

Appreciation

The Widow, Children and Entire Family
sincerely acknowledges your kind gesture,
support, prayers during the Life, Death &
Funeral of their beloved
Fritz Wilhelm Soltermann - Oku

May God Bless You All



Burial Mass
for the late

Friedrich Wilhelm
SOLTERMANN-OKU

Aged 85

Sunrise:30.03.1935 - Sunset: 08.04.2020

Hymns

A & M 401

Now the labourer's task is o'er
Now the battle day is 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 me now Thy servant sleeping.

There the shepherd, bringing home
To the cross their dying eyes,
All the love of Christ 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.
Left behind, we wait in trust
For the Resurrection-day
Father, in Thy gracious keeping
Leave we now Thy servant sleeping.
Amen.

A & M 27

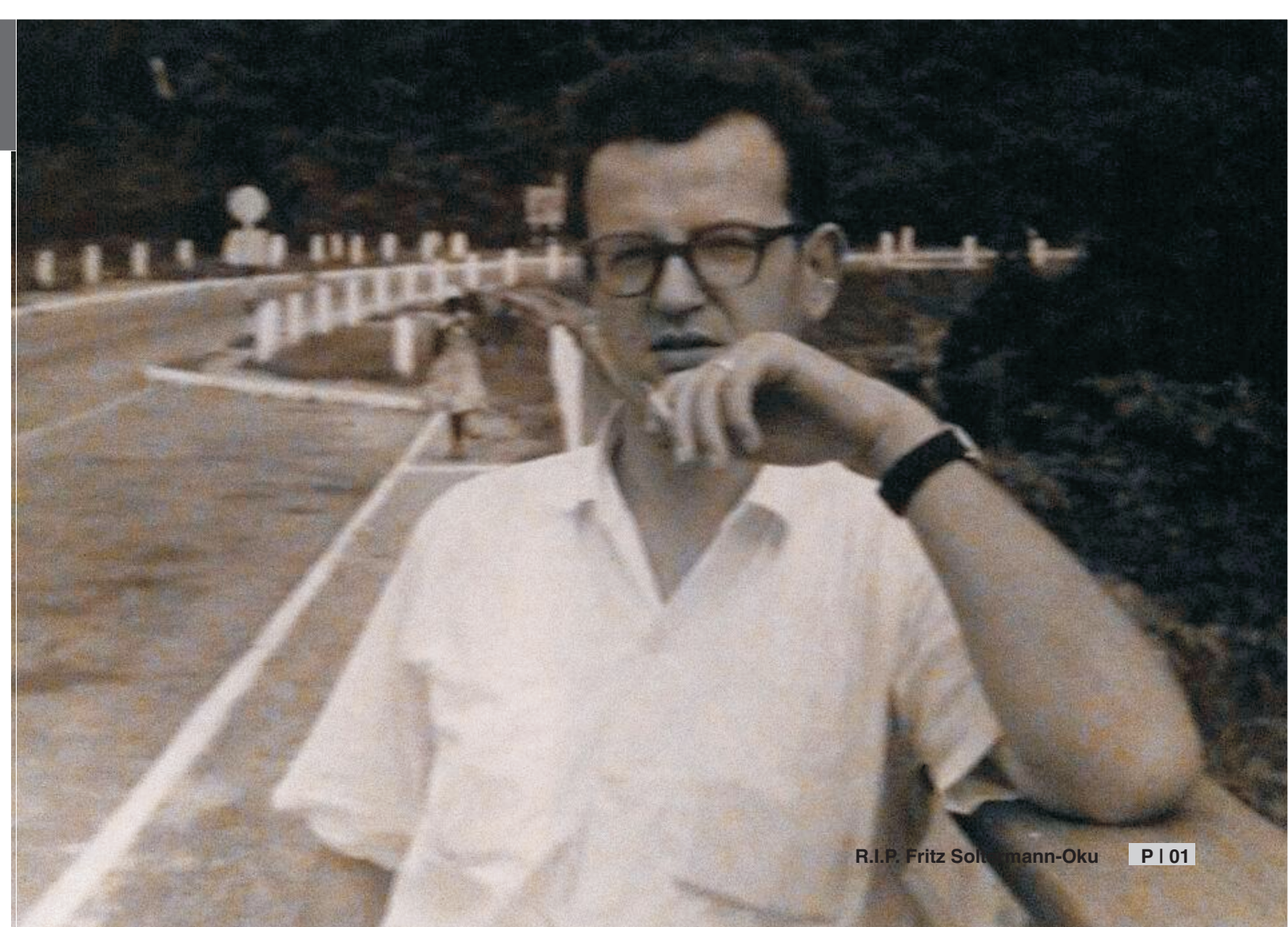
ABIDE with me; fast falls the eventide,
The darkness deepens; LORD, with me abide;
When other helpers fail, and comfort flee,
Help of the helpless, Abide with me.

Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day;
Earth's joy 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.



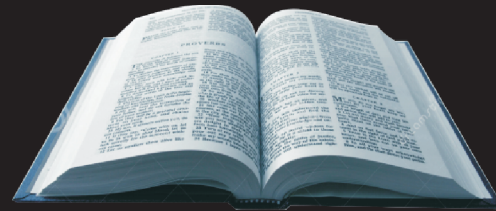
Officiating Priests

Rev. Canon Samuel Lamptey

Rev. Fr. Eric Owusu

James Pinkrah (Chief Server)

Organist: Andrew Addy



ORDER OF MASS

PART 1: BURIAL SERVICE

Opening Hymn - A & M 290. Through all the changing scenes of life

Welcome / Intentions / Opening Prayer

Psalm 121

Hymn A & M 197. The King of Love my Shepherd is

Biography

Hymn A & M 196. Guide me O Thou Great Jehovah

1st Scripture Reading - 1 Thess 4:13-18

2nd Scripture Reading - John 10:11-16

Hymn: A & M 184. Rock of Ages Cleft for Me

Sermon

Hymn: A & M 334. Loving Shepherd of Thy Sheep

Offertory Hymns: A & M 231, 228, 240

Blessing of Offertory

PART 2: THANKSGIVING SERVICE

Hymn: A & M 223. Hark, hark my Soul, Angelic songs.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Hymn: A & M 623. Give me the wings of faith to rise

Absolution of the Dead

Dead March in Saul

Notices

Recessional Hymn: A & M 740 God be with you till we meet again

PART 3: AT THE GRAVESIDE

Hymn: A & M 44. Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling

Sentences

Hymn: A & M 401 Now the Labourers' task is o'er.

Committal

Laying of Wreaths

Vote of Thanks

Hymn: A & M 27. Abide with me, fast falls the even tide

Benediction

Hymns

A & M 623

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.

Once they were mourning here below,
And wet their couch with tears;
They wrestled hard, as we do now,
With sins, and doubts, and fears.

We ask them whence their victory came
They, with united breath,
Ascribe their conquest to the Lamb,
Their triumph to His death.

They mark'd the foot steps that He trod
His zeal inspired their breast;
And, following their incarnate God
Possessed the promised rest.

Our glories Leader claims our praise
For His own pattern given;
While the long cloud of witnesses
Show the same path to heav'n.

A & M 740

God be with you till we meet again;
By his counsels guide, uphold you;
With his sheep securely fold you.
God be with you till we meet again.

[Chorus]
Till we meet, till we meet,
Till we meet at Jesus' feet,
Till we meet, till we meet,
God be with you till we meet again.

God be with you till we meet again;
When life's perils thick confound you,
Put his arms unfailing round you.
God be with you till we meet again.

God be with you till we meet again;
Keep love's banner floating o'er you;
Smite death's threat'ning wave before
you.
God be with you till we meet again.

SUPPL. 44

Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling
Calling for you and for me;
See, on the portal's He's waiting and watching
Watching for you and for me!

Come home! come home!
Ye who are weary, come home!
Earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling,
Calling, O sinner, come home!

Why should we tarry when Jesus is pleading
Pleading for you and for me?
Why should we linger and heed not His mercies
Mercies for you and for me?

Time is now fleeting, the moments are passing
Passing from you and from me;
Shadows are gathering, death-beds are coming
Coming for you and for me!

Oh, for the wonderful love He has promised
Promised for you and for me!
Though we have sinned, He has mercy and
pardon
Pardon for you and for me!

Hymns

A & M 184

Rock of ages, cleft for me
Let me hide myself in Thee
Let the Water and the Blood
From Thy riven side which flow'd,
Be sin the double cure,
Cleanse me from its guilt and power

Not the labours of my hands
Can fulfill Thy law's demands;
Could my zeal no respite know
Could my tears forever flow
All for sin could not atone:
Thou must save, and Thou alone.

Nothing in my hand I bring
Simply to Thy Cross I cling
Naked, come to Thee for dress;
Helpless, look to Thee for grace;
Foul, I to the fountain fly;
Wash me, Saviour or I die

While I draw this fleeting breath,
When my eyelids close in death
When I sore through tracks unknown
See Thee on Thy Judgement Throne:
Rock of ages, cleft for me,
Let me hide myself in Thee.

A & M 334

Loving Shepherd of your sheep,
all your lambs in safety keep;
nothing can your power withstand,
none can pluck them from your hand.

2 May they praise you ev'ry day,
gladly all your will obey,
like your blessed ones above,
happy in your precious love.

3 Loving Shepherd, ever near,
teach your lambs your voice to hear;
suffer not their steps to stray
from the straight and narrow way.

4 Where you lead them may they go,
walking in your steps below;
then, before your Father's throne,
Savior, claim them for your own.

A & M 223

Hark! Hark my soul!, Angelic songs are swelling
O'er earth's green fields, and ocean's wave-beat shore:
How sweet the truth those blessed strains are telling
Of that new life when sin shall be no more
Angels of Jesus, Angels of light,
Singing to welcome the pilgrims of the night

Onward we go, for still we hear them singing,
Come, weary souls, for Jesus bids you come:
And through the dark, its echoes sweetly ringing,
The music of the gospel leads us home.

Far, far away, like bells at evening pealing,
The voice of Jesus sounds o'er land and sea,
And laden souls, by thousands meekly stealing,
Kind Shepherd, turn their weary steps to Thee.



EARLY LIFE

The late Fritz Wilhelm Soltermann was born on the 30th of March, 1935 to Rudolf Soltermann and Ida Solterman Stettler all of blessed memory at Trubschachen in Emmental, Switzerland, He was the second of four siblings to his parents.

EDUCATION

He had his primary and secondary school education at Trubschachen and Langnau in Emmental, Switzerland from 1942 to 1951.

He was offered admission in 1951 - 1952 to study French in Neuchatel, Switzerland. In 1952 - 1955, he did his apprenticeship with Cantonal Bank at

BIOGRAPHY OF

Fritz Wilhelm **SOLTERMANN-OKU**

Sunrise:30.03.1935 - Sunset: 08.04.2020

"I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid for us a crown of righteousness which the Lord, the righteous Judge shall give us at that day, and not to me only, but unto all them also that love His appearance." II Tim. 4:7-8

Langnau in Emmental and did an attachment with the Swiss Military Service.

WORKLIFE

In 1956 - 1959 he moved to Zurich to work for AMAG (VW Dealership). In 1959 he migrated to Accra - Ghana to work for United Trading Company (UTC) of Basel Mission as an Accountant and Auditor.

He established SOMACO Limited in partnership with Haus Mahrer of Mohlin, Switzerland and Octavius Oku all of blessed memory. He also established Emmental Farms at Gomoa Abutia in the Central Region.

Hymns

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.

Oh, 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.

Oh, make but trial of His love,
Experience will decide
How blest they are, 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.

A & M 197

The King of love my shepherd is,
whose goodness faileth never.
I nothing lack if I am his,
and he is mine forever.

Where streams of living water flow,
my ransomed soul he leadeth;
and where the verdant pastures grow,
with food celestial feedeth.

Perverse and foolish, oft I strayed,
but yet in love he sought me;
and on his shoulder gently laid,
and home, rejoicing, brought me.

In death's dark vale I fear no ill,
with thee, dear Lord, beside me;
thy rod and staff my comfort still,
thy cross before to guide me.

Thou spreadst a table in my sight;
thy unction grace bestoweth;
and oh, what transport of delight
from thy pure chalice floweth!

And so through all the length of days,
thy goodness faileth never;
Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise
within thy house forever.

A & M 196

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!
Bread of heaven!
Feed me now and evermore.

Open now the crystal fountain
Whence the healing streams doth flow;
Let the fiery, cloudy pillar
Lead me all my journey through
Strong deliverer!
Strong deliverer!
Be Thou still my strength and shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan
Bid my anxious fears subside;
Death of deaths, and hell's destruction
Lend me safe on Canaan's side:
Songs of praises
Songs of praises
I will ever give to you.

In 1986 - 1994, he relocated to Hangenthal Aarwangen, Switzerland working for GEISER AG (Meat Processing and Distribution Company). He returned to Accra, Ghana and established partnership with the Mahogany Wood Processing and Furniture Company with Mr. Kwesi Sackey and Mr. Staubli of blessed memory in 1994.

Fritz' greatness was achieved through a dint of hardwork. His remarkable resilience and determination to ensure that the projects he embarked on did not become a nine-day-wonder was only matched by his desire to ensure that his children had the best of both worlds.

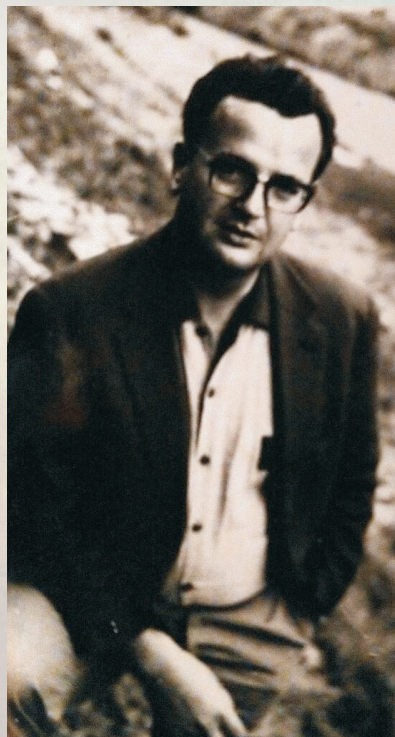
As a hobby, he established a Travel and Tour Agency EXPLORER - GHANA until his demise.

He was a man of sterling attributes and value traits. Never bear grudges and always willing to let go.

Daddy Fritz is survived by his wife Mrs. Aphrodite Nyorkor Soltermann Oku whom he married at the Ridge Church, Accra and were blessed with three (3) children; 2 females and a male; Mrs. Penelope Staenz, Ms. Sylvia Soltermann and Markus Soltermann and four (4) grandchildren. He is also survived by two (2) adopted children; Mr. George Amoo Graham and Ms. Freda Otua Graham.

The entire family has lost a father and a gem, but we find hope in our pain that, one day we shall reconnect to embrace your loving smiles in eternity.

May his soul rest in perfect peace.



R.I.P. Fritz Soltermann-Oku P | 04

TRIBUTE GRANDPA FROM HIS GRANDCHILDREN

Our dearest Grandpa will always remain in our hearts and in our memory. Since we can remember, our Grandpa was always a very correct and meticulous, regardless of the activity he was pursuing. We all remember all too well how important time was to our Grandpa, especially while travelling and although bothersome at times, it was a quality admired by us all. We all remember very fondly how he loved to play solitaire along with a nice cold bottle of beer. He was not only loyal to his family and friends, but also to the



places he visited. Hence, there were a select few places that got to enjoy the privilege of his presence. The same goes for the ice cream he ate. Although it we consider it to be his favourite dessert, he remained loyal to three flavours. Chocolate, Strawberry, and Vanilla with the occasional departure, when the former three were not available.

Our grandpa passed on many values such as discipline, organisation, and timeliness. Values we find ourselves reminded of on a daily basis. The most prominent habit he installed with us is finishing and cleaning our plates after every meal, especially when we served ourselves.

We have admired our grandfather through the years and witnessed how many people he has touched with his sense for adventure and travel, inspiring others and us to do the same.

We miss and love you Grandpa. May we meet again.

R.I.P. Fritz Soltermann-Oku P | 12

TRIBUTE BY WIDOW

"The Lord is my Shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me to lie down in green pastures: He leads me beside the still waters. He restores my soul: He leads me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I'll fear no evil; for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me. You prepared a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; My cup over runs.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever." Psalm 23: 1-6

My beloved husband and friend; Fritz.

I met my husband at a friends party and it was love at first sight.

Through rain and shine, through wind and storm, through tears or laughter, we embraced the gift of marriage as God intended.

Days transcended into weeks; weeks into months; months into years; years into decades as God gradually saw us through our marriage journey. I treasure the steps we took and savour each milestone of our lives together.

We got married after 4 years which was in 1968. The good Lord blessed us with three beautiful children; two women - Mrs. Penelope Staenz, Ms. Sylvia Soltermann and one handsome man, Mr. Markus Soltermann and two adopted children; Mrs. Freda Otua Graham and Mr. George Amo Graham.

My dear husband was very caring that, he sometimes forgot and treated me like his daughter. He loved me so much that, he even extended that love to my country Ghana.

He is the love of my life.

Words cannot express the depth of grief and sorrow, I can only echo the words of the Hymn:

*JESUS, my Saviour, Brother, Friend,
On whom I cast my every care,
On whom for all things I depend,
Inspire, and then accept, my prayer.*

If I say I will write, I can write a whole book about my husband.

Fritz AufWiedesehen!

Rest in perfect peace till we meet again.

R.I.P. Fritz Soltermann-Oku P | 05

Wife's Favourite Hymns

SUPPL. 1

*JESUS, my Saviour, Brother, Friend,
On whom I cast my every care,
On whom for all things I depend,
Inspire, and then accept, my prayer.*

*If I have tasted of Thy grace,
The grace that sure salvation brings;
If with me now Thy Spirit stays,
And hovering hides me in His wings:*

*Still let Him with my weakness stay
Nor for a moment's space depart;
Evil and danger turn away,
And keep till He renews my heart.*

*When to the right or left I stray,
His voice behind me may I hear;
Return, and walk in Christ thy way;
Fly bark to Christ, for sin is near.*

*His sacred unction from above
Be still my comforter and Guild:
Till all the hardness He remove,
And in my loving heart reside.*

SUPPL. 11

*They who tread the path of labour follow
where My feet have trod.
They who work without complaining do
the holy will of God;
Nevermore thou needest seek Me;
I am with thee everywhere;
Raise the stone and thou shalt find Me;
cleave the wood and I a there.*

*Where the many toil together,
there am I among My own;
Where the tires workman sleepeth
there am I with him alone
I, the Peace that passeth knowledge, dwell
amid the daily strife.
I, the Bread of heaven, am broken in the
sacrament of life.*

*Every task, however simple, sets the soul
that does it free.
Every deed of love and mercy done to man,
is done to Me.
Nevermore thou needest seek Me;
I am with thee everywhere;
Raise the stone, and thou shalt find Me;
cleave the wood and I am there.*

A & M 334

*Loving Shepherd of Thy Sheep
Keep Thy lamb, in safety keep
Nothing can Thy power withstand,
None can pluck me from Thy Hand.*

*Loving Saviour, Thou didst give
Thine own life that we might live
And the Hands outstretch'd to bless
Bear the cruel nails' impress.*

*I would praise Thee every day
Gladly all Thy Will obey
Like Thy blesse'd ones above
Happy in Thy precious love.*

*Loving Shepherd, ever near,
Teach Thy lamb Thy voice to hear,
Suffer not my steps to stray
From the straight and narrow way.*

*Where Thou leadest I would go
Walking in Thy steps below
Till before my Father's Throne
I shall know as I am known.*

TRIBUTE TO MR. FRITZ SOLTERMANN BY HIS SON MARKUS

My tribute to Daddy will also follow his life motto of "speech is silver, but silence is golden".

Like Daddy, I myself am usually a person of few words. Daddy and I could take a trip together or sit in a Restaurant and just enjoy a drink without exchanging more than a few words. We both understood each other and felt comfortable in each other's presence.

Daddy formed me into the man I am today. He taught me the meaning of hard work, respect, fairness and responsibility. He also taught me to always strive for a goal and gave me the certainty that I could achieve anything I set my mind to.

He taught me to play and savour the nice things in life. He was always a support whenever I was looking for advice or for help.

He supported me in my decisions but always asked

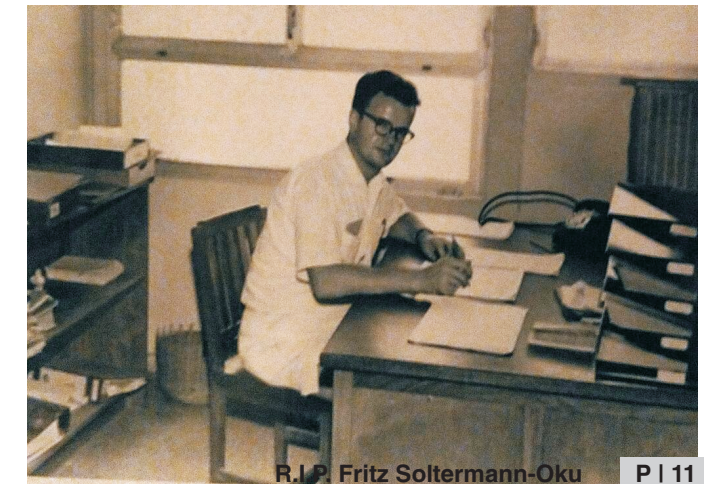
the right questions. When he thought I was going off track, he helped me find my way back. He was my father, my friend and my tutor.

I thank Daddy for all he gave me.

In my memory, he will live on, as I will reminisce about the wonderful moments I spent with him for the rest of my life.

Well done Daddy and rest in peace.

Your son, Markus.



R.I.P. Fritz Soltermann-Oku

TRIBUTE BY SILVIA

As Penelope confirmed: Daddy was a man of few words so my tribute will follow his example too.

Contrary to my father, I am not a person of few words and I can go on and on and on....

Daddy would just sit there with a little smile on his face and watch me make my case. He would be listening carefully though and then would correct me, if he thought I was wrong. Or shut the discussion down if he disagreed with me completely. When that happened, I knew there was a lesson to be learned. You might not have understood it at the beginning, but after due consideration you would get the message.

Daddy lived and taught by example.

A friend needed help; he did not hesitate to help. Somebody had to go to the hospital, he would take them. You needed a ride; he would come and get you.

The list of what he did for others is endless - undeterred and steadfast.

He was an extremely solicitous character, and I think, as I am the baby of the family, I was at the top of his worry list and I reckon, I gave him a few grey hairs. The only time he was not apprehensive about us kids, was when we were home, at school or in sight.

Although Daddy was a stern disciplinarian, he always had an appetite for adventure and the little treats in life. I remember car rallies, beach days, trekking up and down hills and mountains, Christmas tree hunting, sleigh rides, apples from Lomé, and bowling at the Swiss Society Club House (and that amused smile of his, when I did not hit a pin).

That little smile said more than thousand words and it will be missed dearly.

Well done Daddy and rest in peace.

Your daughter, Silvia



R.I.P. Fritz Soltermann-Ok P | 10

TRIBUTE TO MY FATHER FRITZ SOLTERMANN, 1935 – 2020, BY PENELOPE

My father is now at perfect rest in a peaceful sleep. As Christians, we have the hope of everlasting life and the certainty that no soul is lost to Jehovah, our heavenly father.

God has the power to undo death by means of the resurrection, and hH promises to do just that in His new world.

As the Holy Bible says:

«But about the resurrection of the dead - have you not read what God said to you, "I am the God of Abraham, God of Isaac and the God of Jacob"? He is not the God of the dead but of the living.» Matthew 22:31-32

«So with you: now is your time of grief, but I will see you again and you will rejoice, and no one will take away your joy» John 16:22

With this in mind, I am giving this eulogy in the present tense, as my father and all the deceased are alive to God.

My father is a man of principle and as you surely know a man of few words. So my tribute will follow his example by being concise.

He is the most caring person. He is also absolutely straightforward. He is constantly in search of solutions beneficial to most, with an immense sense

of consideration and anticipation. He loathes all forms of violence.

As a child, growing up with a father like this could be quite unnerving. He always knew when we were up to mischief and would stop us from getting into trouble, putting others into harms way or making major mistakes and taking wrong decisions for ourselves and for others.

On the other hand, this always made me wonder, how a mere human being could be capable of so much wisdom and foresight.

My father believes in traditional upbringing. He is not the father who pampers his offsprings. He believes in discipline, hard work, competence and authority. He raised his children in this manner, very strict but at the same time, knowing how important it is, to have time for leisure and fun. I guess you could call it "tough love."

Daddy is always on the move, always curious, always demanding. Reading newspapers and watching the news on TV is his daily routine. As kids, he encouraged us to read, read, read: newspapers to be informed about current affairs, enabling us to make decent conversation and books to broaden our minds.

Father loves nature. Fauna and Flora are full of beauty to him, hence he kept pets of all sorts, including parrots, snakes, rabbits, cats, dogs, a piglet, ducks etc, etc.

His gardens are always impeccably kept, full of beautiful flowers and trees.

His love for music is another strong attribute of his personality. The house would always be filled with music.

In 1955 he was a founding member of the Jodel Club of Trubschachen. Whenever he stayed in Switzerland, he enjoyed his hobby as an active singer.

He is especially fond of the folkloristic music of Switzerland and traditional Jazz. Ghanaian Highlife often moved him to dance. Another of his favourite pastimes are playing cards, solving crossword puzzles and taking on SUDOKU challenges.

So you see, Fritz Soltermann-Oku, my father, is also a man of various interests and with many facets.

Ayekoo, dear Father. Well done.

I shall miss you dearly until we meet again.

Rest peacefully, Daddy, until you hear Jehovah's call.

Your daughter, Penelope.



Grandpaa and Phoebe in October, 2019 just before he returned to Accra



Grandpaa with Yannick & Tettey at Airport before departure to Accra 2019

