



Appreciation

The Children and the entire family of the late

Mr. James William BENNETT

*Gratefully acknowledge your Prayers,
Presence, Donations and other expression
of sympathy on the occasion of their
bereavement.*

We cannot thank you enough for your Support.

May God richly bless you that you

May not be weary in doing good.

A Glorious
Life Well
Lived!



Mr. James William BENNETT

FINAL PLACE OF REST: GETHESEMANE MEMORIAL GARDEN, EAST LEGON, ACCRA

A GLORIOUS LIFE WELL LIVED!



MR. JAMES WILLIAM BENNETT | PG 1

OFFICIATING CLERGY

- Monsignor Bacha
- Very Rev. Fr. Osom Bacha
- Very Rev. Fr. Andrew Campbell
- Very. Rev. Fr. Donkor Baine
- Very Rev. Fr. Anthony Oppong
- Very Rev Fr John Benya Mensah
- Rev Fr John Stephens - Chaplain & Teacher (Archbishop Potter Girls)
- Rev Fr John Ephraim - Assistant Priest (Tamso)
- Rev. Fr. Ebo Quarshie
- Rev. Fr. Eric Asagba

CHOIR IN ATTENDANCE

St. John The Evangelist Catholic Church Choir

CHOIR MASTERS

Mr. Emmanuel Arthur
Mr. Bismark Adusei
Mr. Vincent Bonney

ORGANISTS

Mr. Newlove Ahiavh
Mr. Evans Adusei

CONDUCTORS

Mr. James Antwi

Order Of Mass

PART ONE: READING OF TRIBUTES & FILING PAST

Reception of the body
Reading of Tributes / Filing Past
Hymns: CH. 353, 350, 351, 311, 363, 374, 259, 364, 106

PART TWO: HOLY MASS

Entrance: CH 212
Introit: Yewo fie bi wo sor ho
Kyrie: Mass of St Martha
1st Reading:
Responsorial Psalm: CH 106
Gospel Acclamation: Praise to you Lord, King of eternal glory
Gospel:
Homily
Prayer of the faithful: Sufre no
Collection: Medley of Songs

Incensation: CH 57
Sanctus: Mass of St. Martha
Great Amen: 3 folds. Amen
Pater Noster: Recite
Sign of Peace: It is well
Agnus Dei: Mass of St Martha
Communion: Hymns CH 374, 350, 111, 106
Post Communion Hymn:
Reading of Biography
Announcements
Vote of Thanks
Final Commendations
Recession: Dead March in Saul

PART THREE: GRAVE SIDE

Song: Silently CH 365
Burial Rites
Hymns CH 364
Vote of Thanks



Psalm 20:7

Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the LORD our God. They are brought to their knees and fall, but we rise and stand firm! O LORD save the King!

Names are powerful and depict character:

JAMES "Sup-planter", one who follows

WILLIAM "Resolute or Vehement Protector"

BENNETT "Blessed"

A GLORIOUS LIFE WELL LIVED!

Biography OF THE LATE

MR. JAMES WILLIAM BENNETT

A GLORIOUS LIFE WELL LIVED!

Sunrise - 09/28/1942

Sunset - 01/30/2020

My faith has found a resting place... "Alas! – at this final hour, in this solemn church-family, friends, loved ones and sympathizers have all come to bid farewell to a very humble and unassuming noble gentleman and yet the brightest hope of his family and all those he encountered but now-extinguished and although he will no longer be seen in the physical, he will forever remain with us in spirit.

BIRTH/EDUCATION

Born on September 28, 1942, Mr. James William Bennett eldest of eight (8) siblings was the son of the late Mrs. Margaret Eshun and Mr. Samuel Bennett. At the very early age of 5 years old, he lost his father Mr. Bennett a Town Planning Officer in their hometown of Axim. As a result, he spent his early childhood years under the training and supervision of his late mother and grandmother. He commenced his primary education in Eikwe, a town in the Western region of Ghana, and continued his elementary education in Axim where he graduated with distinction.

After completing middle school, he taught for a few years and then pursued to St. Andrews Teacher Training college

at Ashanti Mampong. Again, he graduated with distinction with the class of 1964 and continued further studies at the present university college of education in Winneba. He was then posted to Tarkwa ROSCO Secondary Commercial school as a tutor teaching English language and History. Due to his academic pursuit for excellence and leadership charisma, he was immediately promoted to Sr. House Master at a very early age while teaching in Tarkwa until his transfer to Abetifi Training College in 1971.

MARRIAGE

While passing time with some friends, after being transferred to Abetifi, Mr. Bennett met his dear wife Theresah Opoku and on June 4th, 1974, they tied the knot. God blessed them with five (5) lovely children. Together they made their home and raised their family. He was the solid rock providing all the necessities of life to his wife, children and extended family members. Indeed, the solid rock of his family.



PROFESSIONAL LIFE

While raising his family, he was transferred to Kaoga District Education Office, Somanya in the Eastern region of Ghana. Soon, he was promoted to the rank of Sr. Principal Superintendent where had oversight of Manpower/ Training, now HRMD. He used this opportunity to showcase his God-gifted talents and abilities and was promoted again to the position of Deputy Head of the entire district working as a trainer of trainers during the Reform Program Courses in 1987.

Later, he was transferred from Somanya to the Inspectorate Division of the Ghana Education Service in Accra. Due to his hard work, diligence and pursuit for excellence, he was again transferred from the Inspectorate Division to the Ministry of Education and later seconded to Primary Education Program (PREP). During this time, Mr. Bennett continued to be very forthcoming with his ideas and was one of the key pioneers in drafting and developing training courses for teachers across the country.

While working at the Ministry of Education, he was involved in various projects for the British Council, USAID, and the World Bank. He ceased every moment to make an impact with the opportunities presented to him as he travelled across various countries like Zimbabwe, Jamaica and South Africa to explore their Educational curriculum and to assess if any opportunities exist to make enhancements to the Educational system in Ghana.

After he returned from one of his Educational business trips to Zimbabwe, he was presented with another opportunity to serve as a Liaison Officer for the Ghana Broadcasting Corporation (GBC) and appeared several times on news channels presenting on

Educational Reforms in "Nzema." His business travels also extended to the United States in Miami, Florida in the early 90's to experience and assess the Educational system in the Western world. His service for humanity and support for Educational Reforms in Ghana, led him to be nominated to serve as an Advisor on various school boards.

In addition, to his rank of Assistant Director of Education, he was also the Head in charge of Supply and Logistics for the entire country under the Ghana Education Service (GES) overseeing numerous projects including the distribution of learning materials and text books to various regions and schools in Ghana until he retired in September 2002.

SOCIAL LIFE

Not only did he focus on his education and career, he also took a holistic approach towards life. He was always involved in other social activities, while serving as the solid rock in his family. As a very devoted family man, he stayed involved with the day to day details of his children, who always counted on his counsel and words of wisdom.

Mr. Bennett was very sociable, kindhearted and unassuming but very assertive and firm. He did not compromise on wrong behavior and was very clear on his position during your interactions with him. Often, he reiterated the importance of building healthy relationships and the need to be open and honest.

As for him, what is "black is black" and what's "white is white." He was a very principled man, a firm believer in

speaking his mind and established credibility with those he encountered. To him, the importance of exhibiting a positive attitude during trials and tribulations was key. One of his favorite quotes is by Martin Luther King Jr. **“The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy.”** Indeed, Mr. Bennett was a man of character and integrity who always stood by his words and affirmed positivity.

Rarely would you find his mind idle as you'll often find him with a novel book, his diary and a pen. He had a natural flair for reading and writing and as such, there was never a dull moment in his world. You will notice him in the morning and evening taking his usual walks in the neighborhood and socializing freely with everyone he encountered. His natural belief in spiritual healing attracted him to many as he devoted precious time visiting with the sick and giving alms to the poor and needy.

What an incredible and loving selfless giver who cared more than most, loved more than most and was made to suffer more than most simply because of just how much he cared. But no matter how many times he was knocked down or made to endure things that no one should, he just kept coming back; caring more and loving more opening himself up to even more pain until his demise. Yet, there was never any complaints or bitterness in his heart—it was the only way he knew how to live by continuing to show love.

RELIGIOUS LIFE

Born a cradle catholic, he spent his youthful years in the catholic church as an alter server (lay assistant to the clergy during the Catholic Liturgy Mass.) He was fond of ringing the church and alter bell among other things. Mr. Bennett firmly believed that man is made up of body, soul and spirit. For this reason, he made it a top priority not to focus on only building the body, but also nourish his soul & spirit with the word of God. As for him, the spiritual wellbeing of his family and all those he encountered was of essence to him, so you would often find him with his Bible and Rosary, attending Christian crusades and church service. During his early years he balanced work, and family life and volunteered in various church activities.

His commitment to the church and exemplary lifestyle secured him a surprise nomination and election to the position of church President at the Corpus Christi Catholic Church during his stay in Sakumono, serving a full term as President of the church until his retirement in September of 2002. During his term as church President, he led various meetings and supported the building of the Sakumono parish collaborating closely with church elders, Reverend Father Andrew Campbell and Rev Father Donkor Bain. He was an advocate for the parish youth organization and offered marriage counseling to those who sought his counsel. Although he was always knee deep with workload, social events and church activities, the need to instill the love and fear of God in his family life was his top priority.

It is important to note that he was never interested in amassing wealth or material things for himself, but rather shared whatever he had without reservation. Be it gifting his finest clothes, shoes or supporting other families financially, he continued to do so with genuine love. One of his favorite biblical affirmations is seen in 2 Corinthians 9: 6-8. **"Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work."**

RETIREMENT

After he retired in 2002, he relocated from Sakumono to Adenta, where he lived with his wife since all their children were now adults and had moved on to also start their families. He was well known within the Adenta community and continued his usual morning and evening routine of walking in the neighborhood. On several occasions, he made a conscious effort to check in and interact with his neighbors at Adenta.

Mr. Bennett really looked forward to retiring and bonding more with his children and their respective families which he did with such grace and dignity. I'm sure it probably felt as though he had taken on another full-time role, as he often travelled to the United States to experience/celebrate Graduation ceremonies, the Sacrament of Baptism and Holy Communion with his grandchildren. He was blessed with many opportunities traveling overseas to visit with his children and their families.

The fun of changing diapers and singing melodies to his grandchildren became the norm as his children and in-laws continuously called on him to return and offer his continued support. Which he always did without hesitation. As a result, he earned the nickname "Grandpa the Great" Great, is even an understatement! He was a Hero, devoted to the word of God! Not only did he make time to religiously pray with his family, he also prayed with his grandchildren holding on to his Rosary and the Bible which he refers to as the food and nourishment for our souls.

He was always there to support his children and their families and was blessed to see and experience the growth of all his grandchildren. He returned to Ghana barely a year ago, because he wanted to come back home and relax.

Indeed, O blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways. You will live to see your children's children in a happy Jerusalem. Mr. Bennett was not only a successful man, but also a proud father & grandfather. He enjoyed life to the fullest while making a positive impact on all those he encountered and in honoring him, we honor the best in ourselves because he touched the lives of many.

CONCLUSION

Brothers and Sisters in Christ gathered here today, home and spending time in the church; is where his heart is. It is, therefore, most befitting that we meet once again in the church to share these last moments with him. For Mr. James William Bennett has been so gracious to

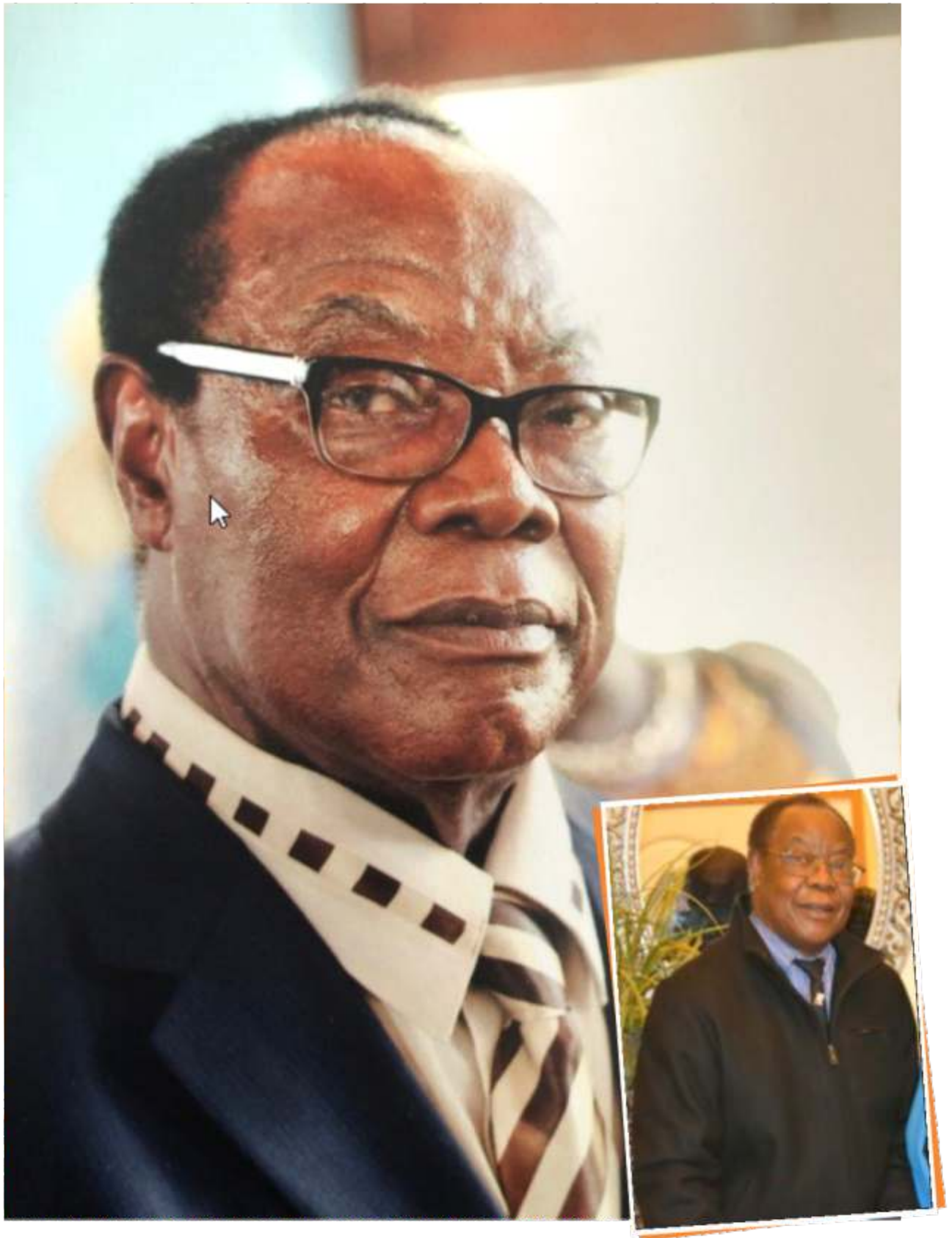
A GLORIOUS LIFE WELL LIVED

all those he encountered, by showing love, respect, kindness and protecting all those he loved even until his death.

Now that his journey here on earth is ended, those of us who truly know or encountered him have a broader scope about life and a reassurance that this is certainly not the end but the beginning of another glamorous life for him in heaven. Maybe some of you seated here today, and reading about this glorious life well lived, may have differed with him – or with each other about him as you often wondered about his assertive nature and overwhelming act of kindness. May his glorious journey home serve to make us all stronger in Christ Jesus. As his mortal remains return to earth and secured in the knowledge that what we will be placing in the ground is no more now a man – but a seed – which will spring forth and bloom beautifully again. For this reason, our beloved Father and loved one, Mr. James William Bennett was never afraid of death and he looked forward to the day when his heavenly father shall finally call him home!

You will be sorely missed! May your soul rest in perfect peace in the bosom of our Lord! Dada, dabo3000, Dada nantsew yie, nantsew yie.





A GLOREOUS LIFE WELL LIVED!

Eulogy

TO MY BELOVED HUSBAND,



**MR. JAMES WILLIAM
BENNETT**



You know how sometimes you'll meet a person and think to yourself or even tell everyone around you, how impressed you are with their overall personality. Well, these words resonate with the foot prints my dear beloved husband left on my heart.

I met the charm of my life Mr. James William Bennett in December 1973 at Abetifi in the Eastern region of Ghana. We subsequently tied the knot after seven (7) months of knowing each other and we were blessed with five children.

My husband was a loving devoted father to all his children and any one he encountered. He did his best to instill the love and fear of God in his home as part of a normal routine. To him, life was more than simply going to church. So, he was a strong proponent of a positive attitude and seeking a deeper understanding of the true essence of your calling.

For this reason, and although an Educationist by profession, he never coerced any of his children to choose one career over another. Rather, he encouraged all of them to pursue their

innermost calling/passion and be the best that they can be.

He never stopped affirming that with "God all things are possible", and with "Christ in my vessel I smile at the storms."

I affectionately called him "Da" and it wasn't too long when our children also started referring to him as "Dada" at their infant ages. In-fact, he was more than a husband to me, we shared a stronger bond and I confidently know he was and will always protect and watch over me and our children. As the pillar and solid rock of our family, he connected with God in his heart and our time of devotion grew sweeter because of his persistence and passion for God's love.

His unending love and care for me and our home was beyond human understanding. I still remember vividly how he ensured that I always had food to eat and he will even go the extra mile to do the grocery shopping for the home. He cared so much for me that not a single day went by without him asking of my wellbeing. He ensured anyone who visited our home was immediately served with water and food. Even though some may think serving is the role of the wife and woman of the home, my beloved husband did not believe in that philosophy. As a result, he rather took joy and delight in always serving and welcoming our guest and visitors. We were always seen together celebrating both the good and bad times. He was not only my husband but also the iconic figure in my life. He was my everything! Father, Brother, and my only Confidant. After his retirement we spent time bonding and travelling together overseas to create fond memories while spending time with our children and grandchildren to offer our continued support.

It is no surprise that, all his grandchildren were so fond of him. Aside from his biological grand kids, I observed how he won the fame of many of the little ones in the neighborhood with the mention of "Grandpa" each day, as he walked around in the neighborhood with a bag filled with biscuits, candies and other goodies for goodwill and gifting to other children and families. Grandpa was without a doubt a cheerful giver.

My husband stood for the truth and was very confident and outspoken but never a push over. He never stopped encouraging me and the children to maintain a positive outlook about life. His worry was never bigger than his faith and even amid the most challenging storms of life, he remained calm and poised.

Let me just say that "handsome or charming" wasn't the most overriding quality he left you with when you met him for the first time. Although very handsome in personality, he wasn't out there trying to bowl you over with his charisma and intelligence.

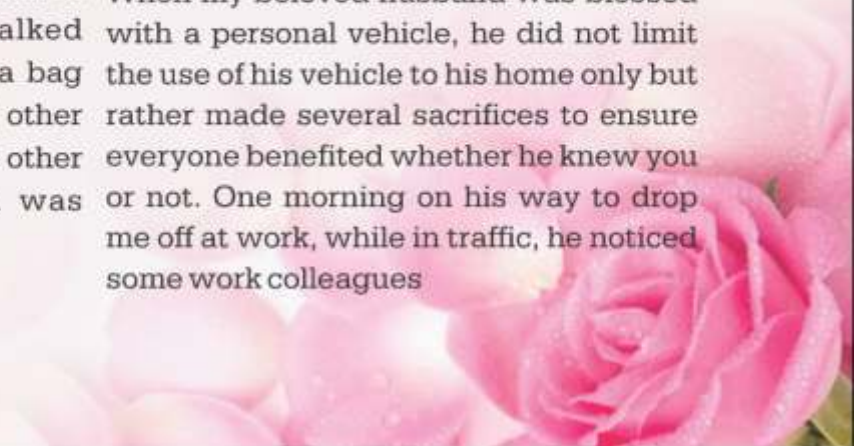
Mr. James Bennett was so much more than that.

Some of the key attributes I'll forever remember him for are God Fearing, Noble, Kindhearted and a Cheerful Giver. In addition, he was gentle but very candid and frank in all his ways. His candid nature and tendency to always stand by what is right, sometimes robbed some people off in the wrong way.

In fact, in all my life I've never met a man who was, quite simply very candid with his choice of words and always a cheerful giver.

Let me share with you one of the stories that demonstrates his openness and big heart filled with kindness:

When my beloved husband was blessed with a personal vehicle, he did not limit the use of his vehicle to his home only but rather made several sacrifices to ensure everyone benefited whether he knew you or not. One morning on his way to drop me off at work, while in traffic, he noticed some work colleagues



waiting on transportation by the roadside. He quickly asked the driver to stop the car and offered them a ride. The irony of this scenario is that there were four (4) passengers waiting but our vehicle could only accommodate two (2) more passengers in the back seat in addition to myself or at most three (3) if we tried to squeeze in. Without hesitation, and rather than picking only two passengers he got out of the car and offered his front seat to the other passengers.

I looked at him with dismay although not very surprised and inquired from him how he was going to make it work? He explained that he was very happy to offer his seat and will wait on a taxi to get him to work simply because he did not want to pick and choose. These acts of kindness may seem rare to you but for my "Da" and our "Dada" as we know him to be it's the norm.

He lived by one of his famous quotes by Stephen Grellet: **"I shall pass through this world but once. Any good, therefore, that I can do or any kindness that I can show to any human being, let me do it now. Let me not defer it or neglect it, for I shall not pass this way again."**

Truly you exemplified these traits in your daily encounters and was such a blessing to many. I will forever miss your great sense of humor and will continue reminiscing about how we joked around in our marriage and home life appreciating the very little and precious moments we spent together.

Your memory comes to mind each time, I remember the prayer of the Psalmist in Psalm 17:8 **"Keep me as the apple of your eye; hide me in the shadow of your wings. My beloved, I pray the same for you each day."**

Da, I still wait for you at the front porch every day thinking you'll be coming home from your usual errands. However, this time around your arrival has been too late in the physical and I've had the rude awakening of my life that you've been called by your maker to eternal happiness.

I however take solace in the word of God from John 14:3 **"After I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you with me so that you may be where I am."**

It is with this firm assurance, that I'm convinced you're still here with me in spirit and will forever remain with me until we meet again in the bosom of our Lord's heart.

Fare well my love! Nanti yie Da, Nyame enfa wukra nsie³ until we meet again in the bosom of our Lord!

A GLORIOUS LIFE WELL LIVED!





A GLORIOUS LIFE WELL LIVED!





Eulogy TO OUR BELOVED DAD, FROM CHILDREN



Indeed, Dada, your faith has found a resting place.... It is difficult, at best, to stand before you and attempt to honor our father in words. For it is never an easy task to capture someone in a speech, as words frequently fall short of capturing someone's true essence.

As an avid reader and writer but certainly not by profession, Dad always had with him his diary/ notepad and a pen. I remember asking him one day, if he was scribing his autobiography so we'll have something to say on that fateful day. And with that nostalgic smile, he looked at me and candidly said, "JUST TELL IT AS IT IS WHEN THE TIME COMES." Knowing him for who he was, he never wanted any embellishment of his legacy other than the simple truth about what he stood for.

Today, we celebrate Dad's life & journey here on Earth. But guess what? There is also another celebration in heaven because Dad has come home!

As-we look around the church, we see both smiles and tears. Although, there were many tears of sadness in the past few days/weeks since we lost our beloved father, it gives us comfort knowing these are not only tears of sadness we sit here to remember. They are tears of joy, intermingled with tremendous gratitude and smiles about a glorious life well lived. Dad was a loving and kindhearted man whose kindness was beyond human understanding. If he knew you were in need, he would always go the extra mile to help and put a smile on your face. He supported many families financially with a happy heart. Dad has left a remarkable imprint on our minds, hearts and souls forever.

"Dada" as we affectionately called him, was a great man. He was generous and loved all his children equally with such joy and pride. We could not have asked for a better Dad and will forever know him as our HERO. So, you see, there was

A GLORIOUS LIFE WELL LIVED!

never a time that we could not talk to him, or approach him for counsel, as he always gave us good advice and we embraced his solemn words of wisdom.

Growing up, we remember how he told us to learn and put forth our best effort in everything we do. He did, however, caution us to pursue our passion and not to rely solely on man, but only depend on God. He was a firm believer that our God shall provide all our needs according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus. Let me just pause here and say, not one of us children could comprehend the true meaning of the message he was conveying at that time, but we soon realized the truth in his words by the time each of us started to face the complexities of life.

Looking back at our childhood, Dada showed us all the sweetest love a child could ever experience with their father. From ironing our clothes every day, to helping us to tie our shoelaces, dropping us off in the morning to school and picking us up, or planning to ensure we were picked up promptly from school and any extracurricular activities. His generosity and care extended beyond our home and he was a blessing to many lives through his acts of kindness. You see, our father was not just a Christian by talk or mouth, he lived and exemplified the Christian faith through his deeds.

As he shared with us memories of his childhood, it was rather sad when we found out that Dada lost his father at a very early age when he was only 5 years old, so we often wondered how and where he developed such caring traits. Without a doubt, it must be an



inborn trait and he made every effort to nourish his giving spirit and was a blessing to many lives. We are indeed very grateful for the many precious and valuable years of bonding.

Dada was a noble man of service and integrity. Although part of his job required frequent travel within the country and sometimes outside the country, he maintained a work life balance ensuring we were never deprived of his love, care and support. He ceased every moment and always had beautiful stories to share with us after his business travels. I remember vividly after his first business trip in the 1980s to Miami Florida in the United States (U.S.) for an educational training conference, he returned home with pleasant stories about life in the U.S. and ready to make an impact based on what he had experienced.

He thought us all how to appear confident in public, while remaining humble and poised, where your presence is not only seen but felt. While preparing us for the future, there were times we felt some of his lessons/teachings resulted in bittersweet outcomes.

So bittersweet sounds oxymoronic because when something is bitter, I can't fathom how it can be sweet at the same time. Well, not with Dada's life experiences so I hope you follow along as I walk you through some of our bittersweet encounters with him.

If Dada knew that you did not finish your homework, he would wake you up in the middle of the night, sit you down at the table with him and insist you finish your homework before going





A GLOREOUS LIFE WELL LIVED!

back to sleep. He was firm but loving and will not compromise on wrong doings. The experience of waking us up in the middle of the night was what we'll consider bitter however, through Dada's persistence in getting us to complete our homework, we were confident when we returned to school the following day that our name would not appear on the "naughty" list. What a sweet outcome. Hence, Bittersweet! Thanks Dad.

In yet another example, he prepared us for punctuality. If Dada was aware we had to attend an event by a certain time, his number one priority was making sure that we began preparing ourselves ahead of schedule in-order to make it to our destination at least 30 minutes ahead of time to avoid any undue stress. There were times when he would even go the extra mile of taking us to the event grounds a day early to help us familiarize ourselves with the terrain. This was a lesson of a lifetime. Hence, we always strived not only to be on time but also prepared ourselves for both the good and bad times in life. What an incredible father we had!

I remember when we lived at Sakumono, one day, he was getting ready to drop me off at school. As we walked out, he sparked his usual conversation with a neighbor and later learned that the neighbor's son was sick at home.



Dad quickly offered to first take the kid to the hospital before taking me to school.

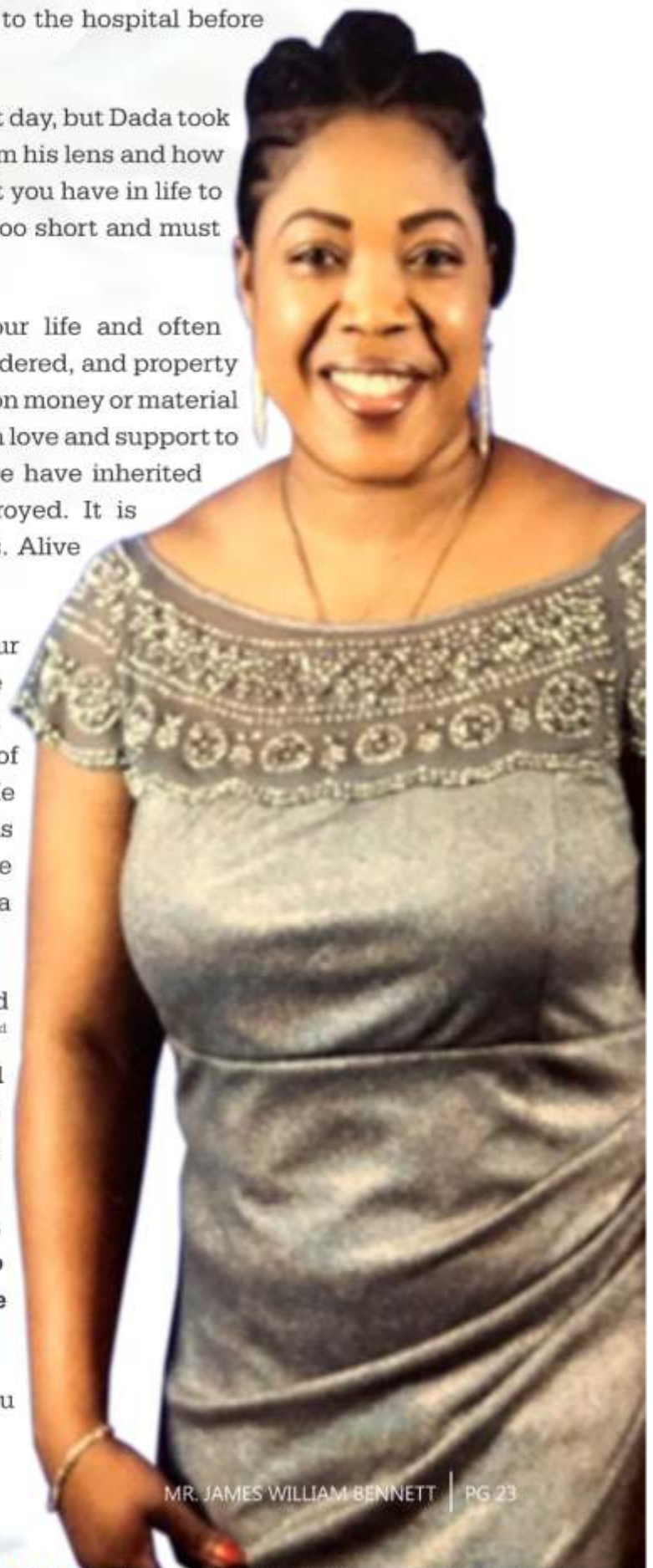
I was not very thrilled with being late that day, but Dada took the time to explain the act of kindness from his lens and how important it is to cease every moment you have in life to show love and kindness because life is too short and must be lived to the fullest.

Dada, you were very content with your life and often reiterated to us that money can be squandered, and property ruined, for this reason you never focused on money or material things but rather continued to show much love and support to mankind. The great values and traits we have inherited from you cannot be damaged or destroyed. It is permanent and will remain alive always. Alive through us!

As we share these fond memories of our beloved Dad, we are very grateful for the lessons he taught us directly and indirectly. We grew stronger because of what he stood for in our family values. He lived life with passion and enjoyed his family, friends and people he met along the way. Kudos to you, our beloved Dada, for a glorious life well lived!

Your journey here on earth is exemplified in what the Apostle Paul wrote in 2nd Timothy 4, 7-8 **"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith: henceforth, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give to me on that day; and not to me only, but also to all them that have loved his appearing."**

As we your beloved children- bid you farewell, we're consoled by the fact that



A GLORIOUS LIFE WELL LIVED!

your legacy will continue to live on, and your solemn pledge that we recite together will forever hold true in our hearts.

Will your anchor hold in the storms of life,
When the clouds unfold their wings of strife?
When the strong tides lift, and the cables strain,
Will your anchor drift or firm remain?

Dad taught us to always re-affirm that:

We have an anchor that keeps the soul
Steadfast and sure while the billows roll,
Fastened to the Rock which cannot move,
Grounded firm and deep in the Savior's love.

Fare thee well our love, rest in peace Dada,
Nantie yie Dada, Daminifa du3, du3 ni
wamanihuno ye ja pa. Nyame nfa
wokra nsie, until we meet again!



Tribute FROM GRANDCHILDREN



Hello, everyone, and thank you for joining us for Grandpa's home going celebration and final mass. I'm deeply honored to be giving this speech on behalf of all the grandchildren about our beloved grandfather.

Grandpa was a family man and loved all of us equally. There was nothing he liked more than to spend time with his grand kids. The little things like singing melodious songs and changing our diapers when we were born meant so much to him.

He never stopped encouraging us to study, go after our passion and place God first in everything we do. We'll remember him for all his love, care and support. Although, he's no longer here physically, we continue to experience his love and support every day and in various miraculous ways and it feels as if he's still here with us.

I'm sure everyone here has memories of him much like ours. They are good memories, something we'll always have to cherish. It isn't often in our lives that we come across someone so special that that person stays with you forever. Our dear Grandpa was that kind of person.

The only way to get hurt in this life is to care. Grandpa cared more than most, loved more than most and was made to suffer more than most because of just how much he cared. But no matter how

many times he was knocked down or made to endure things that no one should, he just kept coming back; caring more and loving more opening himself up to even more pain. Yet there was never any complaints or bitterness - it was the only way he knew how to live and express his love.

The kind of love Grandpa felt for us was a love without condition. He may not have approved of everything we did, may not have liked some of the decisions we made, but he didn't stop caring and supporting us. He just kept loving us, letting us know that he was there and if we ever needed him, we could count on him to listen, to comfort, and to help.

Grandpa lived a very simple life. It didn't take much to make him happy - a phone call, singing his favorite songs together, a visit to his house at Adenta or a hug was all he needed from us. We were the most important people in the world to him. He lived to make our lives better and was proud of us.

To think that someone like him felt that way about us makes us all feel very good and proud. We can never forget that there is a part of him in each of us, something that he gave to us and asked nothing for in return. I remember on numerous occasions when we visited Grandpa at his house in Adenta, he made sure Grandma always prepared the best meal for us.



A GLOREOUS LIFE WELL LIVED!

Then, he will hand to us our favorite biscuits, drinks and candies. But not only that, Grandpa was also concerned about other children.

in the neighborhood, so he made sure he always had enough biscuits to share with the neighborhood kids. He was not only our dearest grandpa but every child's dream Grandpa. He won the fame of all the children in the neighborhood calling him "Grandpa."

I'm sure there have been and will be times in our lives when situations arise where we'll want so much to talk to him, be with him or ask him just what we should do? I hope that, when those times come, we can begin to look to each other and find that part of him that he gave to each of us. Maybe we can learn to lean on each other and rely on each other the way we always knew that we could with him. By doing so, he won't seem quite so far away.

Grandpa, for your wisdom, humor, compassion, patience, understanding, and your love; we your grandchildren celebrate your legacy and the beautiful imprints you left in our lives and hearts.

We will forever miss you. God bless you and keep you safely Grandpa until we meet again.







Tribute

FROM IN-LAWS

We thought really hard as we weren't sure if words can describe our gratitude and homage to our Father-in-law. It was certainly not because of lacking the words nor was it reluctantly on anyone's part, but more so, a selfish refusal to accept that you're no longer a phone call away.

As David wrote in the book of Psalm 55 verse 4:5:

My heart is severely pained within me: and the terrors of death have fallen upon me.

Fearfulness and trembling have come upon me, and horror hath overwhelmed me.

My first interaction with Mr. Bennett was scaling a wall to escape his glance back in 1994, as I visited his residence and the mention of JW's Isuzu pickup truck approaching. A day or two later, I remember Mama coming to my house and giving me a stern warning to stay away from Effe, now my wife. Thank you for giving your beautiful daughter to me!

Fast forward, a few years later after I moved from Ghana, we exchanged letters. And you would always write back, and your wisdom and kindness permeated through your words. You unselfishly and within your character dropped everything, when we asked you to come and assist us with taking care of your grandchildren. The lasting memory of you changing our children's

diapers and humming sweet melodies to calm their nerves will always stay with us. You did not only spend quality time with us, but also offered your continued assistance whenever we called on you; whether in Ghana or overseas. It is not surprising that all your grandchildren have fond memories of the fun times together.

Over the years, we spent cold winters and hot summer nights together. We laughed, we cried together, we occasionally shared unhappy moments. To me, you were not just our father-in-law, you were our secret weapon, through your incessant prayers on our behalf and our family's. You were the prayer pillar of the family. We know that you are here and doing what you do best, a Rosary in one hand, humming and singing to your favorite hymnals.

You are finally free from pain. Every time your thought comes to mind, I remember the old saying:

"I am passing through this world, but once. Any good therefore that I have, let me do it now, for I shall not come this way again".

To my dear wife, my mother (Mama Tess), sisters, sister-in-law, and brother, "Dad" may not be with us, but he has built the foundation to which everything must and can grow from. His humility, his benevolence, and his dedication to humankind are all traits that he has passed on to all of us. I

Tribute

FROM SIBLINGS TO OUR BELOVED BROTHER MR. JAMES WILLIAM BENNETT

For since we believe that Jesus died and was raised to life again, we also believe that when Jesus returns, God will bring back with him the believers who have died. (1 Thessalonians: 4:14).

Brother Kojo was older than all of us his siblings and as such was almost a hero to all of us as children. "Brother" a.k.a "Breda" as we affectionately called him had an irrepressible goodness and was a very staunch Catholic who devoted time attending Mass. His Christian faith was of essence to him as he often ensured he nourished his soul with the word of God while encouraging everyone around to do the same. No wonder he grew up to become such a great Educationist and disciplinarian.

In his professional life, he had a sterling reputation for Excellence, Honour and Integrity and did not settle for anything less. He was indeed a repository of our family history and would readily remind us of our family tree and heritage. During his career days, he was posted to various regions of the country where he made an impact and left his mark of excellence.

In most of his postings, Breda would go along with one or the other of his sibling thus endearing him to us. "Breda", you were such a committed and responsible Christian and played your part very well in whatever capacity you found yourself. Like an actor on stage, you have played your part well.

You will be dearly missed!

May the Almighty God keep you until we meet again.

Your Siblings:

- Tony
- Kobina Kakraba
- Ewurabena (Mrs. Gaisie)
- Rev. Fr. Atta Eshun
- George
- Gilbert
- Effe

A GLORIOUS LIFE WELL LIVED

hope you know that there is no one that you or I can trust more to prepare a place for us than our father.

I will humbly ask that after we leave here, please perform an act of kindness in remembrance of him.

And finally, to Mama, Naana, my dear Effe, Paa, and the rest of the family, just as Dad will pray relentlessly and remind us that there is something beautiful on the other side, I pray that The Lord, Our King, Our Messiah will light his countenance upon you. May our void be filled with the reassurance that like Christ Jesus, Dada has gone to prepare a place for all of us. You may have lost a husband or a father, but you've gained a son and a brother. It is my conviction that Dad is sitting here, waving, and as I've heard him say many times, we should give it all to the Lord, for it is not lost. For the hand of the Lord is upon us, the devil will try, but now, we'll always have our own guardian Angel to protect us.

Romans 3 verse 38 to 39, reminds us that:

"For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Dada, rest peacefully, until we meet again. Thank you for all the sacrifices; the physical, spiritual, and all that you've done for us to be where we are today!





Tribute TO UNCLE KOJO FROM HIS NIECES AND NEPHEWS

Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death, so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope. For we believe that Jesus died and rose again and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him.

Thessalonians 4:13 -14, Amen.

Dear Uncle, it is such a shame to lose you at this time, but an honor to eulogize you. Like they say, "God's time is the best but we, your nieces and nephews understandably feel it is quite too soon but such is life and we have to accept that God had decided to bring you home.

Uncle Kojo, as affectionately called, was a rare larger-than-life kind of character and a pillar that supported our whole family. He was also a determined visionary, collaborative, goal-oriented and caring person who loved life and all that it offered.

Uncle Kojo's public recognitions reveal that he was a distinguished career person of considerable astuteness and charm. His enthusiasm for any project was infectious and a huge component of its success. He was devoted to his work and to the improvement of education

locally and globally, which sent him to the Eastern and Greater Accra Regions of Ghana and then abroad to the United States and the Caribbean Islands. On a personal level, he was always willing to help and offer advice where necessary.

As the family is at the acceptance stage of his untimely demise and mourning the loss of this great man, we revere the priceless moments enjoyed with our dear Uncle, solemnly realizing that there is a final destination for all of mankind.

In this light, the old cliché resurfaces; what exactly is life? This is because when you look at it from every point of view whatsoever, we are all just passers-by.

Rest in Perfect Peace Uncle, you will be sorely missed.

Tribute BY STEPHEN TEYE ADJABENG (STA) ESQ. OF SOMANYA TO HIS BOSOM FRIEND JWB

*O God, our help in ages past
Our hope for years to come
Our shelter from the storming blast
And our eternal home. MHB 878
(One of our hymns for soul
soothing -JWB & STA)*

I write this tribute with heavy heart. The gentleman lying before us lifeless, JWB - James William Bennett was a bosom friend par excellence from youth.

I knew Mr. Bennett in 1961, 59 solid years ago when we met as students at St. Andrews Teacher Training College at Mampong, Ashanti, now one of the campuses of the University of Education, Winneba. The reasons which knitted us together were natural: love, we were in the same house, Ramseyer House (H. I) self-respect and positive thinking. He was my senior. We slept upstairs, but he slept at the balcony among three more seniors. Thus, I enjoyed a wonderful protection from some seniors who were bullies. The life well lived, though shortly, was very delightful so was its memory. I left him at the end of my two-year course, but JWB did four -year straight course.

The second chapter of our coming together happened in 1978 when I was transferred from Suhum, Kraboa Coaltar District Education office to Kaoga District

Education Office, Somanya, my hometown. After a morning devotion led by him - Mr. Bennett was Osofo by all standard everywhere he greeted the gathering and shouted my name, S. T. welcome, "Mo hee". We embraced each other with several parts at the backs. My joy knew no bounds. We were reunited, rekindled and ignited physically and spiritually. Soon, he earned his next promotion to Principal Superintendent and he was put in charge of Manpower Training, now HRMD. JWB's transfer to Kaoga Education Office was godsend. His new schedule gave him the opportunity to showcase his God-gifted talents and potentialities. This was the age of the New Reform Programme of Education launched by the then Head o State, Ft. Lt. J. J. Rawlings in 1987. JWB in addition to this new schedule was raised to the position of Deputy to the Head of the District. JWB assignments in the office became amorphous and huge, but he had the capacity.

WORK ATTITUDE OF JWB: He was a trainer of trainers during the Reform Programme Courses. Because of his workaholic nature JWB became the toast of our top officials. Mrs. Vida Yeboah (Secretary of Education) of blessed memory, and Mr. Nkono Akyea of Cape Coast University who researched into the Patriotic Songs and compiled over hundred songs in almost all languages in Ghana. JWB was quick on the uptake. While some of us were toddlers in learning these songs, JWB was far ahead, sometimes on the platform as a conductor to give the tune of mu som, mu som.....

At Kumasi Technical Institute (KTI), JWB led us in a morning devotion and that morning reflection became a talk throughout our one week stay. The top officials doved their hats for him and celebrated him that day. The message, the language and the golden voice that conveyed the message was so superb, that we shall forever, remember him for it.

Happiness, he told me, comes from reading good inspirational books. JWB was avid reader. Honestly JWB made me what I am today. His reports to Ghana Education Service headquarters, Accra were classified as among the best. G.E.S headquarters knew him before he transferred to join the staff.

JWB SOCIAL LIFE: Needless to state that he was a friend of all, and enemy of none. JWB's knowledge of and belief in Herbal Medicine made him a magnet to many people. My wife was a beneficiary of his healing prowess. While on trainers course at St. Louis Teacher Training College, Kumasi, she had a bad boil. JWB went behind the dormitory and came back with some herbs, robbed and squeezed the water onto the boil. We saw smoke emerged and instantly healing took place. We all shouted kudos to JWB.

FOREIGN VISITS: JWB, while in Accra, went on Educational tour to Zimbabwe and after retirement, he also stayed in USA for some years. We still visited each other while on retirement. Indeed, a mighty tree has fallen.

JWB was a role model, kind-hearted and a generous man a father from his youth. He gave employments to many people, brought comfort to the misery, healed the sick and fed the poor. While he was with me his accolade was MAN OF THE PEOPLE. We shall forever remember him (JWB) as unassuming personality, devoted Christian who ever lived.

JWB, due, kpomo, kpomo
Fare thee well.

May the Almighty God keep you in His bosom till we meet again.

AMEN.

Tribute

ST. JOHN EVANGELIST CATHOLIC CHURCH, ADENTA

Mr. Bennett, relocated to Adenta Housing Down from, Sakumono in March 2003, on his retirement from the Ghana Education Service. He belonged to the Corpus Christi Parish, where he was the immediate Parish Council Chairman.

On his arrival at Adenta, he immediately set out to find Catholics who were living around. He subsequently learnt of Community 4, one of the Communities which formed the building blocks of new St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church in the 2000s, after breaking from the Holy Rosary Church at Adenta Village. He and his spouse joined the Andoh and Koranteng families at Adenta Housing Down in praying the Holy Rosary during the months of May and October. He obviously registered with the Parish as a Parishioner of the St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church.

Mr. Bennett, arrived at the time the Parish Council had decided to embark upon one of the most important objectives of the new St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church, a School for the young ones of the new Catholic Community of Adenta. The experience of Mr. Bennett came in handy and he graciously agreed to Chair the School Project Committee. By a letter dated 23rd March, 2005, Mr. James Bennett was appointed the Chairman of the St. John Evangelist School Project Committee, with the responsibility among others:

1. To find ways of raising funds to support the School Project and to manage such funds that are raised through proper disbursement, recording and accounting.
2. To lay down all the necessary administrative and structural infrastructure that was needed for the establishment of the school. This included the personnel, curricula and building for the school.
3. To take decisions on how the school will be financed after it had taken off.
4. To do all other things necessary to realize the establishment of a school for the St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church by September 2006.

The work of the Committee formed the basis of the St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church School, which began with the Rev, Fr, Van Hoof Nursery, and has now grown into a full - fledged school, registered with the Ghana Education Service.

Mr. Bennett and his wife Theresa have been regular at Sunday Masses and have participated in all Church programmes. Both are the quiet type and coupled with their travel outside Ghana, they have not been involved in much activity that would have projected them more to all parishioners.

May his gentle soul rest in Perfect Peace. AMEN

A GLORIOUS LIFE WELL LIVED!



FAVORITE PRAYER (WRITTEN BY JWB- OWN HANDWRITING)

When someone you love becomes a memory, the memory becomes a Treasure!



Favorite Bible Verse

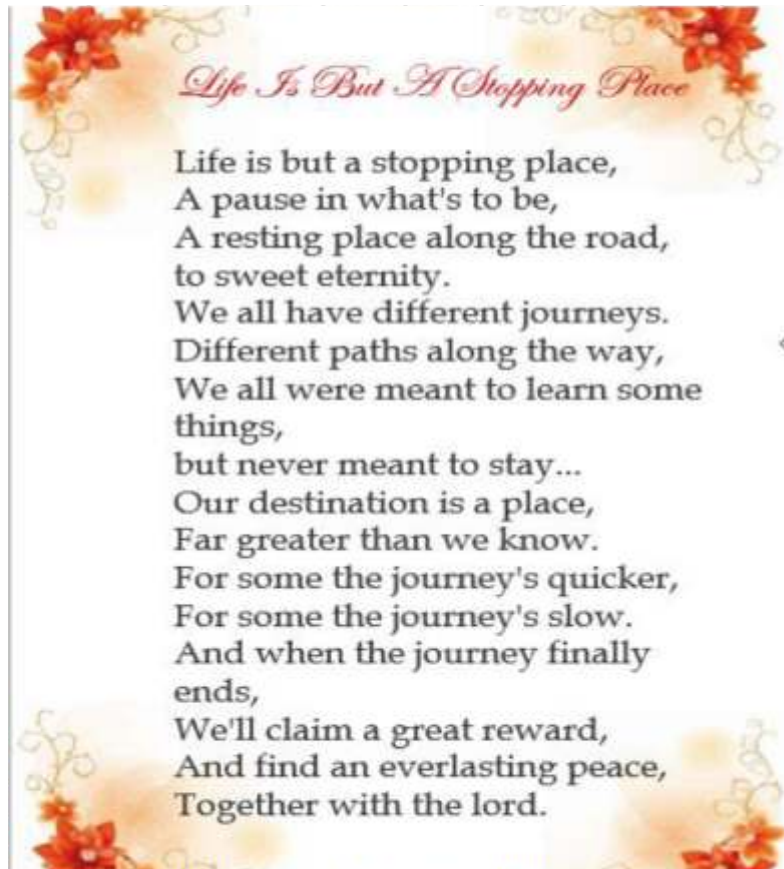
- *Mathew 19:26- With God all things are possible*
- *Philippians 4:19- But my God shall supply all my need according to his riches in glory to Christ Jesus.*

Favorite Quotes

- *"I shall pass through this world but once. Any good, therefore, that I can do or any kindness that I can show to any human being, let me do it now. Let me not defer it or neglect it, for I shall not pass this way again."*
Stephen Grellet.
- *"The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy."*
Martin Luther King Jr

Hobbies

Reading, Writing & Socializing!



Celebration Of Life

~ IN LOVING MEMORY OF~

MR. JAMES WILLIAM BENNETT

~September 28, 1942 - January 30, 2020~

Acknowledgement:

We appreciate the many expressions of love, concern and kindness shown to us during this time of bereavement! May God Bless and Keep You!



A GLORIOUS LIFE WELL LIVED!

Hymns