest of the family and the miracle of answered prayer that kept him alive, Maame gave her life to Christ in 1980 and was baptised and accepted into membership of Calvary Baptist Church, where the rest of us already worshipped. She continued to worship in Calvary till the family relocated to another part of Accra when she joined the Church of Pentecost.

Following from Papa's illness, Maame became the sole provider for the family.

# CHILDREN



ABENA MANFUL



PATRICIA AMENYO



LOUIS ANDOH



VERONICA ANDOH



ANTHONY ANDOH



ISAAC ANDOH



EMMANUEL ANDOH

It was a very difficult time for her and for us as the future looked bleak but in the midst of the hardship, she one day sat down the younger children who still had a lot more school years ahead and pledged to them that as long as God gave her life, their education would not be sacrificed because of what had befallen the family, assuring them that she would put in every effort to ensure that everyone reached the level of education they are capable of getting to.

True to her pledge, she carried this heavy burden sacrificially, holding on to faith till one by one, we the older children started to work and took some of the burden off her.

This tribute will be incomplete without looking back at the lighter side of Maame's life. Maame did not manage to speak any other language, apart from her own, not even Ga after having lived in Accra for close to seventy years. Attempting to say anything in English was a different thing altogether as one could never tell the actual English word she was trying to pronounce.

For this, she was quite a source of entertainment to us and we gave her many additional nick names based on how she butchered various English words. But the joy of it all is that she laughed at herself and also joined us to laugh at her.

Maame, the laughing sessions you created for us with your English prowess will outlive you. As children we did not appreciate the tough principles of morality that you enforced but when we became adults we realised you did us a lot of good. One after the other as we grew up, we realised that there is a simple English word for all that you tried hard to instill in us - INTEGRITY.

Your long labour has come to an end but the impact you made on us lives on and has gone beyond us. Thank you Maame, for an exemplary life. Thank you for walking your talk. Thank you for all that you gave up in those very difficult years so that the future you dreamed about for us will come true.

Fare thee well, Maame. Maame, Da yie

# TRIBUTE BY SONS-IN-LAW

REV. PAUL AMENYO & PETER MANFUL

*'She carefully watches all that goes on in her household and suffers nothing from laziness. Her children stand and bless her. Her husband praises her. There are many virtuous and capable women in the world but you surpass them all.'* (Proverbs 31: 27-29 NLT)

When our time on earth is done, money and material things will not matter any more but the love, time and kindness we have given others will shine and live forever.

Abenaa Maame or simply Maame, as we affectionately called her, was like most typical African mothers of her days, full of strength and dignity, very business-minded and hardworking, traditionally principled, strong on her African values and caring for all who came under the covering of her wings.

She was very industrious and always got up early on her way to Kwasia Dwaso to trade in the Central Business District of Accra. She was the no nonsense type in the up bringing of her children. Strict but cool and collected.

One did not have to be with her for long to see the spirit of the virtuous woman spoken of in proverbs 31 at work in her life. A strong helper of her husband through thick and thin and supporter of her children, always trying to leave an example of a disciplined life in her trail for her children and all who got close to her. No wonder we got attracted to her home in search of life-partners. The respect and acceptance she showed us when we came there gave us assurance about marrying her children.

Maame, you gave us noble partners, well-mannered and cultured; unsoiled before their time. We say, thank you, thank you and thank you for being a caring mother-in-law.

We remember your pieces of advice, your kind heart and welcoming smiles - All these will be missed.

You were a mother-in-law who trusted and respected your sons-in-law so never intruded into your children's marriages. Thank you for giving us the privilege and allowing us to struggle and fight to build our own homes and lives.

When we assunder part, it gives us inward pain but we shall still be joined in heart and hope to meet again.

Abenaa Maame, the road you have travelled has come to an end. You are on your way to your maker. We, your sons-in-law, bid you farewell.

May your strong but gentle soul rest in perfect peace.  
And may the eternal light perpetually shine upon you now and forever.

Da Yie, Xede Nyuiee  
W) odzogbaa  
Adios Abena Maame.  
Adios, our Mother inlaw.  
Rest in peace  
Rise in Glory.



# SONS & DAUGHTERS-IN-LAW



PETER AMOAH MANFUL



REV. PAUL AMENYO



ROSE ANDOH



DORA ANDOH



MARY ANDOH

# TRIBUTE BY GRANDCHILDREN

*If we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord. Roman 14:8.*

Nana as we call her was a very strong and hardworking woman. She never entertained laziness around her. Even though she had no formal education, Nana was very particular about education and would support in any means to see her grandchildren in school. She never compromised on quality no matter the cost. She was a straightforward person and will not relent when she has to reprimand you when you go wayward.

Nana was always happy to see us whenever we paid her a visit especially during our New Year family gatherings. She will make sure everyone was well fed before she will even eat anything and will always give us money when it was time to leave.

Nana, your prayers for the entire family cannot be forgotten.

You will mention everybody's name and spend time praying for each of us. Our success today as your grandchildren is attributed to your relentless prayers for us all.

It was a sad Thursday morning, when the news came through that you had gone to be with your maker. You may have passed on but your memories will always live on. Thank you for all the sacrifices, your care and concern, your love and everything you did for us. Wherever you are, we know you are in a much better place. We will forever be grateful to God for giving you to us as our Grandmother. May the Almighty God grant you eternal rest.

Nana da yie!!

Nana Nyame mfa wo sie yie!!

# GRANDCHILDREN



# GREAT GRANDCHILDREN



# TRIBUTE BY THE CHURCH OF PENTECOST

SOWUTUOM DISTRICT NAZARETH ASSEMBLY

*"Then I heard a voice from heaven say, 'Write this: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.' Yes, says the Spirit, they will rest from their labour, for their deeds will follow them."*

*(Revelation 14: 13)*

Today, we gather to celebrate the life and mourn the passing of our beloved sister, Madam Rita Yaa Yeboah, whose mortal remains lie before us. She joined the Church of Pentecost, Nazareth Assembly in the Sowutuom District in 2010, after being a member of the Calvary Baptist Church at Adabraka, where she was baptized by immersion in 1980. She later joined the Church of Pentecost, A-Long Assembly of the then Kwashieman District from 1997 to 2010, before relocating to Race Course and fellowshiping with Nazareth Assembly until her passing on March 28, 2024.

As a virtuous woman, she was deeply committed to the Women's Ministry, serving as a role model for many women in the church and community. Her dedication was unwavering, even in her advanced age. She would arrive at women's ministry meetings with her walking stick, always eager to participate and contribute.

Her generosity was evident in her consistent support of the women's ministry.

In her final months, her health declined, making it impossible for her to join us in fellowship. Yet, on communion Sundays, we ensured she received communion in her home, where she would inquire about the church's well-being.

She did not hesitate to send her tithe on communion Sundays as well. We prayed fervently for her recovery but on March 28, 2024, our loving God called her into His glory. May His Holy Name be forever praised.

Mama Rita Yeboah, your unwavering commitment, love for humanity, and prayerfulness will never be forgotten. We take comfort in knowing that there is joy in heaven, for "Nyame ba aba fie" (God has taken His own). Until we meet again, may you continue to rest peacefully in the bosom of the Lord. AMEN.



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# GALLERY

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# APPRECIATION

The Children and Family of **OBAAPANYIN RITA YAA YEBOAH** thank you sincerely for your messages of encouragement, your prayers, your gifts, your presence and the diverse ways in which you stood with us during the passing and funeral of our beloved.