

Mama
Mabel

Sunrise: 1958

Sunset: 2024



Pre-Burial, Burial and Thanksgiving service for

Ms. Mabel Peterkin
(Nee Efua Bruce)



Officiating Clergy

Rev. Vincent Agbemenya Adzika

Very Rev. Mrs. Beauty E.A. Hope

Pastor Gabriel Dzimah

Order of Service

PART 1: PRE-BURIAL SERVICE / FILE PAST

1. Procession
2. Opening Hymn MHB 50 - The Lord is my shepherd
3. Hymn
4. Filing Past MHB 110 - Jesus, lover of my soul
5. Tributes
6. Covering of Coffin MHB 377 - It is well
7. Songs The Engineers Choir

PART 2: BURIAL SERVICE

1. Sentences
2. Hymn MHB 896 - Now praise we great and famous men
3. Prayers
4. Hymn MHB 615 - Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah
5. Biography
6. Tributes
7. Scripture Readings
8. Hymn MHB 427 - Through all the changing scenes of life
9. Sermon
10. Apostles' Creed
11. Offertory
12. Closing Prayer
13. Recessional Hymn MHB 608 - Captain of Israel's host

PART 3: GRAVESIDE

1. Hymn MHB 948 - Abide with me
2. Committal
3. Prayers
4. Laying of Wreaths
5. Vote of Thanks Family Member
6. Hymn
7. Benediction



If tears could build a stairway, and memories a lane, we would all walk up to heaven and bring you back again.

Biography

Mabel Efua Bruce, born on 9th May 1958, in Asunyeboda Kwadaso, Ghana, was a cherished daughter of Mr. Frank Bruce and Mrs. Martha Bruce (née Williams). Her father, Mr. Frank Bruce, a dedicated Senior Agriculture Officer, instilled in her the values of hard work and perseverance from a young age. Mabel's early years were spent in the Brong Ahafo Region of Ghana, where she embarked on her educational journey, starting with nursery school under the care and guidance of her Aunt, Maame Kwansema, and cousin, Miss Sarah Ayensu, both esteemed educators in Cape Coast.

Mabel continued her schooling at Philip Quarcoo School and later attended Wesley Girls Middle School. It was at Wesley Girls Middle School that Mabel successfully passed her Common Entrance Exam, earning a place at her mother's alma mater, Agogo State School.

Driven by her thirst for knowledge, Mabel pursued further education at Nungua Secondary School in Accra. After completing her studies, she embarked on a career as a sales lady, demonstrating her entrepreneurial spirit and determination. Over time, Mabel ventured into importing water filters for distillers and sachet water producers, showcasing her innovation and business acumen.

In pursuit of new horizons, Mabel eventually settled in London, where she embraced a new chapter of her life. She worked at the London Metropolitan Police Service as a Caterer. She served in that capacity till she took an early retirement in 2011.

Despite her distance from home, Mabel remained deeply connected to her roots, returning to Ghana annually to reunite with her beloved family. Mabel enjoyed spending time with her family and grandchildren.

In the afternoon of Tuesday, 12 March 2024, following a short period of illness at the University of Ghana Medical Centre (UGMC), surrounded by her loved ones, Mabel passed on peacefully to her Maker.

Mabel is survived by her daughter and son-in-law, three (3) grandchildren, her siblings, cousins, nieces and nephews and her larger family. She will be missed by everyone who had the wonderful pleasure of knowing her.

Rest in perfect peace, Da Yie!



Reflections by Adjo

How is it possible that I'm writing a tribute for you Ma? The doctors claim you are no more but to me it's a lie. You are very much alive in my heart, all around me, in your grandchildren and all your loved ones. You are alive in Christ Jesus our Lord and Savior. There are not enough words to describe the wonderful person that you are.

Dearest mum,

This was not how it was supposed to end. You were supposed to get well so we carry on from where we left off. What happened to all our dreams? The numerous holidays we were supposed to go on? What happened to you living and seeing your grandchildren (your pride and joy) grow, graduate and teach you all the current affairs in their time? These past few months without you have been insane. I wake up each day in the middle of the night confused. How is it possible days have passed and we have not spoken? It does not even make sense to me. My world has become so quiet without you. Who will call me a thousand times a day just to 'gist' or give me their itinerary for the day (detailed of course). How about the over exaggerated stories with a dash of drama (lol)!

I want to say thank you. Thank you for everything. All the sacrifices you made just to give me the life that I have now. Only you could have mothered me the way you did. Thank you for instilling in me discipline, hard work and above all the fear of God.



Thank you for showing me how to be “present” no matter the distance or circumstances in our loved one's life. Throughout my life you were present even to the very last second. How can I forget the many times you held my hands and took me to school? Back then I did not think it was “cool” but trust you to be there and outdo yourself. My friends became your daughters too. You created a safe environment for my friends and I. Hence, my friends could visit and stay over at any time.

This surely kept me home where I was always safe. Thank you. Thank you for always being curious and interested in me, my education and general wellbeing. I used to tell my friends I literally went to school with you (Adjo, aba adzi na lecturer no kyere... Adjo where is your timetable, Adjo, when is revision... etc). Thank you for being there at every major event and achievement in my life. You were always more excited and happier than I was. Till date you are the smartest, most intelligent person that I know. You taught me to be independent, hardworking and to always add value to myself.

Ma, I really wanted to tell you, you fought a good fight. You fought the pain of your illness head on with such courage and tenacity. God knows I prayed and fasted. I really wished there was something I could do to relieve you of the pains and illness. Even on your hospital bed you still smiled and were very cheerful. You made all the nurses and doctors laugh with your amazing sense of humor. Just like the Star that you are, your bedside was always full of doctors and nurses passing through to have a chat with you.

Ma, when I saw you at the morgue, OH! My God! You looked so beautiful and peaceful, full of smiles. It was all so surreal to me. I knew then that Jesus has intervened. You are definitely in a better place. You are no more in pain. A place where there is joy and peace galore. It is well with your soul.

Ma, I wish we hugged more, held hands more and shared more secrets not only on your hospital bed but every day of our lives. I have missed you, your voice, your laughter, your counsel and your sense of humor. You have fought a good fight; it is time to rest. I love you Ma and I am extremely proud of you. Your legacy will forever live on.

Ma, rest in peace. Till we meet again...



In Loving Memory of Our Beloved Sister

As siblings, we gather here today to pay tribute to our dear sister, Mabel Bruce, who was not only a sister but also a cherished friend and confidante.

Mabel held a special place in our hearts as the only girl among five boys, and her presence brought warmth, love, and joy into our lives. Mabel, being the only sister, had a unique bond with each of her brothers. She showered us with affection, pampering us with her love and care, and in return, we cherished her dearly.

Despite the challenges we faced as a family, Mabel's unwavering love and support served as a guiding light for us all. Sadly, we lost three of our senior brothers prematurely during their manhood age, leaving us devastated and heartbroken.

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.

In the face of adversity, Mabel remained a beacon of strength, holding our family together with her love and resilience.

Though Mabel may no longer be with us, her legacy lives on through her daughter, Claudia Adjo Tetteh, whom she adored with all her heart. Claudia, in turn, has blessed our family with three beautiful children, bringing us back together as a family of six siblings once again—a true testament to God's blessings and the enduring bond of family.

As we mourn the loss of our dear sister, we take comfort in knowing that she is reunited with our departed brothers in heaven, watching over us with love and pride. Mabel's love and legacy will continue to inspire us every day, reminding us of the importance of family, love, and resilience in the face of adversity.

Rest in peace, dear Mabel. Your memory will forever be cherished in our hearts.

With love and fond remembrance.

Tribute by Nephews and Nieces

A person may die, but the person's legacy will continue through his or her deeds.

Today, the pain of losing our dear Aunty Efua is difficult to bear because this world needed you for some more years. We asked fate why you are no longer with us. We asked God why he took you. We believe that you have found peace. We remember the day we last met. We remember your kind words, your humor.

Dear Aunty May, how did it happen that you are no longer with us? Indeed, we have lost the most beautiful person in our family who was so full of life. Aunty Efua was a nurturing garden of love, where relationship blossoms. There was never a dull moment with Aunty Efua. She embodied the essence of joy, wherever she found herself. Her laughter brought a sense of harmony and joy to our gatherings.

Mama May, you touched so many lives by your selfless and countless act of kindness, always giving and never expecting favors in return.

Her love for kids can never be taken away from her. She lived to put smiles on their faces. We remember when we used to spend time with you at Tema during school vacations. Mama May threw parties for us and invited all the children in the neighborhood to join us have fun. We also remember the family excursions, such as the trip we made to Cocoa Processing Company Limited, Tema. Spending time with you was fun and educative as well.

We still remember the promise you made to visit us in our homes to see your grandchildren and spend quality time with us. We will forever miss you.

Aunty Efua, you are gone, but to us you still live in our hearts. Death hasn't been fair to us at all because we believe you still had more beautiful moments ahead to share with us.

Like they say "God knows best". The Lord God has called you to be with Him, who are we to prevent that. All we can say is rest well.

Damirifa Due.

The world changes from year to year. Our lives from day to day but the love and memory of you shall never pass away.

Tribute to a Cherished Mother-In-Law

The day I met Mabel Peterkin, mother of Claudia Tetteh, in the heart of the Kotoka International Airport, I had gone to pick her up as a favor to a friend in the UK who would become my wife a decade later.

It was a meeting that left a lasting impression on me, as I was greeted not just with a warm smile but with a presence that was as commanding as it was nurturing. In her, I saw the reflection of Claudia's grace, the source of her resilience, and the wellspring of her compassion. From that very first interaction, I knew I had encountered a remarkable woman who would come to mean as much to me as she did to the daughter, she so clearly cherished.



Let me be quick to add, it was that first meeting, that accounted for the “almost a decade” before that friend in the UK upgraded to become my wife. It could have been sooner, but Claudia could not understand why her mother loved me much more than her.

In the quiet moments before dawn, when the world is still and the heart speaks its truth, I find myself reaching for words that might capture the void left behind by the passing of Auntie May, as I affectionately call her.

Auntie May was not just a mother to Claudia, her only child, but a beacon of unwavering love and support to PJ, KK, and Adzepa as well as all who found grace in her presence both in Ghana and the UK.

She was there in London, a city bustling with life yet daunting in its vastness, when our children came into this world. With each birth, she stood by us, her presence a comforting embrace amidst the whirlwind of new parenthood. Her hands, both gentle and assured, cradled our babies, her wisdom guiding us through sleepless nights and endless days.

Her love knew no bounds, enveloping me, her son-in-law, with the warmth and acceptance one would

show a son. She saw beyond titles and relations, fostering a bond that was as profound as it was unspoken. In her eyes, family was not defined by blood alone but by the love we shared and the memories we created.

She was the matriarch who held us together, the gravity that kept us grounded. Her laughter filled our home, her numerous stories wove through our conversations, and her advice lingered in our decisions.

To speak of her is to speak of a friend who knew no limits, someone of compassion that touched all who had the privilege to know her. She was a mother, a grandmother, a friend, and so much more. Her legacy is etched in the hearts of her grandchildren, who will carry her spirit forward, her lessons forever a part of their journey.

As we bid farewell to a soul so deeply cherished, we find solace in the love she left behind—a love that will continue to guide, inspire, and comfort us.

Aunty May's memory will be a treasure we hold dear, a reminder of the beauty and strength of familial bonds.

Rest in peace, dear Aunty May. Your love remains our guiding light, now and always.

Paul Baidoo-Cudjoe



Tribute to a dear Grandmother

Dear Grandma Mabel,

Happy birthday in heaven. I love you forever and ever and one thousand days. I miss you grandma and I miss doing “boom boom boom” to your feet and back.

I miss you taking my brother and I to the playground and taking us to interesting places.

Grandma, say hello to Jesus in heaven for me.

(PJ, KK & ADZEPA)

Grandmothers have a certain kind of love. Grandmothers must have been a gift from God to us in order to add colour, success, and character to our lives and to help us become better people. I remember the times when grandma Mabel would take care of me and my brother as if we were her own...

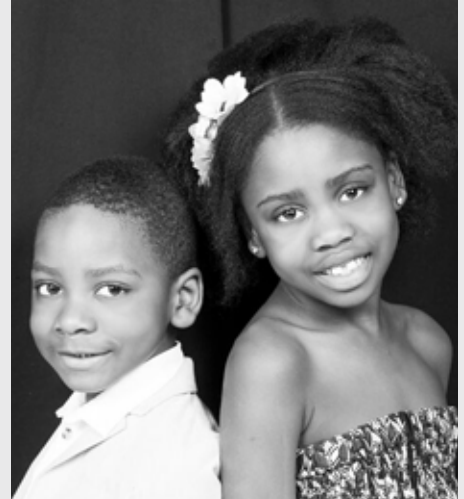
I love and look up to Grandma so much and it hurts me that she is gone. Growing up with Grandma Mabel since I was born made me think that she was my biological grandmother which shows the amount of love and care she would give my brother and I. We will never forget the memories we shared. We Love you always.

(TT & JJ)

A loving mother and grandmother, a guiding light, a heart of gold with a warm embrace and gentle hand. Your wisdom, kindness and love we adore. We'll cherish the memories, the stories you shared, the wisdom you imparted and the love you showed us unconditionally.

We miss the chocolate and toffee shared with us whenever you come to Ghana. We'll miss how you say “No , this is the right way to do it” . You may be gone but your spirit remains a shining star that will forever light our way. Rest in perfect peace dearest grandmother. You will be deeply missed but your love will forever be our bliss.

(Linda, Christian, Godsway & Mawu)



Tribute by Family Home and Abroad

One cannot sufficiently prepare for the passing of a loved one. Indeed, accepting your passing has been extremely difficult for us all. As we ponder why this has happened, we find comfort in the belief that you rest peacefully in the protective embrace of our Lord Jesus Christ, where there is no pain, sorrow, suffering, or sickness.

Your life was a blessing, touching the hearts of many, especially your family and friends. Even though, you are not with us anymore, your good deeds are imprinted boldly in our memory and remain forever in our hearts. We know you are with us in spirit, you are watching over us. You have been called home to join other angels.

Rest in peace, our beloved Cousin Mabel.

Cousins in the UK

Death is a challenge.
It tells us not to waste time.
It tells us to tell each other right
now that we love each other.



“You were a calm person, who ‘adopted us as children when we first came to Croydon in 2015’. You took a keen interest in us and helped us to settle in Croydon and introduced us to New Life Croydon, the church which we are still members of. Maa Mabel, we will not forget you”.

Tahiru & Catherine Musah

My dearest Sekyewaa, I miss you everyday. I laugh and cry at the same time. I wish you didn't go so soon, but God knows best. We shall see each other in heaven one day.

JOYCE

Mabel, you were the best friend ever, always there for me, always caring and kind. I will miss you so very much, but nothing can take away the happy memories of our friendship over the years. Love you.

SEONAI

“ A true friend is never truly gone. Their spirit lives on in the memories of those who loved them... Efua, I miss you”.

Naomi Araba-Kate Swanzy





Mabel Peterkin, (Mommy), as I affectionately called you. You were a beautiful and caring person, always wearing a smile. You treated me and my children as your own, and they called you grandma because of the love you gave them. I vividly remember how you cared for my family when I was away serving in the British Army in Afghanistan. You supported me in buying my first house when there was no help in sight. I'm saddened by your passing and lost for words. I will be comforted by your wise words, counsel, and careful instructions. Thank you for all you have done for me as words have failed me. You always encouraged me and lifted me when I felt down and afraid. Oh, Mommy! The fun times we shared on our holidays in Spain are still fresh in my mind, and the children always talk about it. May the good God give you rest till we meet again. Thank you once again for all the love you have shown us.

JOE

Mummy Mabel, you may not have given me the gift of life, but life gave me the gift of you. You were my friend, my second mother, my helper, my advisor, the only grandma Threse and Jevan knew when growing up. We love you Efua Sika, forever and always, and I truly thank you for having such a special impact in the life of my children and I. Thank you for loving me as your own and sticking by me and my children always. You will always be in our hearts...

LINDA

Tribute by New Life, Croydon

“Teach me, O Lord, not to hold on to life too tightly.

Teach me to hold it lightly; not carelessly, but lightly, easily.

*Teach me to take it as a gift, to enjoy and cherish while I have it,
and to let it go gracefully and thankfully when the time comes.*

The gift is great, but the Giver is greater still.

Thou, O God, art the Giver and in thee is the Life that never dies. Amen.”

- Theodore Parker Ferris

It is with great sadness that our Church mourns the death of one of its most widely and highly respected member, Mabel Peterkin. Mabel joined New Life in 2009 and was a dedicated member until Covid and health challenges made it impossible for her to attend services in person frequently.

She made sure she joined online anytime her health did not permit. No matter the title she bore, the most distinguishing mark she bore was friendship. Mabel enjoyed inviting people to church for worship and fellowship, for dialogue and discernment of Christ at work in our midst.

None of us will forget those moments when her eyes danced with delight over someone’s happiness or great accomplishment.

None of us will ever forget seeing her head lifted up in song – she loved to sing!

None of us will ever forget how much she enjoyed a good story nor how much she enjoyed telling one of her own – and she had plenty!

We appreciated her wisdom and genuine heart to help any person she encountered. We are grateful for her counsel.

While we all mourn Mabel, we know what great trust she had in the promises of Christ.

As we remember, our dear friend in Christ, we pray for Claudia, her daughter and grandchildren whom she loved dearly.

















Hymns

MHB 608

CAPTAIN OF ISRAEL'S HOST AND GUIDE

1. Captain of Israel's host and guide
Of all who seek the land above
Beneath thy shadow we abide
The clouds of thy protecting love.
Our strength, thy grace
Our rule, thy word
Our end, the glory of the Lord.
2. By thy unerring Spirit led
We shall not in the desert stray
We shall not full direction need
Nor miss our providential way.
As far from danger as fear
While love
Almighty love is near.

MHB 615

GUIDE ME, O THOU GREAT JEHOVAH

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,
Land me safe on Canaan's side:
Songs of Praises
I will ever give to Thee.

MHB 427

THROUGH ALL THE CHANGING SCENES OF LIFE

1. Through all the changing scenes of life, In
trouble and in joy,
The praises of my God shall still
My heart and tongue employ.
2. Oh, magnify the Lord with me,
With me exalt His name;
When in distress to Him I called, He to my
rescue came.
3. The hosts of God encamp around The
dwellings of the just;
Deliverance He affords to all
Who on His succor trust.
4. Oh, make but trial of His love,
Experience will decide
How blest they are, and only they, Who in
His truth confide.
5. 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.

Hymns

MHB 948

ABIDE WITH ME

1. Abide with me! fast falls the eventide;
The darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide!
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, oh, abide with me.
2. Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day;
Earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass away;
Change and decay in all around I see;
O Thou who changest not, abide with me.
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. Hold thou thy cross before my closing eyes.
Shine through the gloom and point me to
the skies.
Heaven's morning breaks and earth's vain
shadows flee;
in life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.

MHB 896

NOW PRAISE WE GREAT AND FAMOUS MEN

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 generaton;
Who helped the right, and fought the wrong,
And made our folk a naton.
3. Praise we the great of heart and mind, The
singers sweetly gifed,
Whose music like a mighty wind The souls of
men uplifted.
4. Praise we the peaceful men of skill Who
builded homes of beauty,
And, rich in art, made richer sill The
brotherhood of duty.
5. So praise we great and famous men, The
fathers, named in story;
And praise the Lord who now as then Reveals
in man His glory.



Don't grieve for me, for now I'm free!
I'm following the path God laid for me.
I took His hand when I heard him call;
I turned my back and left it all.
I could not stay another day,
To laugh, to love, to work or play.
Tasks left undone must stay that way,
I've found that peace at the close of day.
If my parting has left a void,
Then, fill it with remembered joy.
A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss,
Ah! Yes, these things I too will miss.
Be not burdened with times of sorrow,
I wish for you the sunshine of tomorrow.
My life's been full, I've savored much:
My children, grandchildren, great-
grandchildren
Good friends, good times, challenging
times and a loved one's touch.
If my time seemed all too brief,
Don't lengthen it now with undue grief.
Praise the Lord for His grace,
Lift up your heart and share with me;
God wanted me now, He set me free, so,
I Am Free!

Appreciation

*The family of Madam Mabel Eua Peterkin
expresses our gratitude for what you have done for us.
Your words of comfort, encouragement and your incredible generosity
have helped us through this season of grief.*

Thank you so deeply for all you have done for us.



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