

call to
Glory



MR EMMANUEL HILL MENDES

(Alias Uncle Ebow)

1936 - 2024



BURIAL AND THANKSGIVING SERVICE FOR THE LATE

BROTHER EMMANUEL EBOW HILL MENDS

AT THE TRANSITION FUNERAL HOME HAATSO

ON WEDNESDAY 3RD APRIL 2024 AT 10.30AM

INTERMENT PRIVATE BURIAL

ORDER OF SERVICE

OFFICIATING CLERGY

THE VERY REV. NICHOLAS ODUM –BAIDOO (SUPERINTENDENT MINISTER)

VERY REV JUSTUS ALLOTEY-MACEDONIA

REV. MRS RACHAEL STUFF-MACEDONIA

CHOIR MASTER

BRO. EBENEZER INKUM

BRO. EMMANUEL QUANSAH

ORGANISTS

BRO. EDWARD ANKRAH

PART 1 - BURIAL SERVICE

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3. Announcement of Purpose
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PART 2 - COMMENDATION AND THANKSGIVING

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Biography of The Late Mr. Emmanuel Ebow Hill Mends

Mr. Emmanuel Ebow Hill Mends – aka “Uncle Ebow”, “Bindoff”, “Master”, “Maapa”, “EH”, “May de May”, “Daddy”, “Popsicle” – was born in Cape Coast on Tuesday, 28th July 1936. His parents were Mr. Emmanuel Kofi Hill Mends (aka Kanto) and Mrs Eunice Matilda Mends (nee Addaquay), both of blessed memory. Uncle Ebow was called to his Maker on Tuesday, 20th February 2024. He belonged to the Kona Ebiradze clan of Cape Coast and was the fourth of ten siblings; six unfortunately passed away in their childhood leaving four boys (Papa, Atta, Ebow and Fiifi). Uncle Ebow was born three years after his twin brothers thus becoming the beloved Tawia of the family. Thankfully, he and his siblings were brought up in a Christian home, EgyirdwenFie (a stone throw away from the Wesley Methodist Church, Cape Coast) where the first Methodist Missionaries domiciled and established the premier Methodist Church, now a Methodist Cathedral. Uncle Ebow lived up to expectation and proved that he was truly a scion of reputable Christian stock. To God be the Glory!

He started his primary education at the Methodist Boys’ School, Cape Coast. He sat for the Common Entrance Examination at a young age, passed with flying colours and gained a scholarship to Mfantshipim Secondary School. While at Mfantshipim School, he sat for his GCE Ordinary Level Certificate in 1955; thus, belonging to the great 1955 MOBA year group, with classmates Prof. Kodwo Eyeson, Dr. Andrew Arkutu, late Dentist Francis Poku, David Hanson Adu, Ambassador Jimmy Aggrey Orleans, B. G. Godwyll and many others. He returned to his alma mater to continue his sixth form education. He passed well, distinguishing himself in the GCE Advanced Level Examination. Thereafter he proceeded to the University of Ghana, Legon in 1957 and graduated with a Bachelor of Science (Sociology) with First Class Honours on 26th July, 1961. This sterling performance at the University of Ghana won for him a Commonwealth Scholarship to pursue further graduate studies at the prestigious King’s College, University of Cambridge, for a Degree of Master of Letters in Sociology and Anthropology. On his return to Ghana, he was appointed a lecturer at the Department of Sociology, University of Ghana in 1965 and was later a Senior Lecturer.

He got married to Mrs Rebecca Ama Mends (nee Aaku) at Legon Methodist Church on 26th December, 1966. This marriage was blessed with four children; Ebow, Ewurama, Maame Efua (who shares the same birthday with her Daddy) and Papa Dikye.

“Maapa” visited several universities in the United States of America, Liberia and Canada, as a visiting professor. In the 1980s, he took up a teaching appointment in the University of Maiduguri and taught for a period of 2 years before returning to the University of Ghana to continue his work. He retired in 1997 but due to his wide experience, hard work and commitment to teaching, he was given a contract to continue working until he finally left the services of the University of Ghana in 2011.

Biography of The Late Mr. Emmanuel Ebow Hill Mends

It is gratifying to note that "EH" published a large number of interesting articles in areas such as African Traditional Religion, Bribery & Corruption, Marriage & Child Rights and other related subjects. While in service, he faithfully served on several important boards and committees in the University, the Academic Board of the Faculty of Social Sciences, Board of the Volta Basin Research Project, Board of Environmental Protection Council and Editor of the Legon Journal and many more.

On retirement, he continued to attend services at the Macedonia Methodist Church, Kwashieman until the frailties of old age would no longer permit him. We are grateful to the church Pastoral team that usually called and administered communion at home. He always looked forward to those visits and would always engage the visiting team in one form of conversation or the other. This was one of his happy times.

Mr. Mends is survived by his wife who is unwell, four children, a 90-year-old brother, a host of grandchildren, cousins, nephews, nieces.

Those we love don't go away,

They walk beside us every day,

Unseen, unheard, but always near,

Still loved, still missed and very dear,

MAY THE GOOD LORD GRANT HIM ETERNAL REST TILL WE MEET AGAIN.



Tribute By Sibling

Atta Egyir Fynn Mends

"God is His Own Interpreter, And He will make it plain..."

Atta Egyir Fynn Mends "God is His Own Interpreter, And He will make it plain..." Ebow, my dear brother, for upwards of eighty (80) years, we were inseparably joined, so to speak, at the hip, with a great love, a great sense of belonging, and understanding for each other. Today, you are no more you're gone and I am left alone to plod on, without your good self, a dear Ebow Kobena, Tawia. This is evidently heart-breaking and really difficult for me to bear, but thankfully the merciful God is still in control; and as the great hymnist succinctly put it: "God is His own Interpreter, and He will make it plain..."

When this piece of sad news reached me, I couldn't believe my ears. It sounded like a dream, although I knew that Ebow had been ill for quite some time and his failing health was seemingly getting better from time to time.

As an avid reader, a longtime researcher and an examiner who was almost always, literally buried in piles of documents, manuscripts and books of all sizes, his greatest worry was his failing sight and other related health problems.

When I asked what really happened, I was reliably informed that after Ebow had taken a cup of water, he retired to his bedroom and calmly relaxed on his bed and soon after, he started smiling all through, looking like he was listening to a voice.

I can well imagine that as he was smiling cheerfully to the words of a hymn our late parents taught us among others - MHB 504 dawned on his mind.

"Sing, pray and swerve not from His way
But do thine own part faithfully,
Trust His rich promises of grace
So that they be fulfilled in thee,
God never yet forsook at need,
The soul that trusts Him indeed."

Thankfully, the merciful God "never forsook" Ebow in the trying moments of his life. No doubt he smiled and smiled while he was breathing his last. He was very prayerful, peaceful and level-headed; a gentleman indeed! I recollect a piece of advice he gave to his nephews and nieces some time back in Cape Coast. It still remains indelible in my memory. He said and I quote:

"If you are a teacher, be a good teacher, read a lot because reading maketh man, study diligently and do your very best in the performance of your duty. If God gives you the gift of mercy, serve cheerfully and don't expect others to do what you do. Accept your special gift, cultivate your capabilities, stop complaining and always "enjoy being you". Do what you can, where you are with what you have." He concluded.

Let me take advantage of this opportunity to express my appreciation and gratitude to your children for the innumerable services they so readily rendered towards your upkeep, medication and comfort.

My wife, Justina, who over the years, has been more of a sister to you than a sister-in-law, and my children including Mamaa, who you loved so dearly because she was named after our late mother, join hands with cousins, nephews and nieces here and overseas in wishing you safe journey to a place where there are no tears, no pains, no aches, no hatred, but PEACE, which was always evident in your life.

Nantsew yie, Uncle Ebow Tawia!

Nantsew yie mo nua Enyinyamfo.

Nyame m fa wo nto n'abawmu sonn

Kepem aber a yebehyia wo bio.

Nantsew yie!

TRIBUTE BY THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY, UNIVERSITY OF GHANA, LEGON

Some of us called you Uncle Mends. For others, it was Ebow Mends. It is with great sadness that I, on behalf of the Department of Sociology, write this tribute.

On 28th July 1961, Mr. Mends indicated his desire for further studies by writing thus:

"I wish to be considered for an award of the College postgraduate scholarship. I entered the College in October 1958 for a three-year course in Sociology. In June this year, I took the Degree Examination of BSc (SOC). It is hoped that results of this examination would be released soon. Acting on the advice of my Professor, I have had correspondence with the University of Cambridge on admission as Research Student in Social Anthropology". The following month 18th August 1961, The Registrar of the University College of Ghana, Mr. TA Mensah, had written the following about Mr. Mends: "This is to certify that Mr. E. H. Mends entered the University College of Ghana in October 1958. He was registered for the BSc Sociology. Mr. Mends sat and passed the final examination for this degree in June 1961. He was awarded First Class Honours". On 5th August 1961, Professor R.T. Smith wrote: "Mr. Mends will certainly be accepted for postgraduate Studies in Sociology and Social Anthropology at the University of Cambridge, and I have arranged for him to be admitted to King's College".

Time travelled so fast and on the 8th of March, 1965, An assistant Registrar of the now University of Ghana, Mr. R. H. B Graves indicated that "having received a letter from Mr. Mends today informing me that he has now completed his thesis. I have therefore arranged for him to travel back to Ghana on the 29th of this month." Hardly had he arrived in Ghana, Mr. Mends' services were quickly sought and the Registrar of the University of Ghana, Mr. E. A. K Edzii wrote to Mr. Mends, "on behalf of Council of the University of Ghana to offer you appointment as a lecturer in the Department of Sociology, University of Ghana." The then Acting Head, Department of Sociology, Professor de Graft-Johnson indicated as follows: "I have received a copy of your letter appointing Mr. Mends as a lecturer in this department from next October. As Mr. Mends is now available and we could use his service immediately, I propose he starts here from Tuesday May 11, 1965. I have discussed this with him and he is very willing to oblige."

Whilst lecturing at the University of Ghana, Mr. Mends was nominated to go the United States on a lecture tour in 1973, sponsored by Phelps-Stokes Foundation for three months. His application was granted and he went on this tour in 1st January to 31st March 1974.

After your retirement in 1997, the Department and the University employed you on a contract basis to tap into your rich experience in academia. After over forty years of dedicated service to the University of Ghana and the Department of Sociology through Teaching, Supervision and Mentoring you finally left the service of the University in 2011. Mr. Mends, during your service to the Department of Sociology, you taught almost all the courses at the undergraduate and post-graduate levels. You supervised and mentored several students including about 90% of the current faculty in the Department of Sociology.

You rendered immeasurable service to the Department and served as a member of the University's Academic Board, Editor of the Legon Journal of Sociology, representative of the Department of Sociology on the Volta River Authority project, Co-ordinator of the Police Administration Unit of the department of Sociology, and the founding member and Secretary of the then Ghana Sociological Association.

You also extended your services to the entire university community by serving on several boards and committees such as the Chairperson of the Security committee, member of the Academic Board of the Faculty of Social Sciences, board member of the Volta Basin Project, Board member of the Environmental Protection Council as well as the Editor of the first in-house Journal for the Centre for Social Policy Studies (CSPS).

As an academic, you published numerous insightful papers on several themes including festivals, African Traditional Religion, Bribery and Corruption, Marriage and Child Rights.

Uncle Ebow, you have immensely contributed your widows mite to the development of sociology in Ghana, and it is our collective prayer that you rest peacefully at the bosom of your maker. Amen.

Hymns

MHB 411

1: HEAD of Thy Church triumphant,
We joyfully adore Thee,
Till Thou appear,
Thy members here
Shall sing like those in glory.
We lift our hearts and voices
With blest anticipation,
And cry aloud,
And give to God
The praise of our salvation.

2: The name we still acknowledge
That burst our bonds in sunder,
And loudly sing,
Our conquering king,
In songs of joy and wonder.
In every day's deliverance
Our Jesus we discover;
'Tis He, 'tis He That smote the sea,
And led us safely over!

3: While in affliction's furnace,
And passing through the fire,
Thy love we praise,
Which knows our days
And ever brings us nigher.
We clap our hands exulting
In Thine almighty favour;
The love divine
Which made us Thine
Shall keep us Thine for ever.

MHB 624

1: JESUS, still lead on,
Till our rest be won,
And, although the way be cheerless,
We will follow calm and fearless,
Guide us by Thy hand
To our fatherland.

2: If the way be drear,
If the foe be near,
Let no faithless fears o'ertake us,
Let not love and hope forsake us,
For through many a foe To our home we go.

3: When we seek relief
From a long felt grief;
When temptations come alluring,
Make us patient and enduring;
Show us that bright shore
Where we weep no more.

MHB 602

1: FATHER, I know that all my life
Is portioned out for me,
And the changes that are sure to come
I do not fear to see;
But I ask Thee for a present mind,
Intent on pleasing Thee.

2: I ask Thee for a thoughtful love,
Through constant watching wise,
To meet the glad with joyful smiles,
And wipe the weeping eyes,
And a heart at leisure from itself
To soothe and sympathize.

3: I would not have the restless will That hurries to and fro,
Seeking for some great thing to do Or secret thing to know;
I would be treated as a child,
And guided where I go.

MHB 878

1: O GOD, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast,
And our eternal home;

2: Under the shadow of Thy throne
Thy saints have dwelt secure;
Sufficient is Thine arm alone,
And our defence is sure.

3: Before the hills in order stood,
Or earth received her frame,
From everlasting Thou art God,
To endless years the same.

MHB 896

1: NOW praise we great and famous men,
The fathers named in story;
And praise the Lord who now as then,
Reveals in man His glory.

2: Praise we the wise and brave and strong,
Who graced their generation;
Who helped the right, and fought the wrong,
And made our folk a nation.

3: Praise we the great of heart and mind,
The singers sweetly gifted,
Whose music like a mighty wind
The souls of men uplifted.

MHB 615

1: GUIDE me, O Thou great Jehovah,
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.

2: Open Thou the crystal fountain,
Whence the healing stream shall flow;
Let the fiery cloudy pillar
Lead me all my journey through:
Strong deliverer!
Be Thou still my help and shield.

3: 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
I will ever give to Thee.

MHB 651

1: 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!

2: 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.

3: 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.

MHB 828

1: TEN thousand times ten thousand
In sparkling raiment bright,
The armies of the ransomed saints
Throng up the steeps of light;
'Tis finished, all is finished,
Their fight with death and sin;
Fling open wide the golden gates,
And let the victors in.

2: What rush of alleluias
Fills all the earth and sky!
What ringing of a thousand harps
Bespeaks the triumph night!
O day, for which creation
And all its tribes were made;
O joy, for all its former woes
A thousand-fold repaid!

3: O then what raptured greetings
On Canaan's happy shore;
What knitting severed friendships up,
Where partings are no more!
Then eyes with joy shall sparkle,
That brimmed with tears of late;
Orphans no longer fatherless,
Nor widows desolate.

MHB 975

1: WHEN the day of toil is done,
When the race of life is run,
Father, grant Thy wearied one
Rest for evermore.

2: When the strife of sin is stilled,
When the foe within is killed,
Be thy gracious word fulfilled-
Peace for evermore.

3: When the darkness melts away
At the breaking of the day,
Bid us hail the cheering ray-
Light for evermore.



APPRECIATION

The entire family of Mr Emmanuel Ebow Hill Mends wish to express their profound gratitude for all your prayers, kindness, and support through their bereavement.

May the good Lord richly bless you.