

Remembering

MADAM
CHRISTINA EFFIE
MCCARTHY

1942 -2021





Officiating Clergy

Rt. Rev. Fr. Victor Reginald Atta-Baffoe, PhD	Bishop, Anglican Diocese of Coast
Very Rev. Ebenezer L. Annan	Dean, Christ Church Anglican Cathedral
Very Rev. Fr. Francis Ato Koomson Rtd	Anglican Diocese of Cape Coast
Very Rev. Fr. Emmanuel E. Williams Rtd	Anglican Diocese of Cape Coast
Venerable Fr. Augustine Kofi Buadi	Precenter, Christ Church Cathedral
Venerable Fr. Theophilus O. Sakyiamah	Anglican Diocese of Cape Coast
Venerable Fr. Samuel K. Baisie	Archdeacon, Cape Coast
Venerable Fr. Justice Bainn Doodu	St. Andrew the Apostle, Green Hill
Venerable Fr. Emmanuel Kobina Obemah	Kasoa
Venerable Fr. James B. Aikins	Archdeacon, Saltpond
Venerable Fr. Peter Amoako-Gyampah	Archdeacon, Foso
Rev. Canon Felix Percy Longdon	St. Mary the Virgin Parish, Eyifua
Rev. Fr. Stephen Obeng	Christ Church Anglican Cathedral
Rev. Fr. Prince Obo Mends	Christ Church Anglican Cathedral
All other visiting clergy	

Wardens

Mr. Charles Eyimah
Mr. Theophilus Allotey

In Attendance

Christ Church Cathedral Choir
St. Monica's Singing Band
Melodies

At The Organ

Rev. Fr. Stephen Obeng
Mr. Paa Kwesi Sakyiamah

Order of Service

PART 1: PRE- BURIAL SERVICE AT 7.30AM

1. THE GATHERING
2. Reception of the body
3. Processional Hymn A&M 260
4. Opening of casket
5. Opening prayer
6. Hymns A&M 193, 290, 165 (Filing past)
7. Lesson Romans 8:31-39
8. Hymns A&M 258, 445 (Filing past)
My Faith Has Found a Resting Place
9. Reading of Tributes
10. Songs Filing Past
11. Hymn A&M 399 (Clergy and Servers to file past)
12. Covering of casket Lead Us Heavenly Father Lead Us, A&M 202

PART 2: BURIAL SERVICE AT 9.00AM

1. Hymn A&M 231
2. Liturgy of The Word
3. First Bible Reading Acts 13:30-38
4. Hymn A&M 193
5. Gospel St. John 17: 1-5
6. Hymn Supp. 3
7. Reading of Biography/Tributes
8. Hymn Captain of Israel's Host and Guide
9. Homily
10. The Apostles' Creed
11. Bidding Prayers
12. Offertory Melodies
10. Offering For The Bereaved Family Melodies
11. Courtesies
12. Presentation

PART 2: COMMENDATION

1. Hymn A&M 283
2. Silence/Sentence:
3. Hymn Be Gone Unbelief, A&M 537
4. Farewell Sentence
5. Halleluia Chorus Cathedral Choir
6. Benediction
7. Recessional Hymn A&M 223

PART 3: AT THE GRAVESIDE

1. Hymn A&M 19
2. Sentences
3. Hymn A&M 401
4. THE INTERNMENT
5. Laying of wreaths
6. Vote of Thanks
7. Nunc Dimittis
8. Benediction
9. Departure

Biography of the Late

MADAM CHRISTINA EFFIE M^CCARTHY

Madam Effie McCarthy was born on the afternoon of Friday 23rd October 1942, at Kwanonopadu, off Coronation Street of Cape Coast, to Madam Jane Quarm and Mr George 'Ekow' McCarthy. She was the third of nine siblings and the third girl so was sometimes called Efua Mansa.

Her mother also known as Adwoa Donkor, was a trader and seamstress, who hailed from Kormantse.

Ekow McCarthy was a civil engineer at Public Works Department (PWD). He was part of the team that oversaw the construction of Ankaful Psychiatric Hospital as well as Komenda Hospital. His maternal lineage was from the Denkyira Ahenfie of Apewosika, in the Central Region of Ghana. His paternal lineage was from Sierra Leone. His father had moved to Ghana for his job, married, had a family and made Ghana his home.

At birth, although not premature, she was a tiny baby and her parents and grandmother suspected she might not make it; her resilience as a person was evident even at birth.

Sadly her father died when she was only a year and two months old, whilst on a work assignment in Dunkwa.

Her mother remarried Ishmael 'Bob' Johnson, aka Kwaku Esson, who rose to become one of Ghana's

most prominent concert hall actors and an accomplished comedian. Six siblings followed after Effie. At this time, the family lived in Ntsin, a suburb of Cape Coast.

Even though Bob Johnson's career took him all over the world, that didn't stop him from being an exemplary father, nurturing his step-children with as much love as his biological children. Two uncles; brothers of her late father, also played major roles in her upbringing, but Bob Johnson became her main father-figure.

From a young age, Effie was very protective of her siblings and although the calmest, they all knew that if ever there was a fight or someone was picking on one of them, she would be there to defend them or physically face any adversary.

She started her primary education at the Government Girls School on Coronation Street, Cape Coast. She was so keen to attend school that on many occasions, when she heard the school bell, she would drop whatever chores she had been given and rush out of the house, as the school was very close by.

She was an astute student and always came in the top three positions in class. The normal trajectory in the Government School system was certification attained at Standard 7.



Madam Effie McCarthy attained Distinction and her oldest sister proudly recounted, “Effie attained, distinction, distinction pass!”

After school, being a keen learner, it was no surprise that Effie’s self-taught skills as a very accomplished seamstress, like her mother, enabled her to earn a good living.

Around this time Effie made a temporary move to Kumasi to help her married, oldest sister, with her 5-month old baby. She was able to pick up on her sewing career in Kumasi and her skills were in high demand. She had a God-given talent, and this served as her main career for most of her adult life.

Effie was a keen churchgoer and although her mother and siblings belonged to the Methodist church, she was confirmed in Christ the King Anglican Church (now Christ Church Cathedral); her biological father and her Godmother – the midwife who had delivered her years before, had also been members.

It was here that she met her husband-to-be, Joseph Augustus Britton Harvey-Ewusi, popularly known as Ekow Ewusi or Uncle Ekow. He was a server in the church and a teacher at Philip Quaake Boys School. He later joined the Information Services of Ghana.

After a period of courtship, he asked for her hand in marriage. Following their nuptials, Effie continued to reside with her parents in Ntsin, as was normal at the time, and subsequently gave birth to her first child, Aba Ewusiwah, closely

followed by a son, Papa Ewusi. She then moved to live with her husband and his parents, in their family home in Abowinim, Cape Coast.

Effie’s down to earth personality meant her in-laws enthusiastically welcomed her. It was a natural assimilation. They doted on her and their grandchildren, until their demise – one shortly after the other – when both children were very young.

In the early years of their marriage, due to the nature of her husband’s job, he was posted to many places around Ghana. Effie had to juggle spending time with her husband and creating a stable environment to raise their first two children. This arrangement ceased when she had her third child, Mother.

From then on, her children were raised in Cape Coast permanently. Nana Kwegyir was born three years later and two years after, on her own birthday, Effie gave birth to Christy.

In the early eighties, Effie decided to move with her children to live in Ola, close to her ageing mother, so she could take care of her. She quickly immersed herself in the Thomas Thompson Anglican Church, ultimately serving as President of the Women’s Fellowship for ten years.

Years later, Effie and her two youngest children moved to Pedu Estate. At this time, she transferred her church membership back to Christ Church Cathedral, where she continued in her commitments to the Church and the Women’s Fellowship.

Family meant everything to Effie. She was always ready and willing to help at the drop of a hat. She made it her mission to unify – siblings, children and friends. She was a mother to many. Her home was open to all.

Her altruistic nature made it very easy for people to gravitate towards her. She was a constant source of support not only to her children, but also more widely to her siblings, nieces and nephews, friends and her community. Effie’s faith in God kept her grounded. She prayed without ceasing and was the calming presence in a crisis.

She helped raise her nieces and nephews, and it gave her great pleasure to regularly send scrumptious “home-made” food to the ones schooling in Cape Coast, as they can attest.

In the mid-80’s she spent time in the UK looking after her first two grandchildren. She relished this role and the new parents had to take a backseat! On her return to Ghana, she stepped back into family and church life.

Although she had separated from her husband, they never actually divorced. With time, and past differences being water under the bridge, they had been working towards reconciliation. Alas it was not to be, as her husband passed away suddenly in 1994, at the young age of 58. Sadly, three years later, her beloved mother also passed on.

Effie never remarried, but spent the rest of her life looking after her

grandchildren abroad, fulfilling her family and church duties or being the matriarch; a role she undertook with great poise.

In the late 90s she went to the US, to help take care of her third grandchild, who was closely followed by two more. In the end the cold weather and the pull of her church and family duties meant that after some years away, she decided that she was needed back home in Ghana.

All of her grandchildren were a great source of joy. She always had words of encourage for them and took much pride in learning of their accomplishments. Thanks to Facetime and WhatsApp they were well connected.

In 2019, Effie took what would be her final trip to the United States, to spend time with her two daughters, grandchildren and in-laws. The memories made during this visit will long be cherished.

When she was taken ill so suddenly, no one could have imagined that we would never see her again. She was the family’s pillar of strength. Her death has left a vacuum that will be very hard to fill. Her legacy will be indelible, for those who enjoyed the privilege of knowing her.

Effie gave everything and all things to The Lord in prayer; we are assured that she will be at peace in her resting place, and for this we give thanks.

Sleep well, Madam Christina Effie McCarthy!

CHILDREN ~ Ewusiwah

Our relationship was based on three fundamental things: challenge, strength and growth.

We continually challenged one another because of our views, our dreams and what we wanted the other to achieve and be. Our strength, both individually and as mother and daughter can never be matched. Through the adversity that we experienced in our lives and that we each witnessed, we continued to be the person that we each relied upon and turned to in order to find the strength and courage to continue and better ourselves.

Growing together after 58 years and being her first born meant that we learnt so much together. Mama learnt how to first be a mother to me and then to my siblings and then to my own children. The year Mama spent with them and subsequent years when they visited her in New York, will never be forgotten.

My children love you and for that I am so proud of the love you had for them.

Mama pushed me to be my best self so that my family could benefit from our joint achievements.

These foundations made our relationship and there is no one in the world that will ever understand how and why this worked. There is no bond greater or stronger than the relationship between a mother and their first child - it is the child that changes a woman into a mother, that transforms them to gain their new title as mother and most of all, it is the child that teaches the mother a new type of love. I am grateful to have been her new learning experience.

Thank you for everything Mama. You will be missed.



❧ TRIBUTES ❧

CHILDREN ~ Papa

Mama, Auntie Effie, Sister Effie, Ewura Effie and my personal name for her... *Mena Effie*. She was all of these and more, to many people from various walks of life. She was able to form one to one relationships with people of all ages and the depth of these friendships have really become evident, following her death, as many people have come forward with stories of their individual and unique relationships with our mother.

She was a formidable woman who lived her life guided by her Christian beliefs and principles. Mama was always sending videos, sermons and scriptures through WhatsApp and on the rare occasion, would send an audio message of her singing. I must say,



she did have a wonderfully soothing voice.

She was a matriarch in every sense of the word. She always put herself forward to support her family and she was the glue that bound the family together.

She never bore a grudge or held offence. Ever the peacemaker, across generations, family unity was very important to her and she spent a great deal of her time trying to bring

peace among her children, but also the larger family. I believe that she was capable of defusing tensions among warring factions.

She was very calm, even in the face of provocation and never quick to anger. Let it be known that she had the propensity to explode whenever she thought an injustice was being perpetrated on a family member, a friend or even total strangers. An example of this occurred at an office in the Cape Coast Lands Department. Someone there had collected monies to sort out legal land documents for two of my siblings. After lots of toing and froing it became clear that the said person had no intention of fulfilling his end of the arrangement. After months of frustration our mother was entrusted and tasked with resolving the issue. A few days after, I received a phone call from someone in the land's

department and his exact words were "*action a wo maame wo'abeye wo ha no ehu'a!*", translated as "the action that your mother has come to do here!!". He pleaded with me to convince her not to return. The documents were submitted to her a few days later. Even with the chronic pain in her leg, Mena Effie must have climbed several flights of stairs to go and sort out this issue once and for all. She later reiterated that if she is ever entrusted with something that important, she would see to it that the outcome would be a positive one. I realised then, this was part and parcel of how she approached her responsibilities, she just hardly ever voiced it.

Mena Effie did everything with a low brow and yet backed it up with a stoic determination that couldn't be easily derailed. That was why family members and friends at large, sought her counsel on many subjects. Just before she passed away, Mama helped to organise a wedding for one of her nieces and a funeral for the husband of a very close friend of hers. Organising such events came naturally to her. Mama, you will be sorely missed for your ability to juggle many complicated pieces, for things to finally fall in place and the results to be astounding.

There are many anecdotes of situations where Mena Effie had to confront someone in order to right a wrong, but alas time and space doesn't permit me to share them with you.

Mena Effie always made sure there was food in her house, so no family or stranger visiting or dropping in, would go hungry.

Mena Effie knew every visitor's favourite dish and would go to great lengths to prepare it. She would make sure she was present to supervise the cooking and her keen eye for detail, was forever prowling around the kitchen to make sure every aspect was up to her very high standards!

She was a dab hand at baking and there was always cake in the house. Once I asked her why she was always baking cakes and her response was "so that when I get a visitor, I can offer them some". She omitted the part where *she* would indulge in a slice as big as a doorstep, for her breakfast.

My one lasting and endearing memory of my mother is her sense of humour. Growing up, I used to think my mother was too serious, but as an adult I've realised she was just doing her best to keep us on the straight and narrow. I remember the evenings spent with her drinking wine and me asking about *so and so*, and how sharp and on point her memory was. On one occasion, my

CHILDREN ~ Papa (cont'd)

trip to Ghana coincided with one of my siblings being there. I arrived in Cape Coast armed with a Dictaphone to record Mena Effie's life history. I don't think I have ever laughed so much with my mother. The comedienne in her was on form that evening. Christy who was present, can attest to that. In the end we had to abort the recording. I have kept it in a very safe place and will listen to her voice whenever I need a calming influence.

Mama loved music and enjoyed dancing. She was good at picking up new dance moves or trends. Even with her bad leg, she could dance the *Azonto* and *Shaku-shaku*, long before many young people had mastered the moves.

Mama, in the end you dropped subtle hints that you were preparing to join your Maker, but we of this world were holding onto the goodness that made you who you were. Mama, you left us too soon and the only consolation is that the wisdom you dispersed to us throughout our lives, should help us negotiate the minefield that we call "Life". You guaranteed our physical well-being with castor oil, herbal tea and Nivaquine syrup that you forced down our throats as children. You also instilled in us a spiritual well-being, by encouraging us to always seek a relationship with God. Mena Effie gave us a solid foundation for healthy, spiritual lives from the moment we entered this world.

Mena Effie, saying my farewell is difficult, but I know that if it's something that The Almighty has deemed necessary, then I can only pray, hope, and lead an exemplary life to ensure we meet again in the future.

The corridors and fields of heaven will surely be wafting with the aroma of your cakes. Sleep well *Mena Effie*.

CHILDREN ~ Mother

Maa. Mother of all mothers. The kind of mother who was and always has been a protector.

You were someone who was always there for me. I could go a day or two without calling you but when I picked up the phone to call it could be 10 calls in that day alone. I could be cooking with you on the phone or getting ready for an event and you will stay on the video call with me until I'm done dressing up.

Maa touched me in many ways - I cannot get over her redecorating my living room and bedroom when I came home from the hospital with my third born child. Not to mention the fact that she carried all of the curtains with her from Ghana to surprise me.

Maa, my friend, my confidante. The wonder woman who raised wonderful children. We would share ideas and wisdom. She was witty, funny and many of her jokes will stay with me forever. She would always confide in me, knowing that it would stay between us ... as she would say. She never stopped teaching. Even on her last visit, she was keen on teaching me her new method of making light soup. She was never afraid to speak her mind, because her words made such an impact. Through it all, we settled our disagreements without disrespect, chaos or noise. She told me like it was, without sugar coating and I always appreciated it.

She was a prayerful mom. When mothers pray, God hears their cry with a heart of faith. She always said to brighten the corner where you are.

As I write, you bring a smile to my face. You never ceased to love your grandchildren. She did her all to take care of us.



*Obaatan pa Ena pa
Ahwe hen ma hen se efifir
Y'ahwe wo ma wo dze etutu.
What a blessing!*

*Obaatan pa Ena pa
Ahwe hen ma hen se efifir
Y'ahwe wo ma wo dze etutu.
BLESSED!*

May the Lord keep my mother's soul and spirit in his bosom, till we meet again.

Thank God for her life.

I love you Maa, Sister Effie, Mama.

My biggest cheerleader.

CHILDREN ~ Nana

One of the most difficult and heart wrenching tasks I have ever had to do in my life was to write a tribute to my Mother “my girl lollipop”. How do I start and how do I finish? What do I write and what do I leave out? The sheets always get soaked with tears because like a whisper of wind my favourite person is gone.
Maayiw maadzi aa osom mo bo. Mi wiase ator dziiii.



Mama was the kindest and most loving person I have ever known. She mothered everyone who came her way and lived her life full of passion and made many people endeared to her warmth. My friends referred to her as “Mama” and she played motherly role in their lives as well. She took this as a compliment and never shied away from being there for others who needed support in one way or another. I am so fortunate to have had a mother who set such a good example of compassion, hospitality, kindness, and concern for humanity.

Maa was always my “go to” person even in my adult years because she listened and never judged. She had a way of making me feel accepted irrespective of the situation. She never gave up on me especially during my teenage years when I stirred quite a few storms. As a son, I grew up with the most amazing role model who taught me to always be myself and to always strive to learn more. You always pushed me to give it my all and never give up

no matter what. You have always been there for us and have never disappointed us. I will miss your smile, your laugh, your sage advice, and your bubbly personality. Mama was my world, my best friend and a true buddy. “My Boy Lollipop” and my usual response “My Girl Lollipop”. My world is not the same without you here Maa.

The only person I could depend on whenever I had a bad day. She will always go above and beyond to lift my spirits and teach me valuable lessons. I am in a state of denial and I just cannot believe we would not have our daily talks. Who now can hear my silent cry when life’s battles are thrown at me? Who will subdue the tempest storm when it rises within my soul? A real pillar to lean on in times like these Mama. The teasing, the retelling of old stories, the dancing, our favourite tunes, and our typical never-ending chit chat.

I recall your hustles, sometimes in difficult circumstances, simply to provide for your children. Despite the fact that I was pretty little, I recall you getting up so early in the morning to make some pastries, some local ice cream, then sew clothes till midnight just to take care of us, in addition to the typical home responsibilities. Of course, I saw your frustrations when you were exhausted yet needed to keep going, to make our lives easier.

I will forever salute you Mama, because you have been all I ever needed in my life. God certainly blessed me with the greatest mother in the world. Someday I know all will be well and I will see you again with stories to tell of how you were missed Maa. Oh Yes how you are sorely missed.

May You rest In God’s grace. I will do my best to honour your memory and be a good man, I will never forget the lessons you taught me. I promise Maa.

I miss you more than you know my beautiful angel and my heart aches every time I remember you are gone Mi Maame.

Goodbye my Effie, until we meet to part no more.

Rest well, my beloved.

Medaase My Girl Lollipop.

CHILDREN ~ Christy

My dearest Maa,
Thank you for all your wise and careful instructions; they are my guide through life and they have come in handy especially through this difficult time of losing you.

When my feet were small, you lovingly set them upon the right paths. I've disappointed you sometimes, but you found a way to use my experience to help me understand things happen for a reason and its part of growing up. Thank you for the times you comforted me when I was hurt and afraid and listened to how I felt when I needed to be heard.

As I grew, you showed me how to see beauty when I was broken.

Maa, brought me gladness when I was sad with her great sense of humor.



You praised and encouraged me when all seemed lost.

Thank you for your secret prayers and sacrifices for me. They are the reason I'm still standing.

Maa, you've been my best friend since the day God decided to bless you with me on your birthday.

23rd October will never be the same without you my twin, but I promise to celebrate us each year on that day.

Maa, if God hadn't chosen you to be my mother, I would have chosen you anyway.

My baby girl, *dɔfo*, girlfriend, Effie, Efua Tweiba, *me dɔfo paa*, my heart is broken and though its broken, I seek comfort knowing that you've done all you needed to do for me.

You are amazing, the sweetest mother, my best friend, and the most beautiful - not because I look like you, but because you simply are, inside out.

Thank you Maa, sleep well.

God be with you till we meet again.

Your baby girl,

Christy



SIBLINGS & Cousins

*A light from our lives has gone
A voice that we love is still
A place is vacant within our hearts ...*



Our sister's untimely demise and departure has left us all numb and in a state shock. Sister Effie will be dearly missed. Nevertheless, we will try our best to cope, taking consolation in the belief that she is now resting in the bosom of the Almighty.

Effie was the Ambassador of our family, always representing us at all occasions. We are grateful for the special memories that remain. A few weeks ago, she sent us all an audio recording of her singing: "*Onyame Do Ne Mba.*" The love of a sister is absolutely priceless.

From Mrs Sophia Amponsah

As the eldest sister, my primary "job" was to serve as Effie's mentor. We grew up with a special bond, had daily conversations, often whispering our secrets, until the very end.

During our younger years, we supported our mother with household chores, studied and played together, with Effie making dresses and dressing up our dolls. Effie was a natural at sewing, and it is of no surprise that she eventually became a professional seamstress.

I vividly remember once falling ill in Kumasi, and when Effie heard the news, my dear sister immediately rushed to my side. She always placed her priorities second to those of everyone else's.

About five years ago, I made a semi-permanent move from Tema to Cape Coast. From that time, practically every weekend, Effie, a lifelong resident of Oguaa, frequently visited, surprising me with her special home-made cakes and other delicacies. When she visited, we would often reminisce, laughing heartily over the special memories we shared growing up. One memorable incident we discussed involved teasing our mom by imitating the specific facial expression she would make after reprimanding us, to the point of crying.

My sister has left us with uncountable beautiful memories which will remain eternally in our hearts. Today, as we bid her farewell, I am convinced that her spirit now rests, perfectly, in the everlasting bosom of our Lord. Safe journey my sister, and as the saying goes, "To live in someone's heart is to never die."

My sister, until we meet again, profound peace be with you.

From Mrs Gina Aferi

The very last time I saw my sister was on Easter Sunday, after Communion Service in Accra, when I rushed to visit her at the Interbeton Hospital, in Cape Coast. We were both in high spirits, and happily started singing together, "*Dofɔ Ben Koraa Na Otese Wɔ.*" Even though she was unwell, I could still hear her voice, joyfully singing along. I prayed for her, hoping that the next time we met would be at her home. Little did I know that, on this occasion, we were actually saying goodbye to each other. Absolutely, no one was ready for you to depart so suddenly; the children and myself were planning on how to celebrate your 80th birthday in style. I still cannot believe you are gone, no longer with us, here, right now. However, knowing that only God, our dear Lord and Savior, knows best; this is how I try to console myself. Not a day passes by without me thinking of you. Oh!! My one and only Efua Tweba, (as we were named after our paternal great-grandmothers, who were sisters, Fosuah and Tweba) may your Soul Rest In Peace.

Fare Thee Well.

*"Death leaves a heartache
no one can heal,
Love leaves a memory
no one can steal."
Anonymous*

SIBLINGS & Cousins (cont'd)

From Mrs Lily Okwaisie

During my early years, when I was living in Kumasi with our older sister, Mrs Sophia Amponsah, Sister Effie came to visit us. We developed a special bond during her visit. Sister Effie was not just close to my heart, but I was so very proud, honored and blessed to be her younger sister. I'll forever miss and cherish her daily texts, the weekly conversations we had, her guidance and above all, her love. My dear sister touched so many lives and she will forever be in our hearts. May her gentle soul rest peacefully in paradise.

From Mamie Dede

After receiving an urgent call from my sister Georgina, that our sister Effie had been admitted to the DIS Clinic and that I should visit her to provide any help she needed, I rushed to her bedside. For two days and nights, I stayed and slept on the floor, helping her out. When it was decided she should be moved to the Interbeton Hospital, representing the family, I accompanied her throughout the hospital transfer. My sister Effie was very close to my heart and every time she needed help or assistance from me, I responded hastily with love. The family has lost a wonderful person.

Rest in perfect peace my dear sister.

from Ms Hilda Johnson

My sister Effie was someone I always looked up to. My sister, friend, and mentor has left us unexpectedly. I still cannot believe you've left us. Have a peaceful rest in God's arms.

from Auntie Ketsina

Sister Effie, you brought joy, happiness and laughter to all who met you. You will be missed by everyone. Rest peacefully.

from Mrs Elizabeth Rost

Sister Effie, may you rest in perfect peace in the bosom of the Almighty.

from Mrs Nora Osafo

Rest in perfect peace my dear cousin.

from Mrs Mensi Shabaz

May your soul rest in peace.

GRANDCHILDREN ~ Nana & Bubbles

Grandma told Bubbles and me never to come to Ghana just because she had died. We laughed because we thought we would visit before this happened. We thought she'd survive to be a great-grandma to all her grandchildren's children; welcoming each of our families to her. We know she would have welcomed them all with open arms, but this didn't happen and we will always regret this.

Grandma was always our biggest cheerleader - she knew that we would amount to something. Because of her, we knew we were loved, wanted and most of all we knew that there was someone behind us singing our praises and proud of all of us.

The time that she spent with us in infancy will never be forgotten; she nurtured so many of her grandchildren from birth. She made time to look after them, love them and enjoyed making sure that they were ok. You only had to ask for something and she would go out of her way to make it for you. Grandma, we will miss your cakes and your fried rice!

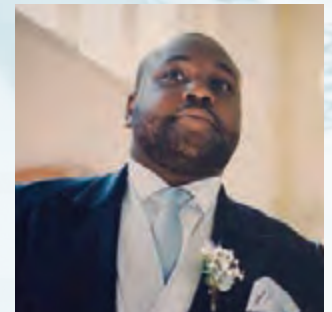
Even though the time that we spent with her was short, due to us living in different countries, the memories we do have with her will always remain with us.

Most of all, we loved our conversations with her; she spoke to us with love and understanding even when I, Naa, spoke too fast for her to understand. We spoke of her dreams, what she wished for her children and what she wanted for her grandchildren. I hope that from her last conversations with us all, she knows how much she had achieved with her encouragement and knew how much we wanted to make her proud.

Grandma, know that we love you and cannot imagine a world without you. We will miss our birthday messages that kept us on track and focused, but most importantly, made us know that you were always thinking of us. Our conversations always reminded us of how much you cared for us.

Rest well Mama, we love and miss you.

Nana & Bubbles



GRANDCHILDREN ~ Jamila, Caleb & Zanna

Grandma embodied love. The kind of love you knew was unconditional. Regardless of who you were, she was always so kind and sweet. She showed me the true power of love and how endless it is. The number of us here today is a testament to her love. In 1 Corinthians 13, the Bible says:

*"These things will last forever -
faith, hope, and love - and the greatest of these is love."*

Grandma, thank you for your love. We miss you and love you.
May we choose love above all things and may you live in our hearts forever.



Consider myself lucky to have spent time with Grandma. Following her passing, I spent a lot of time reflecting on the time we spent together and the memories and feelings that I associate with our moments shared. One of the first memories that I remember from my childhood was wanting to bake cookies with her. I came to realize that most of our moments together occurred when I was too young to be able to recall them with great detail, but I still remember this overwhelming feeling of love and comfort just by coexisting in the same space as her. When I would talk to Grandma over the phone, we would get so excited at the prospect of when we would see each other next. Fortunately, I got to be in her loving presence not too long ago.

When Grandma came to visit two summers ago, being able to have three generations in one household was so special, considering we have spent most of our time apart. I felt grateful upon having the realization that not many people have the luxury of getting to experience such tender, mundane moments with their loved ones in the way that I did with her, and that in itself is a blessing that I will always treasure. Looking at the woman who raised the woman who raised me into the woman I am now was incomparable to any feeling I have felt thus far. It transcended happiness and felt more akin to appreciation. I saw the joy that my mother and her mother brought to each other - it was the infectious kind of joy; the kind that makes you sit back and remember just how much these people mean to each other and just how much they mean to you.

Grandma, thank you. You showed me just how powerful it is to love and be loved by someone - you cared for us without

hesitation. It was a joy to come home from school and see you. It was a joy to hold your soft hands and wonder how one person could feel so much like home. The thing that makes home feel so special is that it can never leave us. Even though you are no longer on this earth, you will live on in our hearts and in our memories. I love you and I miss you.

May Your Soul Rest In Peace.



Grandma made me believe in myself. And in thinking about her and what I will remember about her, I will remember how special and important she made me feel. And how she believed in me when I didn't believe in myself. I think that the energy she radiated into the world had the ability to remind people of their own importance and purpose. And that energy is not gone but transferred into everyone she loved and touched, making it even more powerful.

Her belief in me pushes me every time I think of her, and although she may be physically gone I know that feeling she gave me will stay with me forever.



GRANDCHILDREN ~ Effie, Ekow & Judah

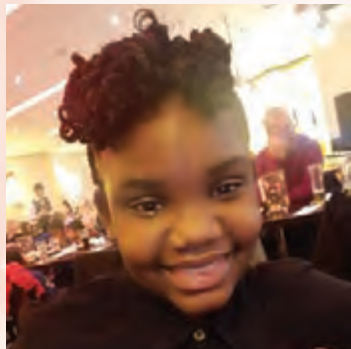
We still can't believe our lovely Grandma has been taken away from us. We will miss our Grandmother, but her spirit and strength, lives on in each of us and in the lives she touched.

She lives on in us and in all those who have been touched by the love, strength, conviction, wisdom, and beauty of her soul.

We love you Grandma. You truly were a special, special woman! You may have passed on, but your memories will always live on in us. Thank you for your sacrifices, your care and concern. For your love and everything that you have done for us. We know you are in a much better place. We will be forever grateful and thankful that you are Our Grandmother.

Grandma possessed a beautiful soul and her abundance of wisdom, coupled with her unfaltering love had a big impact on us, in spite of us having a long-distance.

Rest in Peace Grandma. We love and miss you so much. Until we see each other again, you will forever be in our hearts.



NIECES, NEPHEWS & their Families

Collectively, we, the nephews and nieces, forward a resounding tribute to our dear Aunt Effie with great sadness, mixed with wonderful memories.

Madam Christina Effie McCarthy, more affectionately known as "Sister Effie," was not only our Aunt, but truly a Mother to many. A continual source of joy and hope, in our minds, Sister Effie remains a well-respected and reliable resource within our family. Whenever help is needed or wherever an occasion required maturity and grace, Sister Effie was there. At every point in time, she was a beacon of love and timely support.

We distinctly remember Sister Effie as being very spiritual and steadfast in her Christian faith. An avid Bible-reader and church member, she embodied the *Good Samaritan*, always welcoming friends, family and often, total strangers, into her home and to her dining table.

Yes, our dear Sister, Aunt and Mother was generous. Some would say, maybe to a fault; she gave far more than she received, offering up her last whatever to whomever was in need, indeed. Aside from her generosity, what we'll always remember was Sister Effie's love of Life. With a perpetual smile and jovial personality, her positivity was highly infectious. Any time spent with Sister Effie made our days and moments brighter, precious and special.

We thank our merciful Lord and Savior for the privilege to have graced us with Madam Christina McCarthy. Although we are, of course, saddened by her early, sudden departure, she leaves us greatly encouraged and inspired. We pray that, having now completed her Earthly mission, she will now rest, peacefully, perpetually.

from Lydia, Kweku, Maamie, Nathan, Fred, Francine, Phyllis, Benjamin, Ishmael, Louis, Louisa, Linda, Laud, Lois, Angela, Nana, Kobe, Elaine, George, Henry, Paulinag, Anthony, Jonathan, Bob, Papa Yaw, and Kobby.

PERSONAL TRIBUTES

"Losing you is a big blow to us for you were an angel, self-sacrificing and authentic in all of your dealings with others. You sacrificed your time and energy for others, never trying to gain anything for yourself. We look back and remember a scene that played itself countless times when we visited in 2013, forty (40) days after our Dad was buried and you said to us you would always be there for us. It is so sad we did not get to enjoy you more.

NIECES, NEPHEWS & their Families

We cannot say you are dead but you are just away with a cheery smile and the wave of a hand. Sleep well Aunt Effie, say hello to our Dad, George Ekow McCarthy, and tell him we miss him.

Aunt, have a safe journey to the world beyond.”

*from your nephew and nieces,
Louisa McCarthy Ocran Turkson, Louis, Linda, Laud and Lois McCarthy.*

“Sister Effie was my Mom’s younger sister. Sister Effie, You fought a good fight, you’ve finished your course and, indeed, earned all the honors. Most importantly, you bore all of your responsibilities from the beginning to the end, leaving a remarkable legacy here on earth. I can proudly say that you’ve left footprints in the sands of time.

I’ll forever remember the many beautiful memories we made and shared together. May your gentle soul rest in peace and rise in glory. We’ve really lost a great lady, but “*Nyame ne hene.*”

from your niece, Lydia “Naana” Amponsah Mireku

“We remember Auntie Effie being gracious and welcoming, even at stressful times. I recall a time years ago, in New York, when I hadn’t seen, heard from nor had any conscious memory of my dear Aunt, since childhood. When we did meet, she made me feel comfortable, through the wonderful meal she prepared. That’s just who she was. I long now for a meal prepared by the loving hands of our dear Auntie Effie.”

from your nephew, Frederick Mends



IN-LAWS ~ *Andrea*

Auntie Effie ... I shouldn't be writing this! Strong, loving, kind, patient, compassionate, thoughtful, peacemaker, selfless, matriarch... a remarkable woman, who gave freely of herself, without hesitation or expectation of recompense.

She was a wonderful mother-in-law, and she showed me love and kindness from day one.

The thought of meeting her for the first time, filled me with trepidation, but I needn't have worried. Her smile and the twinkle in her eyes, told me everything I needed to know - I was part of her family.

Auntie Effie exuded warmth and had a great sense of humour, but was no pushover. A woman of principle; she was no-nonsense! Proverbs 22:6 was central to her relationships with us all - children, grandchildren, in-laws, nieces and nephews, and all of her 'adopted' children. She wanted only the best for us and made sure we knew it!

She had a quiet wisdom and never tired of sharing seeds with us. In the 1990s, in New York, it was a pleasure to sit and chat with her about all sorts - the news, hair, food, her favourite TV, scripture, good digestion - nothing was off-limits!

It was pure joy watching her with her grandchildren lovingly singing soft lullabies and fante nursery rhymes as she nurtured them.

Her love shone through in many ways and particularly when she cooked. She knew what each of us liked to eat and it was never too much trouble to make it for us. And oh could she bake! Her rock cakes were on another level - lasting no more than a few hours!

I smile as I remember her guilty pleasure - *Cadbury's Fruit and Nut*. She kept her stash on the top shelf of the fridge, away from prying eyes and temptation!

Auntie Effie, it was a blessing to have shared such precious moments with you. Your absence has created a massive void, but your essence lives on.

Rest in Christ's love.



IN-LAWS ~ *Eric*

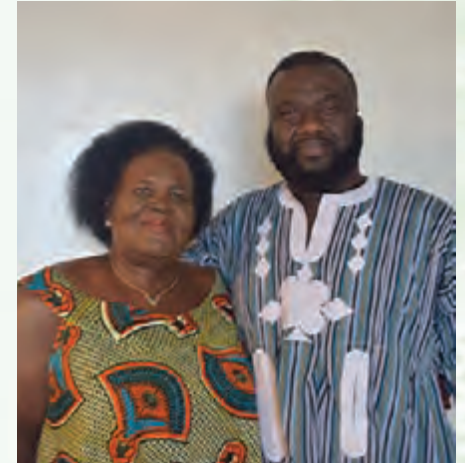
The last words that I said to Auntie Effie were, "Mama, we all love you." Little did I know that we would be receiving one of those dreaded phone calls the very next day. The call saying that you have left us to be with the Lord.

My mother-in-law was great, and I could not have asked for a better one. From the day I first met you, you were so kind and loving and never made me feel like I was not good enough for your daughter, and for that, and I am so grateful. During your visit to the U.S in the '90s, when my first child was conceived, it was such a blessing that you offered to help take care of her, and I will never forget and cannot thank you enough for the love you showered on our entire household.

I was back in school to further my education, and between working full-time and trying to raise our first child with my wife, your presence at home was God-sent. You were teaching your granddaughter letters, numbers, and feeding and playing with her. You did it all. A couple of years later, our son was born, and you were still there with a helping hand to nurture them. You gave so much love and attention to these kids, and I would always see your eyes light up anytime you talked about your grandkids and their accomplishments. I do not remember you asking for much in return.

Through it all, your encouraging words, guidance, jokes, and your colorful commentary on current affairs were things I cherished. Living with you and sharing these moments helped me get through a critical part of my life as a young man trying to figure things out. You always made sure the kids did not disturb me when I was home getting some rest after school or work. I could always come to you with questions, concerns, or to seek advice on any topic. You never judged me even when I felt at fault.

To say you've played a significant role in my life is an understatement. There is no doubt in my mind that I would not have made it through college and where I am today without the unconditional love and support you provided to my three children, my wife, and me at a time when we needed it the most.



IN-LAWS ~ Eric (cont'd)

Your calming presence created a haven for me to focus on my studies and everything else that mattered most.

In true motherly fashion, you visited a third time, albeit a short one, when our last born was conceived, and it was further evidence that you were one of a kind, and your impact on my family and me cannot be fully captured or measured in this written piece. You mean the world to your grandkids, and I could not muster the strength to break the sad news of your passing to them.

Mama, I will miss you dearly, and I promise to carry on your legacy by being selfless, not taking anything for granted, and being the best that I can be. You touched so many people, and I know that your spirit will forever live on - you gave so much to all of us. May God bless you with a seat at the highest table in heaven because you are an amazing woman with a good heart who made ordinary folks who met you feel so special. God only takes the best. Rest peacefully, Auntie Effie.



IN-LAWS ~ Kweiba

There's a misconception that your in-laws are going to be trouble. That couldn't be further from the truth when it came to my Mother-in-law - Mama Effie. She welcomed me with open arms, and I grew fond of her extremely early on in our relationship. I have watched her for the last several years to be the most incredible mum to her children and when I came into the picture, she made an effort to make me feel welcome in her family right away. We ended up connecting so well that she would jokingly warned me not to 'mess' with her boy lollipop.

Mama was a kind, free-spirited individual who loved to share the word, sing, dance, and cook amazing meals. She had a passion for many things, but most of all she had a passion for being a mum. I have learned so many lessons from her about following your dreams and loving with all of your heart. I will miss her incredible presence and feel honoured to be a part of her family.

While I don't feel ready to say goodbye, I know how lucky I am to have known her for the limited amount of time that I did. I miss her and so wish I got the privilege of spending more time with her.

Even though you're no longer with us, your wonderful memories of the bond we shared will live on in my heart. Your kindness inspired me in many ways; the days we spent together meant a lot to me and we had a great time; your strength is incredible.

MAMA, (as I affectionately called you) you will always be on my mind and in my heart, as I deal with this loss on a daily basis. May the light of our finest memories guide you on your journey through paradise, until we all meet again someday.

DA YIE ASIW KONOFO



IN-LAWS ~ Francis Buadi

Effie McCarthy, I always called you “Maa”, because that is how I felt around you, although you always called me “boyfriend”.

You have been my link to the rest of the family as the only parent of my wife when I first met her. You were such an awesome mother-in-law to me. The love you showed was like no other.

There is no love like a mother’s. You dedicated your life to providing and bringing up your children and you did an awesome job. I am a happy beneficiary. Your relationship with each child though different is of equal love and unique for each child. That is the beauty of an excellent mother.

I will always cherish the time we spent together. I will miss the telephone calls, although I usually did not say much, I felt your love and wisdom. Thanks for everything and our conversations. It always felt genuine and comforting. My Cape Coast tour guide, you were an outstanding woman.

I do remember clearly the last time we had a conversation. It was the day before your hospital admission. Although you had a difficult day, you summoned all your strength to speak clearly and to offer me hope. I am heartbroken. Unfortunately the good Lord knows best. You fought a good fight. Although you lost the battle with life on earth, in my mind and heart you won the most important fight, which is your genuine inner spirit.

You leave behind a wonderful legacy of love and compassion. You leave me with a beautiful wife and for that I am grateful. You have done your part and did it very well.

I will keep the memory of the wonderful times we had together in a special place in my heart.

I pray to God to protect and guide you safely to his heavenly home. Rest well Auntie Effie, rest well till we meet again.

Christy and I bid you farewell.

ADOPTED CHILDREN ~ Esaba

*“A voice I love is still
A place is vacant in my heart
I will always have beautiful memories
Of the one I love so dear
The battle is fought, the victory won,
Enter thy master’s joy.”*

As I mourn your death, I also rejoice at your life on earth and the good years I shared with you.

Mama Effie was a *real* mother to me, a strict disciplinarian who made sure that I possessed all the good values in life. She was...oh my God, I can’t even refer to her in the past tense... a God-fearing intercessor and counsellor. She was very well organized and a generous mother who cared for all who came to her home.

Mama Effie was supportive, willing and ready to trade her life for me. She was a good communicator, an impartial advisor, and a friend that I shared ideas with.

Oh Mama, are you really gone? My pillar is no more!

My loving Mama, if I have the chance to choose another mother, I will not hesitate to choose you.

Mama, though you are no more, let me take this opportunity on your behalf, to say a big thank you to everyone who showed you love and kindness during your sick days. Mama, you really made your mark and kept the faith in the Lord. I will forever miss you!

Ena pa, da yie!

Till we meet again.

Rest in perfect peace.

Amen.

*When the day of toil is done,
when the race of life is run,
Father grant thy wearied one
rest forever more.*

MHB 975



ADOPTED CHILDREN ~ Akosua

Mama Effie, who I always addressed as Mama, was so gentle and very kind to me growing up.

I remember when I got married and moved from London to Ghana with my 11-month old baby, Mama would travel from Cape Coast to come and help me cook food for the week and go back.

Growing up Okro dishes weren't popular in our house. Mama Effie knew I liked Okro stew, so she used to walk me through cooking the most tasty Okro stew, just so I would be able to enjoy it. I received my first lesson on Okro stew from Mama.

Mama, your eye expressions always spoke a thousand words to me and they always made me feel that in the midst of people and all the trouble of life, all is well. I also remember Mama Effie winking in a flash to signal to me that I shouldn't bother to talk, because all is well.

Mama Effie, it was in my Master plan to visit you on my next trip to Ghana, but God knows best.

Rest in Peace Mama Effie! ♥
from Sweet Sister (as Mama called me)



ADOPTED CHILDREN ~ Kwame & Naa Konadu

Mostly it is loss which teaches us about the worth of things

- Arthur Schopenhauer (German Philosopher)

To paraphrase - one never knows one's worth till one's passing. "Mama" I would respond to her calls of "Mr. Asamoah" as she affectionately referred to me in later life.

Ours was a unique relationship. It started out by her caring for me in my biological mum's absence. She breastfed me, which nowadays may come as a surprise to younger members of society, but I suspect was a common practice, in a time not long forgotten.

Since her passing, I tell everyone my adopted mother is gone, but on reflection, my *mother* is gone. My mother is gone, because she always looked out for me, even in my middle-age years.

In these last years, unknown to me when she came visiting Accra, she would sit through the evening either in Naa's house or Christy's, waiting on me - "Mr Asamoah se creba" or "Mama se ortweon wo" - till I showed up, sleep could wait - in a spirit that encapsulates a mum's love.

We shared memorable occasions - your 70th birthday and the thanksgiving celebration when we nearly lost you in a car accident around 1985.

Mama, I am thankful for your guidance. Our peacemaker is gone and we will forever hold on to your values.

Nantse yie!



When the Bible according to Proverbs 31:28 describes a virtuous woman, Mama comes to mind. Mama although she birthed five children, was a mother of many. I consider myself as one of hers. Even in hard times, she ensured we had enough to eat - she made wonders out of nothing.

She had her speciality where she made fish balls with her infamous "something", with gravy on top.

Nana Kwame has been asking for your cakes, who will do that for him, Mama? There are no words to express how I feel about Mama's demise. Our last conversation was when she was in the hospital and never did I think it would be our last.

Mama, thank you for everything you taught us. We will all miss you very much and we love you loads... You are still in our hearts and thoughts, may the Almighty keep you in His bosom till we meet again.

ADOPTED CHILDREN ~ Paa Kow Mends

Dear Mommy,
I love you with everything I am.

It's hard to accept the fact that you're no more.

You were not just my mother, but also my friend, supporter, advisor and my unfailing hope when my world seemed dark.

Mommy, you took me as your own son and fed, clothed, cared for and nurtured me for years unnumbered.

From the early 1990's till God called you home, you consistently looked out for me and my family without fail. I cannot thank you enough, Mommy.

Your selfless acts of kindness, your intuitive advice, and your love for family.

What a loving being you are. I grapple with the Lord in his decision to take you. How could this have happened when you were still full of life and hearty.

I love you Mummy, and will forever be guarded by your warm love and affection towards all humanity.

Amen.



ADOPTED CHILDREN ~ Rev. Charles Andrews

My tribute to an extraordinary woman who embodied love and generosity

It was an honour and a privilege for me to have met Auntie Effie at the most vulnerable time of my teenage years. I had lost my father and was dealing with the illness of my mother. Mama was a model of love, compassion and generosity. I have come to believe in angels who walk amongst us.

Not only was I privileged to enjoy her delicious meals, but her advice and counselling changed the course of my life to date.

Mama was the one who first encouraged me to surrender my life to Christ as she undoubtedly believed my wayward teenage life needed Him. The rest is history, as I ended up becoming a minister of Christ.

I bless the day I met this Angel of God called Mama Effie McCarthy. My encounter has been transformational and purposeful.

Mama, *Bronyi da wo ase*. You have fought the good fight, you have finished your race, you have kept your faith and now there is laid up for you, a crown of righteousness, which the Righteous judge will give you.

Smooth sailing Mama, into the arms of your Maker, until we meet again.

Aba Ewusiwah, Papa, Mother, Nana and Christy, thanks for allowing me to share in your mother's love. May you all feel the embrace of the Almighty.

Grace and peace to you all.



ADOPTED CHILDREN ~ Jechibea

A letter to Effie

Effie ... Effie. Full of love and power. You are a rock and pillar of strength. The foundation of your love and existence has left cemented footprints in our hearts. As we look back on photos, films, stories, and memories, we collectively agree that you are remarkable. YOU are the joy of our hearts. We miss you.

Effie, your eyes full of wisdom, strength, power, and faith. When I met you, there you were. With all the joy. You came to us in the US and supported your daughter after her first child was born. I admired your strength and your dedication. I saw the joy of the Lord in your heart and eyes. Yes, those eyes. I see your eyes in Jamila's eyes as well. You are not gone. You are still here. Living in your children and impressions of you in the hearts and minds of your friends.

Although you knew me not, you welcomed me. As your daughter's friend and neighbor, you hugged me and loved me as if I was your daughter. Yes, a daughter grafted in. A flower within your garden. For the brief time, I have spent with you, your love and the joy that exuded from your eyes have forever remained with me. It has made a lasting impression.

Although I am saddened to hear that your time here has ended, I am encouraged that you are with the Lord. We will be strong and the memory of you will not be forgotten. Love cannot die. Our memories may fade, but love, our love, and love for you will not be forgotten.

I write, and share my sentiments for your friends and family, so that they may know that your love has and always will remain eternal. From my heart to yours, I echo what others have said: "I love you. Be at peace, we will meet again!" When we do, you must tell me of your journey. I will sit and listen. I will ask you to speak in English (smile) so I can understand.

Thank you for loving me. I love you and send my hugs to you.

Sincerely,
Jechibea

ADOPTED CHILDREN ~ Leona Acquah

It has been hard on us accepting your death. Oftentimes wish we had the power to make your death go away. Losing you to grips of death has taken a toll on those of us who have loved you dearly. It's left but a huge void in our heart, that only time can heal.

You loved like a mother; shared hours of fun with us. You treated us like your own, including all who came around you. In the face of adversity your pieces of advice scaled us way over mediocrity and coarse jesters and from being victimized by naysayers and slanderers.

You were caring and sweet to all who came to your place of abode. You filled our stomachs and our hearts; teaching us about God for our own good. We seldom called you MOM, yet the love that you showed was undoubtedly true love.

We loved the life lessons you shared and they are all worthy to us. When we discuss how things used to be when you were here with us, some will say this; others will say that. But on these things we agree, that you were godly, wise, sincere and fun to be with. The best sister, mother, auntie, friend, home-maker and secret(s) sharing partner.

In the hearts of everyone whose life you have impacted; you will forever be special from now till the end.

Your death is a huge loss to us, but we will hold on to all the memories we created together.

Goodbye
Damirifa
Damirifa
Damirifa Due



ANGLICAN ~ Women's Fellowship

Tribute in honour of our late sister, Opanyin Effie McCarthy

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

Rev. 14:13 NIV

Oh yes, the very good works of Opanyin Effie McCarthy, will follow her according to the scripture. Opanyin Effie McCarthy, affectionately called *Auntie Effie* joined the Anglican women's Fellowship in the late 1970s at Christ the King Parish (now Christ Church Cathedral). Opanyin Effie McCarthy was a committed member who served the Fellowship faithfully and dutifully, very mindful of her financial obligations to the Fellowship.

When Opanyin Effie moved to Ola Estate, she and some Anglicans at the Rev. Thomas Thompson Anglican Church, Ola, came together and nursed a branch of the Fellowship in the Church. She later transferred her membership from Christ the King Parish to Rev. Thomas Thompson Parish.

At Rev. Thomas Thompson Parish, Opanyin Effie McCarthy worked tirelessly towards the welfare and growth of the newly formed Fellowship and for many years served as the Chairperson.

Again, when she moved to her new residence in the suburb of Pedu, Cape Coast, she transferred her membership from Rev. Thomas Thompson Parish to Christ Church Cathedral. With her rich experience as a member of the then Christ the King Parish and Chairperson of the Rev. Thomas Thompson branch of the Fellowship for many years, Opanyin Effie contributed in no small measure, in the affairs of the Fellowship. She was an executive member, our General "Senior Chaplain" and leader of St. Ann's house.

Her contributions at meetings were marked by deep thinking and reflection. She expressed her views with forthright succinctness on a number of issues.

As General "Senior Chaplain", she always made sure that she gave us a word of God advising and encouraging members about their obligations to the Fellowship, the church and their families. Beyond these commendable traits, Opanyin Effie McCarthy could be described as a role model. She was very principled, compassionate, generous, respectful, reliable, decent and related

cordially with both the young and the elderly. She lived a God-fearing and prayerful life.

As the scriptures tell us in 1Chronicles 29:15, "we pass through life like exiles and strangers, as our ancestors did. Our days are like a passing shadow, and we cannot escape death". In view of this, we Christians are aware that we are strangers here and will all go back home one day. With this in mind, we members of the Anglican Women's Fellowship, thank our Maker that He endowed us with Opanyin Effie McCarthy as a member for over four decades and sing:

*"ALLELUIA ! ALLELUIA ! ALLELUIA !
The strife is o'er, the battle done; Now is the victor's triumph won;
O let the song of praise be sung. Alleluia !
A & M 135*



Opanyin Effie McCarthy, we will forever treasure your immense contribution. For your crown, may the Angels of Heaven guide you safely home till we meet on the Resurrection Morning.

May your soul and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in perfect peace.

Amen.

THOMAS THOMPSON ANGLICAN ~

Women's Fellowship Ola

Tribute In Memory of Opayin Effie McCarthy

*"Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord.
They may rest from their labours, for their deeds follow them"*
Revelations 14:13

Madam Christina Effie McCarthy affectionately called Opayin Effie was one of the most illustrious Women's Fellowship Leaders the Church has ever had. Opayin Effie was very diligent, passionate, prayerful and selfless. In fact, she was the "shepherd" for the Women's Fellowship at Thomas Thompson Anglican Church, Ola.

Opayin Effie reactivated the fellowship to its current status after many failed attempts of its establishment. With guidance and advice from the late Opayin Sarah Saporah Arthur of blessed memory, who was then the president of the fellowship at Christ Church Cathedral, Opayin Effie was determined to reestablish the fellowship. She started organizing programmes and activities to accomplish her mission. Opayin Sarah Saporah Arthur and members of the fellowship realizing the qualities of Opayin Effie unanimously nominated her as the president and she was inducted into office. Hence the fellowship was inaugurated at a time when the church was worshipping in one of the classrooms at Ola Presby Basic schools.

Opayin Effie McCarthy was a devoted and faithful Christian and displayed an exceptional interest and love for the women's fellowship with a passion that was remarkable and worthy of emulation. She was courteous and submissive and always ready to serve. As a servant leader she was always regular and punctual at meetings and functions of the fellowship, such as cleaning of the church premises, anniversaries, church services, prayer retreats, annual harvest and all-night prayer sessions. Socially, she was part of joyful occasions like visiting, namings, wedding ceremonies and also in sad times of sorrow and bereavements.

Opayin Effie through hard work and determination raised funds at one of our patronal festivals to build the altar at Thomas Thompson Anglican church, with alter linen and constructed wooden rails at the altar. She also introduced financial schemes to support members of the fellowship, especially when she realized

that the majority of members were single mothers and had their associated financial challenges. As part of it, she introduced income generation activities for the fellowship such as selling of palm kernel and baking of bread to St Nicholas seminary among other things to support members. In ensuring financial discipline in the fellowship's finances, she opened an account for the fellowship and ensured that all proceeds were banked.

She showed immense generosity to all who came her way not only with pieces of advice but also supported members in cash and in kind. Each time she travelled abroad, Opayin Effie would constantly call to provide the necessary support and assistances.

Opayin Effie was also concerned about the spiritual growth of its members and intermittently organized prayer retreat and bible classes for members. She also took particular interest in the welfare of priests that were assigned to Thomas Thompson Anglican church. In this she ensured that monthly Great Entrance were held for the benefits of the priests. She led the fellowship in acting competitions both at the dioceses and national levels and the fellowship placed first in all competitions.

She also nurtured and mentored some members of the fellowship including some existing members. Motivation was her hallmark as she showed appreciation to individual members for outstanding performance and contributions. She gave the necessary support and treated members with love and dignity to the extent that members felt proud belonging to the fellowship.

By dint of hard work and divine grace upon her life, she served as the president of the Women's Fellowship at Thomas Thompson for ten (10) good years. When she was leaving, she handed over an investment of an appreciable amount to the fellowship and later relocated to Christ Church Cathedral.

It is sad that we have had to lose you, but we take solace in the fact that you are resting peacefully in the bosom of God.

Rest in peace Opayin Effie! Rest in peace.

You will forever remain in the annals of the history of the Fellowship.

May the Good Lord grant you rest in his eternal home.

Opayin Effie, Fare Thee Well

Da yie! Da yie! Da yie!

Nyame mfa wo nsie.

NANANOM ~ Club

Tribute to the late Madam Christina Effie McCarthy

As we mourn our dear sister and friend the late Effie McCarthy today, we wish to reflect on three sayings about death. The first saying comes from Mother Theresa:

*"Death is nothing else but going home to God,
the bond of love will be unbroken for all eternity".*

The second comes from Mahatma Gandhi:

*"Live as if you were to die tomorrow.
Learn as if you were to live forever".*

The third is from the Bible: Psalm 89: 48

"What man is he that liveth and shall not see death?"

One key message emerges from these statements: death is part of man's unavoidable experiences on this earth. Each one of us will die one day. Yet, the news about the sudden departure of our sister and friend to eternity, still puzzles our mind. Death has indeed dealt us a big blow.

Nananom as we affectionately called our union, sprung up through our normal friendship in 1983. The association was firmed up at a member's birthday party as we sat down and reflected on the need to unite in friendship. Henceforth the union grew from strength to strength until the demise of two sisters namely, Auntie Margaret Ackah-Yensu and Sarah Hanson of blessed memory.

We had a vision to grow in love, unity and strength. The late Effie McCarthy took up the mantle to ensure that the union was sustained. Being the pivot of our association, she was exceptional in ensuring the attainment of this vision. She was a great unifier and organiser, she had a very warm receptive culture of welcoming us into her home and made us feel a sense of belonging. She was down to earth and would ensure support for each other in times of grief and happiness. She readily gave us the necessary help, support and guidance and even extended it to our children and great-grandchildren.

As friends we had our individual differences, we had special traits that made us unique, but she was exceptional in everything. She had a great sense of humour, very bold, eloquent and very generous. She was very caring and meant so much to all of us.

Sister Effie had an unusual way of touching issues where they mattered most and did it with such finesse that it was clear what outcomes she was seeking to explain or address. Whenever she realized she was at fault, she would readily call and render an apology.

Sister Effie had the inner beauty of the lady praised in Proverbs 31. She exhibited this inner beauty outwardly in how she carried herself in her neat dressing, stylish, but modestly simple. We have no doubt in our minds to quote Apostle Paul in 2 Timothy 4:7&8 that "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day and not to me only, but unto all them that love his appearing".

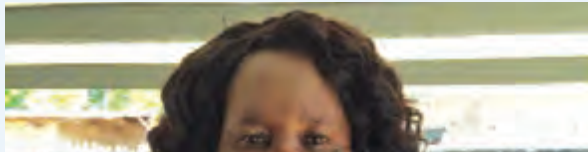
Fare thee well sister Effie, may the Lord bless and keep you in His bosom until we all meet again in His triumphant second coming to receive His own.

Sister Effie, your life was a blessing, your memory a treasure, you were loved beyond words and missed beyond measure. Your absence, a silent grief. You will forever remain in our hearts.

Da yie dɔfo pa, Nyame mfa wo nsie.







We wish to express our thanks to everyone
who has shown their love and support
during this very difficult time.

May you be blessed beyond measure.



*“The bond that links your true family
is not one of blood, but of respect
and joy in each other’s life ... ”*

~ Richard Bach