

Forever in our  
HEARTS



HER LADYSHIP  
JUSTICE RITA  
AGYEMAN-BUDU (MRS.)

1960 - 2025

Saturday November 22nd, 2025 | United Church, Teshie Nungua Estate



# Order of Service

## OFFICIATING MINISTERS

- Very Rev. Dr. Patrick Kofi Amissah - Resident Minister – United Church
- Rt. Rev. Ben Abubakar
- Most Rev. Prof. Emmanuel Kwaku Asante
- Very Rev. Alice Owusu Affram
- Very Rev. Ishmael Nzeba Ghansah
- Very Rev. Paul Akrofi
- Canon Dr. Abraham Elijah Quarshie
- Rev. Dr. Anthony Cudjoe
- Rev. Dr. Ismaila Awudu
- Rt. Rev. Dr. George Kotei Neequaye
- Apostle Kwame Agyei Young
- Rev. Michael Osei
- Rev. Kofi Manukure Akyeampong
- Rev. Wisdom Sablah
- Rev. Vera Kumah
- Lay President Lawyer Kwame Boafo
- Pastor Isaac Yanney

### SENIOR ELDER

Mr. Stephen Hotor

### ORGANIST

Mr. Benjamin Addo

### IN ATTENDANCE

United Church Choir

## PART ONE: PRE-BURIAL SERVICE/FILING PAST (7:00 am to 8:30 am)

1. Opening Prayer
2. Opening Hymn AGH 366 (Abide with me fast fall the eventide)
3. Filing Past (interspersed with Tributes)
4. Hymn AGH 264 (When peace like a river)
5. Tribute by Mfantiman Old Girls Association  
(1978 Year Group)
6. Tribute by a Dear Friend
7. Hymn AGH 378 (Nearer my God, to thee)

8. Tribute by Ghana School of Law, Class of 2002	
9. Tribute by IAWJ Ghana Chapter	Justice Malike Woanyah
10. Hymn	AGH 360 (I need thee every hour)
11. Tribute by IAWJ	Justice Roli Harriman, Regional Director, Western and Southern Africa
12. Tribute by United Church Women's Fellowship	
13. Hymn	AGH 338 (Guide me, O thou great Jehovah)
14. Closing of Casket	

## PART TWO: BURIAL AND MEMORIAL SERVICE (9:00 am to 11:00 am)

1. Call to Worship	
2. Opening Hymn	AGH 257 (The Lord is my Shepherd)
3. Opening Prayer	
4. Hymn	AGH 345 (Lead us heavenly father lead us)
5. Scripture Reading	
6. Anthem	United Church Choir
7. Biography	Family Member
8. Hymn	AGH 94 (God moves in a mysterious way)
9. Tribute by Husband	Kwame Agyeman-Budu Esq.
10. Hymn	AGH 306 (Through all the changing scenes of life)
11. Tributes by Children	Dr. Kwaku Agyeman-Budu Esq. Nana Sarpong Agyeman-Budu Yaw Twumasi Agyeman-Budu Kwame Agyeman-Budu Jnr. Kwabena Agyeman-Budu Dr. Akua Botwe née Akua Agyeman-Budu

12. Song Ministration by United Church Choir	
13. Tribute by Judicial Service of Ghana	
14. Song Ministration by United Church Women's Fellowship	
15. Tribute by Teshie-Nungua United Church	
16. Hymn	AGH 375 (In Heavenly Love abiding)
17. Moot Court	
18. Sermon	
19. Prayer for the Family	
20. Offertory	United Church Choir
21. Dedication of Offertory	
22. Announcements	
23. Closing Hymn	AGH 495 (Now praise we great and famous men)
24. Closing Prayer/Benediction	
25. Recessional Hymn	AGH 490 (Hark my Soul! Angelic songs are swelling)

## PART THREE: INTERMENT (Private) Gethsemane Memorial Garden

1. Hymn	AGH 100 (Jesu lover of my soul)
2. Exhortation	AGH 257 (The Lord's is my Shepherd)
3. Committal and Prayers	
4. Vote of Thanks	
5. Closing Hymn	AGH 489 (God be with you till we meet again)
6. Prayer and Benediction	



## Biography of Her Ladyship Justice Rita Agyeman-Budu (Mrs.)

Her Ladyship Justice Rita Agyeman-Budu was born on Monday 19th September 1960 in Kumasi to Emmanuel Okutu Ayiku (a Chief Telecommunications Inspector and Regional Engineer with the Posts & Telecommunications Department), who hailed from Big Ada, and Elizabeth Serebour (a trader) from Adansi Fomena. She was named Rita Amaku Ayiku, being the fourth female child of her parents.

## Early Life, Education, Work & Family



Rita had her basic education at Bantama Methodist Primary School up to class 6, after which she attended State Girls Experimental Middle School in Kumasi. She sat for the common entrance examination and successfully enrolled in Yaa Asantewaa Girls Secondary School. After completion of form 2 at Yaa Asantewaa, Rita transferred to Mfantseman Girls Secondary School in Saltpond, where she completed in 1978. Even though she was baptized as a Methodist at Bantama in 1961, it was at Mfantseman Girls where she was formally and officially received into the membership of the Methodist Church of Ghana on 22nd May 1977.



Upon completing her secondary school education, Rita worked as a Clerk at the Social Security Bank (SSB), Suame, Kumasi between 1982 and 1983. In 1984, she met and married Mr. Kwame Agyeman-Budu (the

love of her life) and they had their first child, Kwaku Agyeman-Budu (Pappy) on 26th September 1984 (exactly one week after her 24th birthday). She thus put her education on hold to raise her family from that point onwards, and on 1st January 1987, she gave birth to her second child, Nana Sarpong Agyeman-Budu.



Rita decided to continue her education in the late 1980s and enrolled at the Ghana Institute of Journalism (GIJ) where she graduated with a Diploma in Journalism on 30th June 1991, and was awarded the Agostinho Neto Prize for being the Best Student in English. Her dissertation was titled: "Image of Women in the Media: Case Study of Advertising and Visual Communication". She described her work in the following words:

*"This work is a study of contemporary advertising in the National Media with particular reference to women's pages. One of its purposes is to understand the nature*

*of the advertisement as cultural artefact, and to examine how advertising contains cultural meanings above and beyond the sales message. Another equally important purpose is to contribute to the development of methods of analysis in the general areas of cultural studies. The task is made more complex by the concentration in this study on visual rather than verbal communication, a mode of communication long recognized by advertisers yet one largely neglected by those who take it upon themselves the critical study of the mass media."*

Rita's early career thus began with a brief stint as a journalist after graduating from GIJ. Although she didn't practice journalism for long, this experience instilled in her a passion for justice and fairness. It was her quest for justice and desire to make a meaningful impact that led her to pursue further education eventually.



It must be noted that in the early 1990's, despite practicing briefly as a journalist and with a view to eventually furthering her education, Rita together with her husband, realizing the need for diversified income, established RAKAB Ventures in Teshie Nungua – a supermarket chain, which at its peak had three (3) branches in the Teshie Nungua area and was well known as the go-to shop for all and sundry, especially the working class. RAKAB Ventures became a certified UNILEVER distributor and through her industry she was able to manage the business alongside raising her young family.

Around the same time in the early parts of the 1990's, Rita decided to pursue university education and sat

for the Final University Examination (FUE) and was successful. She thus enrolled and matriculated as a full-time student at the University of Ghana, where she studied English, Sociology and Russian. At the University, she was assigned to Sarbah Hall and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts Degree (BA) in English and Sociology in 1997.



From 1997 to 1998, Rita worked as a national service personnel at the National Youth Council in Accra. Her pursuit of education was never ending, and having been motivated by her husband, who had combined a full-time job with studying to become a lawyer, she enrolled at the Ghana School of Law in 1998 to fulfill her lifelong dream of becoming a lawyer.

As fate will have it, in 2002, specifically 10th December 2002, she gave birth to her third child, Yaw Twumasi Agyeman-Budu (Agya Yaw). That notwithstanding, she combined her responsibilities at work, her studies and raising a family and to the glory of God was called to the Ghana Bar in October 2004.





## Judicial Service and Career as a Judge

In 1999, Rita was employed in the Judicial Service of Ghana and assigned to the Personnel Department in Accra. She combined her duties at the Judicial Service and the pursuit of legal education from that time onwards with determination and poise. By 2004, she had been transferred to the Petitions and Complaints Unit of the Judicial Service, where she worked for about a year before being transferred in October 2005 to become a Court Manager at the then newly established Commercial Court in Accra until December 2007. From December 2007 to January 2008, Rita was posted on Attachment at the La District Court in Labadi to understudy as a District Magistrate.



In January 2008, she was appointed as a District Magistrate and was assigned to the Ministries District Court until February 2008, when she was transferred to the Tema White House District Court – a place she will call home for a long time. This is because, in July 2011, she was promoted to the Circuit Court as a Circuit Court judge but sat as an additional Magistrate at the Tema White House District Court until October 2011 when she was transferred to the Gender Based Violence Court in Kumasi until 2014; becoming one of the pioneer judges of the Gender Based Violence Court, piloted in Accra in 2009 under the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).



She therefore adjudicated several gender-based violence cases in Kumasi and earned a reputation for being fair, firm, and a Judge who dispensed justice without fear or favour. Coincidentally, it was during her time in Kumasi that she became the Assistant Secretary for the International Association of Women Judges (IAWJ), Ghana Chapter in 2013. She also became an ambassador of the Global Leadership of Women (GLOW) in Washington DC, United States of America, in May 2013.

In 2014, she was transferred from Kumasi back to Accra, where she was the Circuit Court Judge at the Gender Based Violence Court in Accra, having built expertise in the area of gender-based violence cases. Once again, her reputation for dispensing justice with-

out fear or favour grew exponentially, as she dealt with several landmark cases. Whilst serving at this Court, Rita was nominated by the then Chief Justice of Ghana, Her Ladyship Justice Georgina Theodora Wood, to receive a full tuition scholarship to pursue a Master of Laws Degree (LL.M) programme in Transnational Legal Practice at St. John's University in New York, USA. She duly completed the programme and was also awarded the LL.M in June 2016. At St. John's, she was awarded with the Dean's List Certificate for outstanding achievement during the Spring 2016 semester.



During her time abroad, Rita sat for the High Court promotion examination and passed. She was subsequently interviewed by the Judicial Council and passed with flying colours and was duly appointed as a Justice of the High Court of Ghana in July 2016 and assigned to the Tema High Court C (Land Court at Meridian, Tema). Her reputation as a calm but fair judge preceded her and as a Justice of the High Court of Ghana, she dispensed justice without fear or favour, ill will or malice, to the admiration of all court users. She served on a number of committees within the Judicial Service of Ghana, most notably on the Disciplinary Committee for staff. She also attended numerous training courses as well as national and international conferences during her time as a judge within the Judicial Service of Ghana.



Her Ladyship Justice Rita Agyeman-Budu was transferred in October 2023 from the Tema High Court C to the Gbetsile High Court (a newly established Court); which decision was subsequently modified such that she was assigned to Gbetsile High Court from Mondays to Wednesdays to ensure confidence in the citizenry that the Court was functional. On Thursdays and Fridays, she sat at the Tema High Court A (Annex), where she heard only motions. On Fridays, she will also attend Tema High Court C (her original court), where she was to complete her part-heard cases with a view to delivering outstanding rulings and judgements. She thus alternated between these three (3) courts from October 2023 and served with diligence, dignity and grace until her passing on to glory in July 2025.





## A Call for Justice

While serving as a Circuit Court Judge in Kumasi in 2014, Rita put her training as a journalist and her background in English as well as her legal knowledge and experience on the bench to good use as she wrote a play/drama for the International Association of Women Judges (IAWJ), Ghana Chapter titled: 'A Call for Justice'. This was in pursuance of the goal of the IAWJ Ghana Chapter to increase understanding of a broad range of social, economic, psychological and cultural factors that inhibit women from accessing the Courts freely to seek redress against gender-based violence and discrimination in Ghana and other jurisdictions.

Rita's script was developed into a short film bearing the same title, and featuring well known and popular actors in Ghana including but not limited to, Akofa Edjeani, Amankwa Ampofo and Prince 'Waakye' Yawson, and was first aired nationally on Ghana Television (GTV) on 18th October 2014. The film was subsequently aired for a second time by GTV free of charge on 23rd October 2014. The aim of the film was to bring awareness on available help to victims of sexual violence; and Rita is duly acknowledged in the opening credits as the writer of the story.



## Dedicated service to the International Association of Women Judges (IAWJ)

Justice Rita Agyeman-Budu dedicated a significant part of her judicial career to the IAWJ, rising from Assistant Secretary to President. It was during her time in Kumasi that she became the Assistant Secretary for the International Association of Women Judges (IAWJ), Ghana Chapter in 2013.

In September 2016, Rita was elected as the Secretary of the International Association of Women Judges (IAWJ), Ghana Chapter; a position she held until September 2018, when she was elected as the Vice President of IAWJ, Ghana Chapter, serving for 4 years. In this role, she assisted the President and other Executives to execute the mandate of the IAWJ Ghana Chapter in line with the objectives and expectations of the mother association in ensuring justice worldwide.

In September 2022, Rita's years of service to the IAWJ was duly rewarded when she was elected as the President of IAWJ, Ghana Chapter, a position she held until her call to glory in July 2025. Her tenure as President will be remembered for her firm and compassionate leadership, culminating in the successful hosting of the IAWJ Africa Regional Conference in Accra in May 2024 under the theme: "Combatting Negative Cultural Practices in Africa: The Role of Women Judges".

As President of the IAWJ Ghana Chapter, Her Ladyship Justice Rita Agyeman-Budu championed pro-women and girl-child initiatives, executing several projects during her tenure. Her leadership and dedication earned her respect from colleague women judges globally. Her last major engagement with the IAWJ was when she attended the IAWJ Africa Regional Conference in April 2025 in Cape Town, South Africa in her capacity as the President of the Ghana Chapter, but also representing the Chief Justice of Ghana at the conference.



## Devoted Christian

Rita was a Methodist, having been baptized as such at Bantama in 1961. However, it was on 22nd May 1977 that she was received into the membership of the Methodist Church of Ghana, whilst she was a student at Mfantseman Girls Secondary School, Saltpond. She attended Bantama Methodist with her mother and siblings, and after her marriage to Kwame Agyeman-Budu (a Presbyterian), they both became members of the International Central Gospel Church (ICGC) in August 1988. Initially attending ICGC at the Baiden Powell Hall in Accra, she later (together with her husband) became founding members of the ICGC Sakumono branch, first located at 'Fridays' in Sakumono, and subsequently relocating to its current location i.e. Calvary Temple on the Spintex Road, Accra, near Community 18 Junction.

Rita returned to her roots subsequently and officially became a member of the United Church at Teshie Nungua Estate (an inter-denominational church i.e.

Methodist, Presbyterian and Anglican). Even whilst pursuing her Master of Laws Degree (LL.M) in the United States of America, she attended Grace United Methodist Church in Valley Stream, New York and officially became a member on 24th April 2016.

Rita was an Elder on the Church Council of the United Church, Teshie Nungua Estate, where she also served as the Chairperson of the Church's Constitution Review Committee and was also a Patron of the Church Choir. She was a key member/pillar of the Monday Born Group of the United Church and also served as the Chair/Co-Chair of the Monday Born Group's activities during the Annual Harvest. She was also a founding member of the Friday Prayer Group together with her husband.

Rita was also a life member of the Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship International (FGBMFI), and an active member of the Teshie Nungua Chapter, being awarded a Certificate of Honour on 16th September 2017 for her outstanding and dedicated service to the Chapter. She frequently attended national and international events consistently, most notably the 2009 International Convention held in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, United States of America.



During her Law School days, she was also a staunch member of the Ghana School of Law Christian Fellowship (GSLCF) and was duly recognized on 11th May 2004 for her good and meritorious efforts and active involvement in the promotion of Christian spirit of love and fraternity during the course of her studies.



Her Ladyship Justice Rita Agyeman-Budu (Mrs.) will be remembered for her gentle nature, warmth, and compassion. She was soft-spoken and lifted up all those she came into contact with. Despite her soft-spoken nature, Justice Rita was known for her ability to convey her points with grace and respect, endearing her to family, friends, colleagues, and subordinates alike. Her gentle demeanor belied a strong commitment to justice and fairness. Throughout her career, Justice Rita demonstrated a remarkable commitment to justice, equality, and the empowerment of women and girls. Her legacy continues to inspire and motivate those who knew her and her work.

Rita will be sorely missed in our earthly realm, but we are of the firm belief that God Almighty has a higher purpose for which in His infinite wisdom He has called her to eternity.

Rest well Rita, until we meet again on the day of resurrection.



# Tributes



# Tribute to My Beloved Wife

From Your Husband – Kwame Agyeman-Budu Esq.

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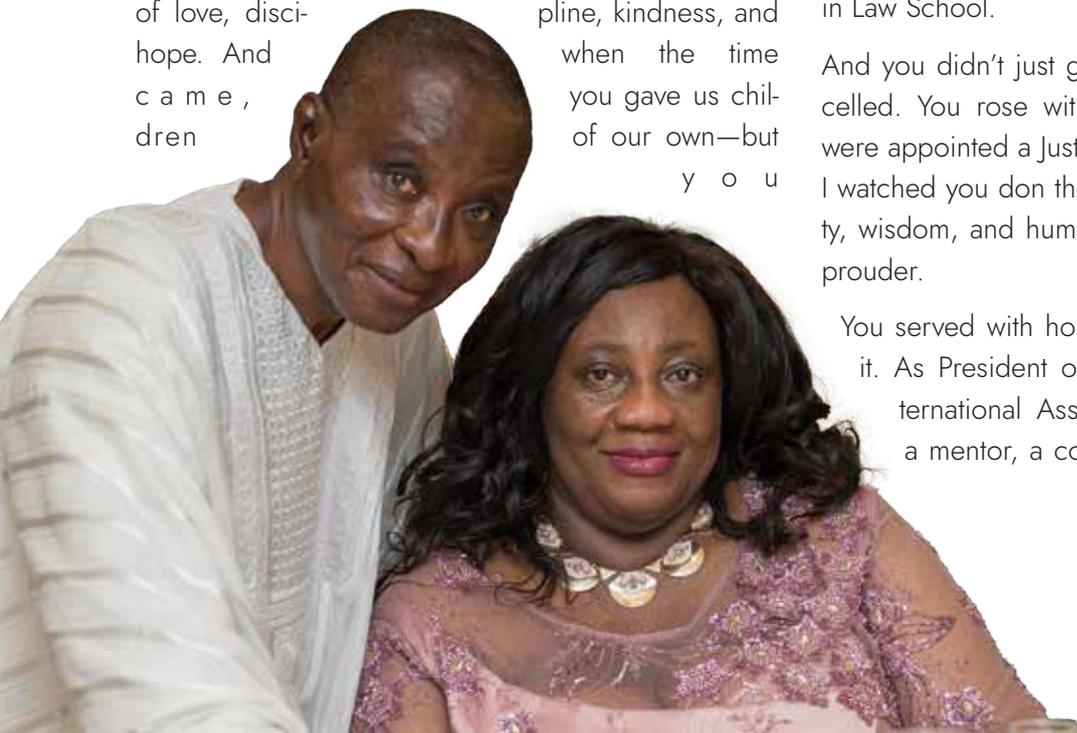
## **Proverbs 18:22**

*“He who finds a wife finds what is good and receives favor from the Lord.”*

Over forty years ago, I met a young woman who had just completed school. I had already lived a life—one marked by trials, a previous marriage, and the challenges of raising three children. But from the moment you walked into my world, everything began to change. Slowly, gently, and with incredible grace, you wove yourself into the fabric of my life—and never once looked back.



You didn't just love me—you loved my children as your own. You became a mother to them, even before you had your own. You built a home that was full of love, discipline, kindness, and hope. And when the time came, you gave us children of our own—but



never made a distinction. You were a true mother to all.

In those early years, we didn't have much. We were building—piece by piece, day by day. But one thing we always had was each other. You exemplified humility and were grateful for even the smallest thing done for you. I thank God every day that I had you.

You supported me with a strength that defied words. You carried burdens you didn't create and poured yourself into a family you chose to love. When I was arrested in 1986, accused of treason and put on trial for a crime I did not commit—you were my rock. When others turned away, you stayed. When fear threatened to consume us, you prayed. When the world became dark, you kept the light on.

I was the only accused person acquitted and discharged, and I know—I truly know—that your love, your prayers, and your unshakable faith kept me standing.

But you didn't stop there. You had dreams of your own—and I had the privilege of watching you chase them, one by one. While raising children, managing our home, running a supermarket business in the 1990s, and holding our family together, you still found the time and will to grow. You became a qualified journalist, earned your Degree in English and Sociology from the University of Ghana, and eventually enrolled in Law School.

And you didn't just go through Law School—you excelled. You rose with quiet determination until you were appointed a Justice of the High Court of Ghana. I watched you don the robes of the bench with dignity, wisdom, and humility. And I could not have been prouder.

You served with honor—not just in title, but in spirit. As President of the Ghana Chapter of the International Association of Women Judges, as a mentor, a colleague, a leader—you touched

countless lives. Even in death, the messages and tributes continue to pour in from around the world. I always knew you were special. I just didn't know how far your light had reached. You never boasted. You never sought praise. You simply lived—and in living, you inspired.

Your humility was a hallmark of your character. Your calm composure was a beacon of hope in turbulent times, and you navigated life's challenges with grace and poise, never creating drama or strife.



As a good listener, you gave others the space to speak and be heard, making them feel valued and important. Your respectful nature made everyone feel comfortable around you, regardless of their status or position. You were a woman of impeccable style, always dressed with thoughtfulness and intention, not for attention, but to reflect your inner beauty.

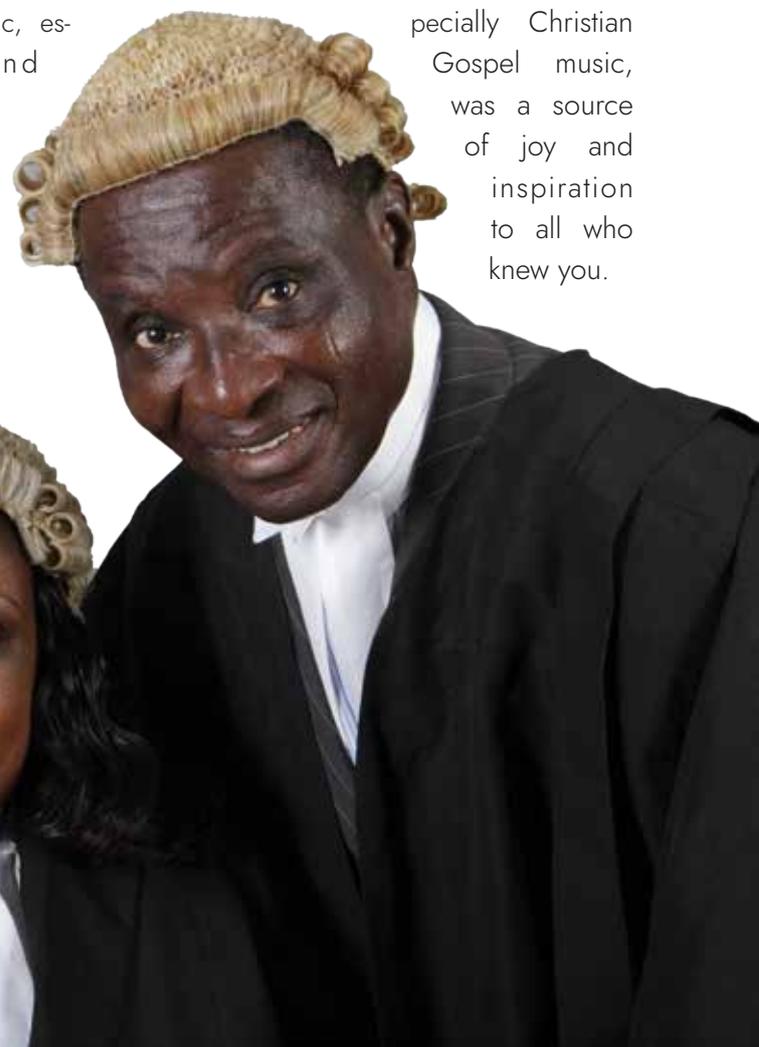
Your words were always laced with kindness, even in moments of frustration or disappointment. You never tore others down, but instead, lifted them up with your gentle and compassionate spirit. Your respect for everyone, from juniors to superiors, was evident in the way you interacted with others, and your supportive and caring nature made you a beloved figure to all who knew you.

You were a peace maker and broker, always seeking to bring peo-

ple together and eager to resolve conflicts. Your love for God was evident in your commitment to His work, and you sacrificed your time, talents, and resources for the sake of the Gospel. You were my partner in ministry, accompanying me on numerous evangelistic trips and conventions, including the World Convention of the Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship International in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, in 2009.

Together, we shared many adventures, traveling to various parts of the world, including Canada, Europe, and the USA. Our cruise to Thousand Islands, a summer holiday with my brother-in-law (your brother) and his wife, remains a cherished memory. You were a lover of reading, especially novels, and your journalistic background served you well in writing "A Call for Justice," a story that was adapted into a movie by the International Association of Women Judges (IAWJ) and aired on national television in Ghana.

Your passion for helping the needy, the poor, and the underprivileged was evident in your work with International Needs, an NGO that supported prisons and other vulnerable groups. You were a Patron of the United Church Choir, supporting its activities and programs,



and your love for music, especially Christian Gospel music, was a source of joy and inspiration to all who knew you.

As a mother, she built a peaceful and progressive home, and her family was her rock. She was a giant of the family, a unifier, and a source of pride for both her maternal and paternal families.

But beyond all your accolades, what I treasure most is the life we built together. The mornings filled with quiet prayer. The late-night conversations. The way you held my hand at church. The way you led with both compassion and strength.

We served together at United Church, Teshie Nungua Estate, as Council Members. You were Patron of the Church Choir, and Chairperson of the Constitution Review Committee. You poured into the Church just as you poured into our family. Faith wasn't something you spoke about—it was something you lived.

You were a devoted Christian. A loving mother. A wise judge. A fierce advocate. A faithful wife. And my very best friend.

Now, as I sit here and try to imagine life without you, I feel an ache so deep I can barely breathe. But I also feel overwhelming gratitude—for every year we had, every challenge we overcame, and every dream we saw fulfilled.

You were the love of my life.

You are the love of my life.

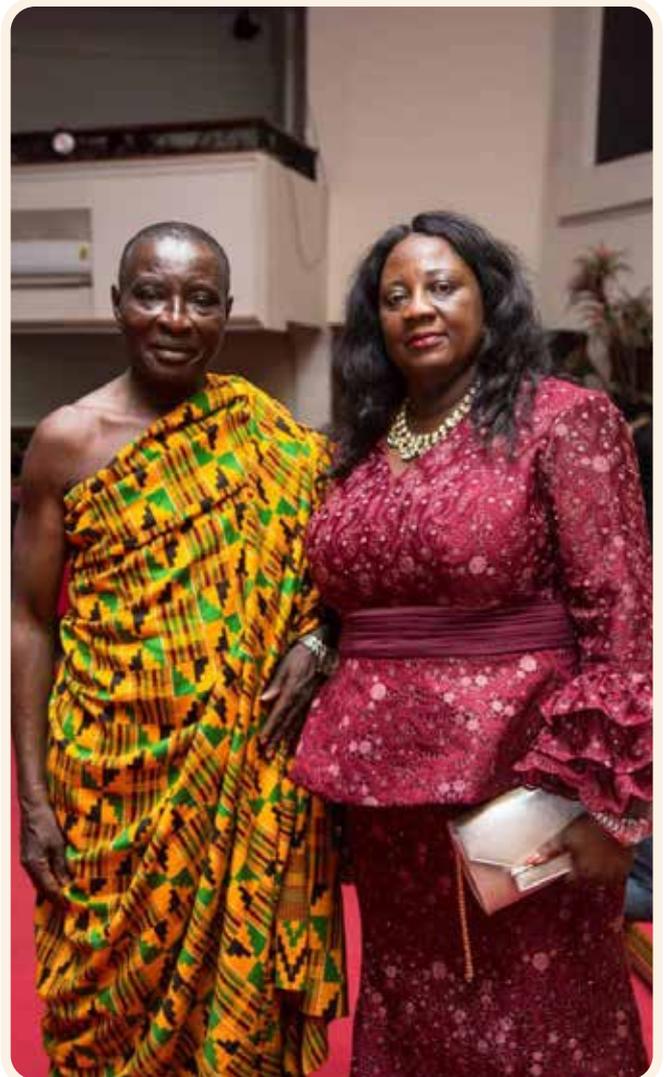
And though your body may rest, your spirit lives on—in our children, in our grandchildren, in the legacy you've left behind, and in the heart of a man who will always love you.

Rest, my beloved.

You have run your race with strength and grace.

You were everything I prayed for—and more.

Until we meet again, I will carry you in every breath I take.





# Tribute to My Mother

From Your Son — Dr. Kwaku Agyeman-Budu Esq. (alias Pappy)

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## **Matthew 5:4**

*“Blessed are they that mourn; for they shall be comforted.”*

My earliest memory of my dear mother takes me back to the late 1980s, I think, when I was just a toddler. I vividly recall a time I fell ill, and she took me to the Children’s Hospital in central Accra. What made the trip memorable was the taxi—it was a right-hand drive, unlike most cars I had been in. I remember sitting on my mother’s lap in the “driver’s seat,” curious and amazed. That moment, though small, remains etched in my mind for some reason.

Another memory is of one of my childhood birthdays. My mother was preparing my favourite meal—fufu and groundnut soup. Impatient, I helped myself to the groundnut paste before it was cooked, eating so much that I ended up sick and spent the rest of the day at the clinic. These little memories, among many others, have resurfaced often in the days, weeks, and months since her passing.

My childhood was defined by my mother’s tender, unwavering love and her deep desire to see me succeed—especially academically. From Hill Top Nursery and Kindergarten in Teshie-Nungua Estate, she enrolled me in Accra Ridge Church School for my primary and junior secondary education. During those formative years, she taught me invaluable life lessons that continue to guide me.

She encouraged my interests, even those she didn’t fully understand. I remember her buying me rap music cassettes at Number One Bus Stop near Danquah Circle after school—simply because I loved music. She didn’t necessarily appreciate or

understand rap, but that didn’t matter. What mattered was her love for me and her willingness to support whatever brought me joy.

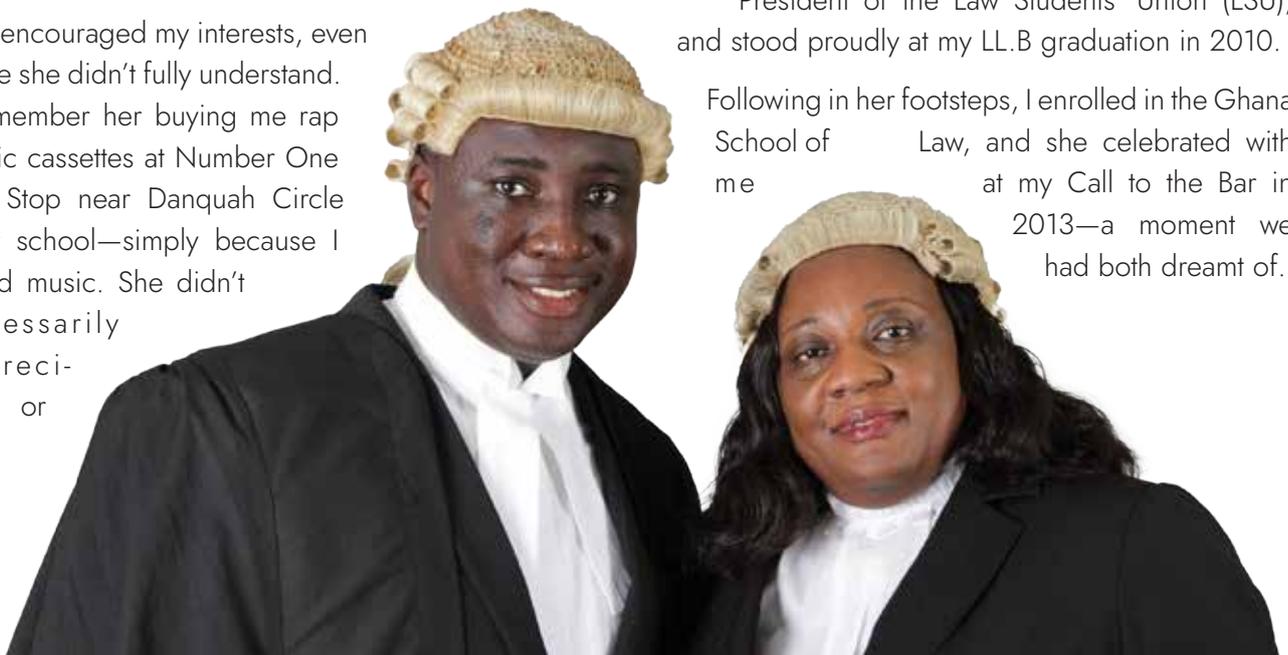
On Monday, 31st January 2000, we set off for Cape Coast so I could begin secondary school at St. Augustine’s College (Augusco). Our car broke down near Winneba Junction. Rather than wait for repairs, she hailed a taxi, and we continued the journey. When she eventually had to leave me at school, I cried—it was the first time I’d be away from her for a long time. But she made sure to visit during my first year and would call frequently on the school’s payphone to check in. When I was hospitalized at the Cape Coast Regional Hospital (Interbeton), she came to stay with me, nursing me back to health. Her love was deep and unconditional.

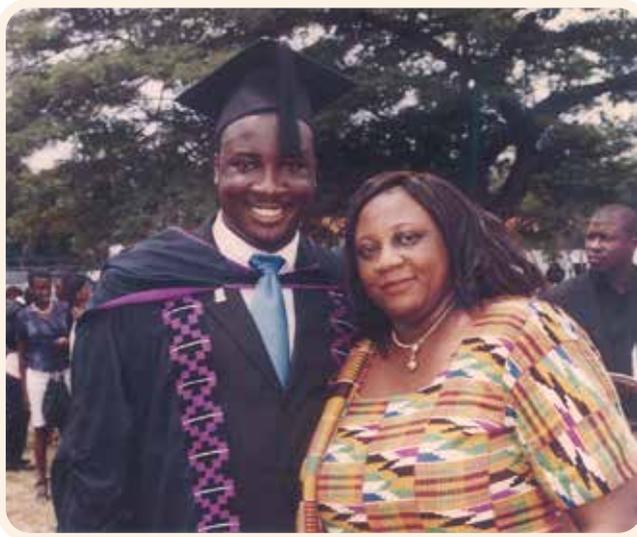
As I progressed through my academic journey, she was my constant supporter and biggest cheerleader. At the University of Ghana, where I pursued my first degree in Political Science and Sociology, she took great pride in my achievements. Her influence played a role in my early love for English, even though I couldn’t combine it with Political Science at the time. Her presence at my graduation in 2007 was a powerful reminder of her steadfast support.

When I gained admission to the University of Ghana Faculty of Law in August 2008, her joy was palpable. She beamed with pride when I was elected

President of the Law Students’ Union (LSU), and stood proudly at my LL.B graduation in 2010.

Following in her footsteps, I enrolled in the Ghana School of Law, and she celebrated with me at my Call to the Bar in 2013—a moment we had both dreamt of.





Her happiness was boundless when I received a full scholarship to pursue a Master of Laws (LL.M) degree abroad from August 2011 to May 2012. Even thousands of miles away at Fordham University School of Law, her encouragement never wavered. She celebrated with me again when I graduated with my LL.M.

One of the most precious seasons of my life was in Queens, New York, when she pursued her own LL.M at St. John's University (2015–2016) while I was working toward my Doctor of Juridical Science (SJD) at Fordham. We attended church together at Grace United Methodist Church in Valley Stream, and fellowshiped with Christians from all walks of life. Those moments of shared faith and learning were truly special. Her presence at my SJD graduation in May 2018 made that milestone even more meaningful.

Just a few days after my SJD graduation, she was beaming with joy once again—this time at my wedding in Accra. My first child was named after her. I pray that she grows to embody your quiet grace, your strength, your wisdom—and accomplish even more than you envisaged for her.

Even as a Judge, my mother would often seek my opinion on legal matters, valuing my perspective. Her pride in my professional accomplishments was evident—especially when I was appointed Dean of GIMPA Law School in September 2022. She shared the news widely and joyfully and was proud of the man I was turning out to be. Though she didn't live to see the renewal of my appointment, I know she would be smiling



down from above, knowing that her hopes for me continue to come to pass.

Our last conversation was on Thursday, 17th July 2025, a day before her passing on to glory. We talked at length, covering many topics. I had no idea it would be our final conversation. I will forever treasure your advice, your insights, and the love you so freely gave, and of course, your constant admonishing to pray always.

Your passing has left a void in my life, one I feel deeply. But I take comfort in the belief that you are now in a better place, at peace in the presence of your Creator. Your legacy lives on in the many lives you touched, and especially in me. Your love, your guidance, and your belief in me shaped who I am today—and for that, I am eternally grateful.

Rest well, dearest mother.

Your memory will forever be a blessing, and I will continue to strive to make you proud in all that I do.





# Tribute to My Mother

From Your Son — Nana Sarpong Agyeman-Budu

## Isaiah 66:13

*“As a mother comforts her child, so will I comfort you...”*

On the 1st of January, 1987, I was born into this world—and into your arms. You were just 26 years old, but from the very beginning, you carried me with the grace, strength, and wisdom of someone far beyond her years. I didn’t just have a mother. I had a warrior, a protector, a teacher, and a best friend.

Growing up, I always knew I was loved. Not just with words, but with action. You showed up. You gave. You sacrificed. You poured everything into me—not because it was easy, but because you loved deeply and unconditionally.

You were already climbing the ranks of your legal career, yet somehow, you never let the weight of your responsibilities rob us of your presence. I remember those Ridge Church School days—the early morning rides, the packed lunches, the gentle pep talks before an exam. You always had time for me. Always.

When I left home to attend Prempeh College, it was the first time I truly felt the weight of distance. But you were never far. You would call, you would visit, you would send me notes of encouragement—and somehow, even from afar, you made me feel held. You believed in me when I wasn’t sure of myself. You reminded me that I was capable, intelligent, and worthy of greatness.

And when I went on to KNUST for my degree, you continued to push me

higher. You would say, “Don’t settle. There’s more in you. Keep going.” And I did. Because I didn’t want to let you down. Because I wanted to make you proud. Because you saw something in me that I didn’t even see in myself.

Now, I live in Canada, with a family of my own. And still, not a day went by without you checking in. You called, you prayed, you encouraged me—even across time zones, even in silence, I could feel your love. You were proud of the man I was becoming, and I was only able to become that man because of you.



You were more than a Judge in the courtroom. You were a judge of character, of truth, of love. You measured life by integrity, and you raised me with that same principle. You taught me to be kind but strong. Humble, yet nev-



er small. To love family, to honour God, and to walk with purpose.

Losing you feels like losing a part of myself. There are no words strong enough to explain the emptiness, the ache, the stillness you've left behind. You were supposed to be here longer. You were supposed to meet all your grandchildren, to keep calling me just to "check in," to remind me to pray, to rest, to keep going.

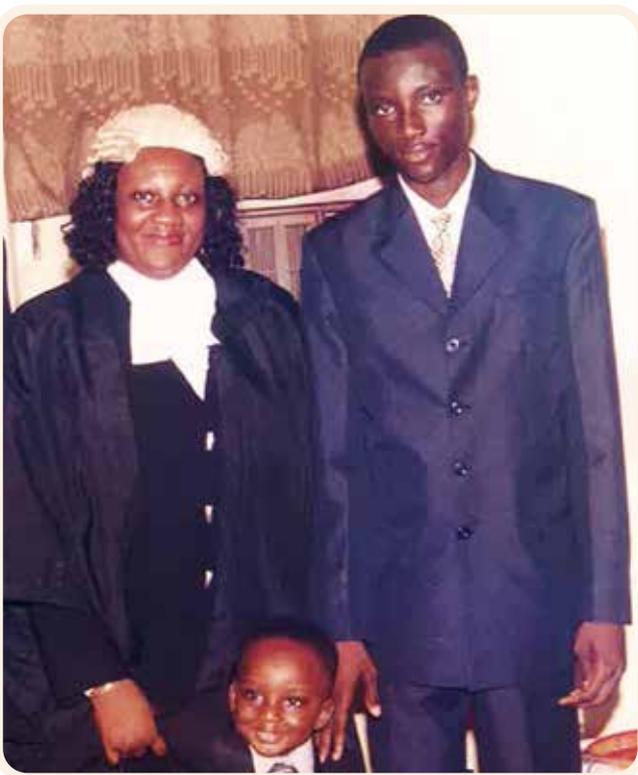
But even though you're no longer here in the flesh, I feel you in everything. I hear you in my thoughts. I see you in my reflection. I carry your lessons in my heart. And I will make sure your legacy lives on—in me, in my children, and in all the lives you touched so deeply.

Thank you, Mama—for your love that never wavered, your belief that never shook, and your presence that never failed. You were my light, my guide, and my peace. You were everything.

Rest well, beautiful soul.

Your second son will never forget.

I will love you forever.



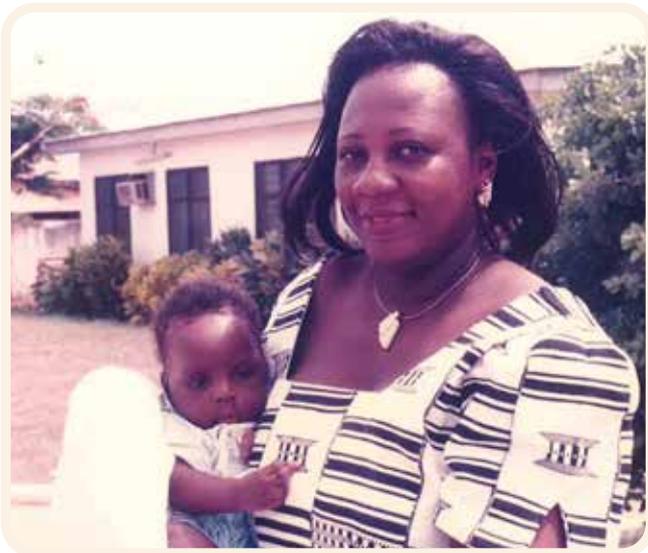


# Tribute to My Mother

From Your Last Born – Yaw Twumasi Agyeman-Budu (alias Agya Yaw)

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Rita Agyeman-Budu or “Maa” as I would call you. I honestly don’t know how to sum up the value of a person into one single message, but I will try my best. Maa, from the moment I was born, you were always one I looked to for guidance, for warmth and for camaraderie.



You were more than just my mother but you were also my friend. I remember all the times we would watch different television shows together at home; and I did not realize at the time, but those ended up becoming some of my fondest memories growing up.

You always encouraged me to do my best in everything, even the times that I thought just getting by was simply fine. You instilled in me the value of hard work as well as God-fearingness.

I remember in everything you would involve God and I think fondly on your closing statement every time we spoke on the phone “Don’t forget to pray”.

Though you are gone now, the lessons you taught me, the happy memories we shared will never fade and I will

carry your gentle voice in my head as a compass directing me towards the best decisions to make.

Goodbye, Mommy. May you rest well.





# Tribute to Our Mother

Kwame Agyeman-Budu Jnr. (Paa), Kwabena Agyeman-Budu (Nana Kwabena) and Dr. Akua Botwe née Akua Agyeman-Budu (Sweetie)

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Around the latter part of 1983, my siblings and I were introduced to a young lady and we were told to just call her Aunty Rita. She came into our lives at a very young age and never looked back. About ten months later, the noun, "Aunty" changed to "Ma" and the famous name Ma Rita was created. Soon after, we welcomed Pappy to the family.

Ma Rita fought for what she believed in. She was the voice of the defenseless, and an encouragement to those of us who looked up to her. She had a passion for good music and could dance as well. I (Paa) even encouraged her to take our dad out dancing.

While she and I shared with each other through messaging all kinds of classical music, somehow, the last song she sent via WhatsApp a week before her passing was "It is well with my soul". I will always remember this song.



Ma's passing comes as a shock to us all, and it is with a heavy heart that I write: Ma Rita, if you can hear me, I want to say - Thank you! Thank you for caring, for your guidance, and for your prayers! To me and countless others, there are no goodbyes as you will always be in our hearts.

Ma, rest well in the bosom of the Almighty God.



# Tribute to Rita

From Prudent Akwasi Tetteh Ayiku (Pat) and Catherine Wilson (Kate)

Rita, you were my younger sister but, was more like a daughter to me. I remember taking you for the first time to secondary school at Yaa Asantewa in Kumasi, when you were just 12 years old. You were determined to go to boarding school, and I wondered if you would be able to stand up for yourself because you were so quiet, calm, peaceful and gentle. Your resilience and determination paid off, and you stayed at Yaa Asantewaa until I got you transferred to Mfantisman Secondary School at Saltpond, so that you would be closer to me in Cape Coast.

We went to shop for provisions to take to school the day after you arrived in Cape Coast. We entered the Kingsway store, you saw Kate and instantly recognized her from pictures in our sister Esther's, of blessed memory, album in Kumasi. You boldly went up to her, your keen observational skills were correct, and from that time on, you bonded with her as if you had known each other for years. Your encounter with Kate, we know was all part of God's plan, and you were the instrument God used to bring us together. You were destined to be in Cape Coast at that moment, to use your incredible observational skills, and we are eternally grateful.



The smile on your face showed it all about how happy and excited you were to be at Mfantisman Secondary school. Both the Headmistress and the house mistress loved you so much that we were given the favour of

visiting you any time outside of visiting hours. You were the proverbial "Dada Ba", who was well cared for, and provided with all the nurturing that you so well deserved. Rita, we loved you dearly. We watched you grow up to be a very beautiful, intelligent, respectful and pleasant girl. Our time together in Cape Coast was full of joy, love and happiness, and filled with numerous stories and memories that we will continue to reminisce and cherish for ever.



We kept in constant touch with you even when we left the country and were living abroad. We were very proud of your achievements. Rita, you were always calm, humble, determined, compassionate, and had passion to live life. You had a joyful heart, loved to dance, and sang hymns all the time. Your calm and open disposition made it easy for strangers to open up to you, friends to confide in you, and loved ones to cherish you. You were a great Aunty to our children and they loved you so much.



You were able to visit us numerous times in Canada by yourself and also with your family. Together, we travelled across Canada, from the North to the West, through the Prairies to Eastern Canada, visiting places of interests and creating beautiful memories. We were looking forward to your next visit with your family in August, but it was not to be.

The devastating news we received about your sudden and untimely demise has shaken our whole family to the core. Rita, your life was cut short, but we know you have left this world to be with your maker, and we pray that God will give your soul a peaceful rest. Rita, you have left us but, the fond memories we shared together will forever live in our hearts. Rita, rest in eternal peace.



# Tribute to My Sister, Rita

From Vincent Teye Ayiku (Nana Kwadwo Brenya II)

Today, we gather to celebrate the life of an extraordinary individual, my beloved younger sister, Her Ladyship Justice Rita Agyeman-Budu (Mrs.), a Justice of the High Court of Ghana. As we say goodbye to her physical presence, I am filled with a mix of emotions - sadness, nostalgia, and gratitude.

Growing up in Kumasi, I had the privilege of watching Rita grow from a bright-eyed young girl to a determined and compassionate individual. We spent countless hours playing, laughing, and learning together. As siblings, we shared a special bond that only grew stronger as we navigated the ups and downs of life.

As we grew older, Rita blossomed into an exceptional student and a passionate advocate for justice. Her dedication to her craft was evident in everything she did, and her appointment as a Justice of the High Court was a testament to her hard work and perseverance.

As her brother, I was constantly amazed by her in-

tellect, her empathy, and her unwavering commitment to upholding the law. She was a shining example of what it means to serve with integrity, compassion, and fairness.

Rita was more than just a sister to me; she was a friend, a confidante, and a source of inspiration. Her passing leaves a gaping hole in my life, and I know I will miss her dearly. However, I take comfort in the knowledge that her legacy will live on through the countless lives she touched and the impact she had on our community.

To our family, I know that we will get through this difficult time together. To Rita's friends, colleagues, and all those whose lives she touched, I invite you to join me in celebrating her life, her achievements, and her unwavering commitment to justice.

Rest in peace, my dear sister. May your memory be a blessing to us all.



# Tribute from Paternal Siblings

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## **Psalm 116:15**

*"Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints."*

We stand before you today with heavy hearts as we try to put into words the love, admiration, and deep sense of loss we feel for our beloved sister, Sister Rita as we affectionately called her.

Though we met as adults, from the very beginning, Sister Rita welcomed us not just with words, but with actions, calm, constant, and full of grace. She didn't need to say much to be heard. Her gentleness spoke volumes. Her quiet presence gave comfort. And her soft voice carried wisdom that stayed with us long after the conversations ended.

We shared many moments with her, some joyful, others solemn, but all meaningful. Whether it was during family funerals, or those rare but cherished vacations together, Sister Rita had a way of bringing calm into every room, and dignity into every situation. She showed us - without ever needing to prove anything - that strength doesn't have to shout. It can sit quietly, hold your hand, offer advice, and open its home to you.

And she did just that, her door was always open. No matter how busy she was, no matter how high her position, Sister Rita remained down-to-earth, welcoming, and generous with her time and space. Even as a High Court Judge, with all the demands and responsibilities of her role, she never let her status change her spirit. She was a woman of deep faith, quiet humility, and

genuine love - and we are so proud to have called her our sister.

We often turned to her not just for help, but for guidance. She advised us, listened to us, and supported us with the kind of care that can't be faked. Her words were few, but they were always thoughtful, and they carried weight. She made you feel safe, understood, and respected.

What we will miss most is that soft presence - her warm smile, her gentle voice, and the peaceful way she carried herself through life. We will miss the quiet confidence she brought into our family, and the love she gave so freely.

Sister Rita, you were a gift to us. You taught us by example what it means to live with integrity, humility, and compassion. We thank God for the time we had with you. And though we mourn your loss deeply, we take comfort in knowing that you are resting in the peace you so fully deserve.

You were a sister not just by title, but by heart. And you will forever be in ours.

We conclude by affirming this quote from 2 Timothy 4:7-8 'I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness'

Until we meet again, you will forever remain in our hearts.

Rest well, our dear sister.



# Tribute to My Dear Sister, Rita

From Asafomaame Patience Frempong nee Patience Ayiku (PP)

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## **2 Corinthians 5:1**

*“For we know that if the earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.”*

My heart was pierced with pain and sorrow at the news of the passing of my dear sister, Rita. I was left in shock, unable to hold back my tears.

Words cannot truly express how dumbfounded and saddened I feel. I never imagined that on this day, the 22nd of November, 2025, I would be giving a tribute in her memory. The news of her passing struck me like a terrible nightmare—one I still find difficult to accept.

God knows why He allowed you to be with Him at this crucial point in our lives. Your passing was unexpected and very devastating. But we also know that life is not about how long you live, but how well you live. And you, my sister, lived well—as a sister, a friend, and a mother. I still hold onto our last conversation, not knowing it would be the final time I would hear your voice say, “Bye-bye.”

I remember vividly our last conversation on the 17th of July, 2025. It was filled with warmth, joy, and laughter. She even asked when I would be coming for a visit, and I gladly promised to honor her invitation the following month. Yet, less than 24 hours later, I received the devastating news that she was gone.

Sister Rita was more than a sister to me — she was like a mother. She advised me, guided me, and always welcomed everyone into her home with open arms. She constantly wanted me involved in her plans and dealings, making me feel valued and included. Her love, care, and generosity were unmatched.

Now, with her departure, I feel an emptiness that words cannot describe. But in the midst of the pain, I am reminded that God’s Word says our times are in His hands. Though Rita’s passing is hard for us to bear, we take comfort in knowing she rests safely in the arms

of the Lord.

Sister Rita’s life was a blessing to all who knew her. Her memory will forever remain in our hearts, and her love and kindness will continue to inspire us.

I will never forget how you always called me “Pee.” That name was yours for me alone, and it carried so much love. I remember one day when even Daddy called me that, and without thinking, I answered, “Yes, Sister,” because in my heart, it was your voice I heard. That simple word tied me to you, and now I miss it more than I can ever explain. I miss your voice, your laughter, your presence.

Sister Rita, Nyankopon mfa wo kra nsiee ne Asomdwoe mu.

Sister, y3n ani agyina wo. Your children need you, and we all feel the weight of your absence every single day.

Till we all meet again on the resurrection day, I hold on to the hope that I will hear your voice once more, calling me “Pee.”

Sleep well, my beloved sister. You will never be forgotten.

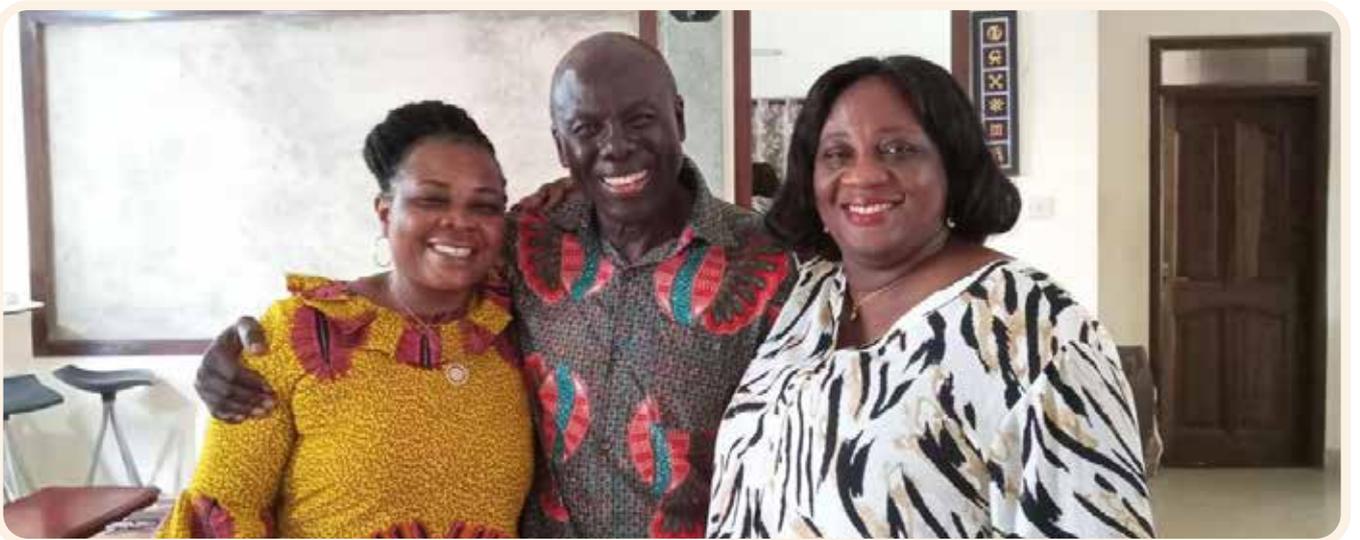
“When we all get to heaven,

What a day of rejoicing that will be!

When we all see Jesus,

We’ll sing and shout the victory.”





# Tribute from Cousins

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*I do not regret that I was born here and that I lived part of my life here, because I lived in a way that I think was useful. When the end comes, I will leave my life in the same way, as if I leave an inn and not my home, because I think that my stay in this life is temporary and that death is only a transfer to another state.*

## **MARCUS TULLIUS CICERO (Roman Philosopher; 106 – 48 B.C.)**

*'People are born and live only as manifestations or pieces of God; therefore they cannot be completely destroyed. They can disappear from before our eyes, but they cannot be destroyed. One person was within my sight for a long time, another went out of my sight very quickly; but I cannot say that the first person existed more and the second less. It doesn't matter whether a man passes by my window quickly or slowly.*

*I know definitely that this man existed in the time before I saw him and that he will exist in the time after he has disappeared from my sight.'*

## **- LEO TOLSTOY (1828 – 1910); RUSSIAN PHILOSOPHER AND NOVELIST.**

Our Creator God has called our Dear Cousin and Friend home. Home to the House with many Mansions, With rooms enough for all and sundry.

Sister Rita (as many of us fondly called you), your sojourn with us, In this vale of tears and sorrows was all too brief.

We wish you were around a little longer, But we will not question God's plan for you. We know we will all meet again in that Place and Time, Where all tears will be dried, never to well up again.

You were the grace that sought to knit the family together. Quietly behind the scenes you brokered peace, mended fences, and healed wounds. You went out and touched lives and shared, Comforted, counseled and cheered those in pain, And brought back smiles and sense of belonging. Now you belong to the Heavens, And the Stars spell out your name.

Sister Rita, our Family's Golden Child, You left us way too soon. The dreams, confidences and plans we shared when we were together in Kumasi and Fomena this June 2025, and the follow-up conversations on the telephone in early July 2025.

So many things on the 'to do list', destined never to see the light of day. And we already miss you and your 'can do spirit.'

We've lost your loveliness, gentleness and charming smile, And we have to go through empty days wondering how to fill the void created.

And even though we try and the truth brings us to tears, All our words cannot fully express the joy you brought us through the years,

That God gifted you to the family, For which we're eternally grateful.

Truly, truly you lived your life like a candle in the wind, Never fading with the sunset.

Goodbye Sister Rita, Your candle's burned out long before your Legend ever will. In our hearts you will remain Forever Young and Adored.

Adieu.

Sayonara.

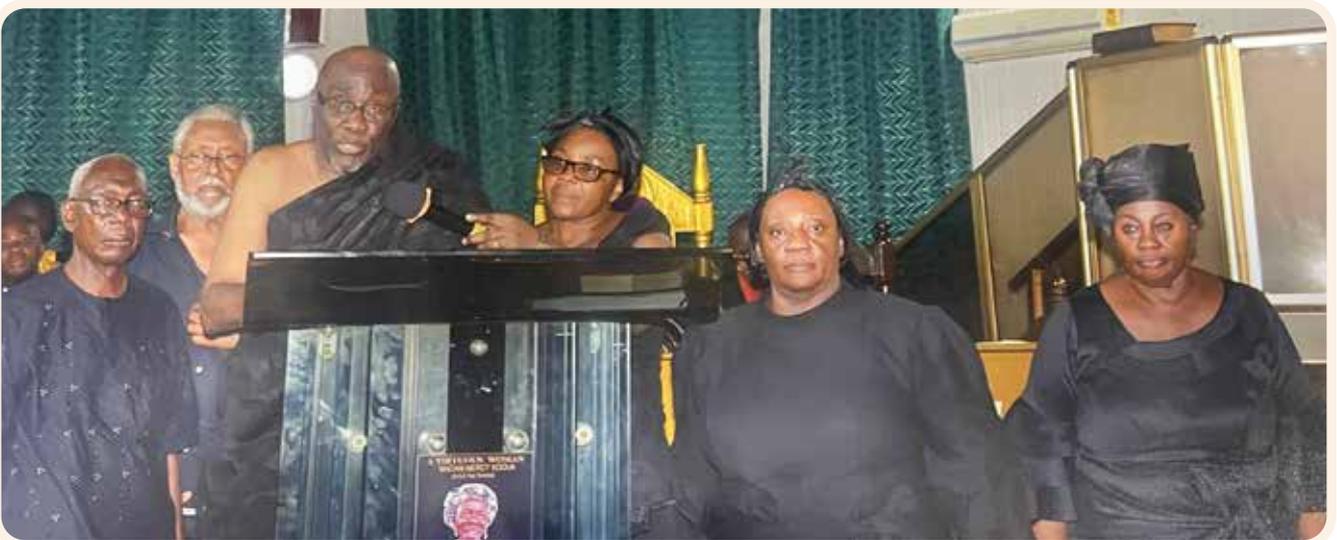
Damirifa due, due. Due ne Amanehunu.

Mawu ke mo ne hisi daa.

May your soul rest in perfect peace in the bosom of the Lord, Sister Rita!

AMEN!!

Rest peacefully, dear Sister. Her memory will forever live in our hearts.



# Tribute to My Mother-in-Law

From Bettina Kwarteng Agyeman-Budu

It is with deep pain that I write this tribute to an extraordinary woman, my mother-in-law, Her Ladyship as I called her, a respected Judge of the High Court of Ghana. As an in-law, I had the privilege of knowing her not just as a family member, but as a mentor, a confidante, and a friend.

From the moment I joined the family, I was struck by her warmth, kindness, and generosity of spirit. As a lawyer myself, I had immense respect for her intellect, her judicial acumen, and her unwavering commitment to upholding the law. But it was her compassion, her empathy, and her love for her family that truly set her apart.

Our bond grew stronger over the years, and I cherished our conversations about life, law, and everything in between. She had a way of offering wisdom, guidance, and support without ever being judgmental. Her door was always open, and her heart was always full of love.

One of the greatest testaments to her impact on our family is the fact that my husband and I chose to name our first child after her. This was not just a gesture of love and respect, but a reflection of the deep bond we shared with her and the values she embodied. She was overjoyed when we shared the news with her, and

her love for that child was palpable from the very beginning.

As a Judge, she was a pillar of integrity, fairness, and justice. Her dedication to her work was inspiring, and



her legacy will continue to inspire generations of lawyers and judges to come. But it was her kindness, her humility, and her generosity that touched my heart and earned her the love and respect of everyone who knew her.

I will miss her dearly, but I know that her memory will continue to live on through her good deeds, her family, children and grandchildren, as well as the community she served with such distinction. To my husband and the rest of the family, I offer my deepest condolences. May Her Ladyship rest in peace, and may her legacy continue to inspire us all.



# Tribute to my Mother-in-Law

From Jeannette Afful Agyeman-Budu

My mother-in-law, the late Justice Rita Agyeman-Budu, lived a life worth emulating. I had the privilege of experiencing her love and support ever since she came into my life.

As a Justice of the High Court of Ghana, she was respected for her integrity, wisdom, and dedication to justice. She was known for her kindness, compassion, and generosity. She was more than just a mother-in-law; she was a mentor, a friend, and a guiding light.

I'll cherish the memories of our conversations about life, family, and our shared love for medicine and healing. Her passion for justice and her commitment to making a difference in people's lives inspired me.

Please rest in peace, Aunty Rita. Your legacy will continue to inspire us.



# Tribute to Aunt Rita

From Emmanuel Akwasi Adi Ayiku

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Aunty Rita,

I am deeply grateful to have shared so many wonderful memories with you. It has been very hard for me to accept that you are no longer with us. Yet, the Bible reminds us that in all things, we should give thanks — and today, I give thanks for you and the incredible life you lived.

Thank you for all the lessons you taught me. Your calm demeanor, patience, and wisdom were truly unmatched. From the time our parents left Ghana in 1981, you embraced Isaac and I as your own sons. You were always there for us with unwavering love and support.

I have such fond memories of you visiting us at Grandma's house, always bringing us treats. I remember it like it was yesterday. You protected and guided us until we left in 1988, but even then, your love never wavered. For that, I say thank you.

When we returned to Ghana in 1997, you welcomed us back with open arms, making sure we had everything we needed while we were in boarding school. I always looked forward to your visits — especially your home-cooked meals. My favorite was your rice and

cabbage stew. And whenever I found myself in trouble, it was you I turned to. You always offered wise counsel without anger or judgment — always with kindness and understanding. That meant so much to me. Thank you.

Your visit to Vancouver meant the world to Jen and I. I was so proud to show you that the boy you helped raise had become a man. I'll never forget when you tried my jollof rice and said it was delicious — and then shared your secret trick for not burning the bottom. I still use that trick today. Thank you.

Our wedding in Mexico would not have been the same without you. You never stopped talking about how much you wanted a reunion just so you could go back — you truly loved Puerto Vallarta. A reunion will never be the same without you, but I know you're in heaven shining your light down on us.

Until we meet again, Aunty Rita, may you rest in eternal peace.

Thank you for your love, your grace, and your example. You will live forever in our hearts.



# Tribute to Aunt Rita

From Isaac Moses Ayiku

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Some people are part of our lives quietly, yet they leave behind echoes that last a lifetime. For me, that person has always been Aunt Rita. She was a constant source of joy and warmth throughout our childhood — she was the joy and laughter in all our family gatherings, she was the calm in moments of chaos, and she was the gentle voice that always made me feel safe, seen, and loved.

When I think back to my childhood, growing up in Kumasi, my favourite memories were always when Aunt Rita came to visit. I can still remember her smile — bright and effortless — and her laughter would fill the house. Aunt Rita had a way of turning ordinary days into special moments and lifelong memories. Whether she was sharing stories, or giving us some life advice, or cooking some of her famous delicious food, she made the simplest things in life feel very special.

When we were teenagers, my brother and I came back to Ghana to attend boarding school. During that time, my favourite moments were always when we had vacation because I got to come home and spend time

with Aunt Rita. There was always peace and joy in her home, and her knowledge and wisdom that she shared with us has always stayed with me till this day.

What makes my heart even more full is the bond she formed with my wife, Nina, and the affection she showed our child, Matteo, meant more to me than words can capture. She embraced them with the same love and kindness she gave me all those years ago.

Aunt Rita taught me what unconditional love looks like — how it grows, how it gives, and how it endures. Her memory continues to be a blessing, shaping our family with love, laughter, and guidance.

Thank you for being my favorite aunty, my mentor, my friend — and now, such a cherished part of the family I've built. We love you deeply and are forever grateful for the memories, lessons, and love you've woven into our lives. You will live on through all of us, who you treated as your own children, and everyone who had the honor and privilege of being in your presence.

We will always love you, Aunt Rita.



# Tribute to Aunt Rita

From Michael Anthony Ayiku & Sarah Ayiku

The love we have for our dearest Aunt, Friend, and Favourite family vacation Roommate, will never perish nor waver.

For our entire lives my siblings and I have been blessed to have “Aunty Rita” as a guardian and a role model.

She was always there for us in our times of need and quick to shed a positive light on the darkest of situations with the right amount of humor. She was the one we trusted most to confide in because her kindheartedness had us all feeling like home was effortlessly embodied within her— her gentle soul had us all feel whole.

We will miss the frequent visits and the phone calls but we carry with us the words of wisdom she shared and fearless approach to life we deeply admired. The foundation she left us with will be built upon, knowing she will be looking on.

“To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven”

You will be truly missed, until we meet again.

From Michael and Sarah



# Tribute from the Sekyere Family

From Francois Sekyere, Kwame Frimpong Sekyere, Abigail Sekyere  
and Dr. Yaw Opoku Mensah Sekyere

## **Psalm 23:1-3**

*“The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul.”*

We, the children of the late Esther Ayiku Sekyere, write with deep sorrow but also with gratitude as we remember the life of our dear Aunty Rita. To us, she was far more than an aunt. She was a counsellor, a mother figure, and a constant source of love and guidance after the passing of our beloved mother.

Aunty Rita never allowed us to feel alone in our loss. She called often, checked on us, and offered words of encouragement that carried us through difficult times. She reminded us that though we had lost our mother, we had not lost a mother’s love. Her presence filled that gap in many ways.

She stood by us during the happiest and most important milestones of our lives. At our wedding ceremonies, she did not just attend, she supported us with her wisdom, grace, and kindness. Her guidance and warmth have left an imprint on our hearts that we will carry forever.

Today, as we bid farewell, we, her niece and nephews, Francois Sekyere, Kwame Sekyere, Abigail Sekyere, and Dr. Yaw Sekyere, give thanks for her life. We are comforted by the memories of her love and the example she set as a woman of strength, humility, and compassion.

Aunty Rita, you will always be remembered not just for your achievements, but for the way you loved and cared for your family. Rest well in the arms of the Lord until we meet again.



# Tribute to Our Aunty

From Prudent Ayiku Jnr, Nana Afia Ayiku & Angel Ayiku

With heavy hearts and profound gratitude, we pay tribute to our beloved aunt, Her Ladyship Justice Rita Budu. She was more than an aunt to us—she was a guiding light, a pillar of stability, and a source of strength whose influence shaped the course of our lives.

Aunty Rita lived a life marked by dignity, compassion, and unwavering dedication to justice. She served Ghana honourably in her distinguished career as a Judge, upholding fairness, humility, and truth. Yet, beyond her public service, she served her family with even greater devotion.

Auntie Rita played a pivotal role in our upbringing, our education, and our careers. Through her belief in our potential, she opened doors that changed the trajectory of our lives.

For me, Prudent, her support led to my first job at Ghana Commercial Bank as a clerk—an opportunity made possible through the kind assistance of her husband, Mr. Agyeman Budu. Later, she helped secure my national service posting in Tema, a decision that became the foundation for my growth. From a national service personnel to a Head of Department, every step bears the imprint of her guidance and faith in me.

For Nana Afia, she was a mother-figure, a confidant, and a source of comfort. She guided us both with the same love, the same strength, and the same unwavering belief in who we could become.

Her passing leaves a void words cannot fully describe. But even in our sorrow, we choose to celebrate her—a woman who touched countless lives with kindness, fairness, and grace.

Her legacy lives on in every life she influenced, every case she judged with integrity, and every heart she lifted with her compassion.

We find comfort knowing she rests peacefully in the bosom of the Lord.

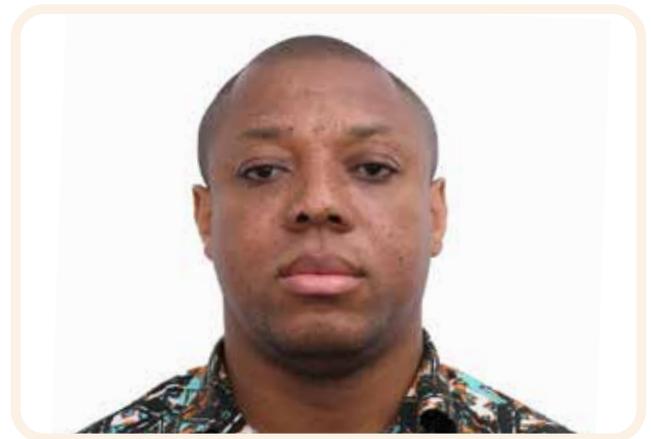
“I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.”

— 2 Timothy 4:7

Auntie Rita, we are forever grateful.  
Your love strengthened us.  
Your guidance shaped us.  
Your memory will continue to lead us.

You lived well.  
You loved deeply.  
And you served faithfully.

Damirifa Due.  
Fare Thee Well.  
Rest in Perfect Peace.



# Tribute to Our Beloved Aunty Rita

From Papa Yaw Amponsah Adjei, Akua Nyarkoa Adjei (Mimi),  
Dr. Kwame Adjei (Junior) and Ohenba Akwasi Nyametease Adjei

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Today, with heavy hearts, we grieve the loss of a mother and honour the life of a remarkable woman.

Aunty Rita was a mother to us in every sense of the word.

When we lost our mum, she welcomed us into her home, not out of obligation but out of genuine love. She gave us motherly affection and warmth that only a true mother could give.

When our brother Papa Yaw received a job opportunity and had to relocate to Accra, she gladly opened her doors to him and embraced him as her very own son. That was the kind of woman she was, selfless, caring and generous without limits. She was always looking out for our best interest by ensuring that we were guided, supported and cared for in any way she could.

She always had a word of wisdom for us. With gentleness, she would counsel us and encourage us to live our best lives, reminding us to pursue excellence, to hold on to our faith and to never give up in life.

As we bid her farewell, we carry her memory with gratitude and love. Her kindness will never be forgotten, her smile will always be remembered and her love will forever remain in our hearts.

“You have fought the good fight, you have finished the race, you have kept the faith.” — 2 Timothy 4:7

Rest peacefully, Aunty. Your life was a blessing and your memory will remain a treasure.



# Tribute to Aunty Rita

From Air Vice Marshall Eric Agyen Frimpong, Baffour Kyei Frimpong,  
Wendy Frimpong and Nana Afua Frimpong

It is with a heavy heart and deep sorrow that we pay tribute to our beloved Aunty Rita — a woman whose presence was a gift, and whose absence leaves a void that words can scarcely fill.

Aunty Rita was more than family; she was a source of wisdom, warmth, and unwavering love. She had a way of making you feel seen, heard, and valued — whether through her gentle words, her thoughtful gestures, or simply her comforting presence.

She was a pillar of strength, a woman of grace, and a quiet force of compassion. Her faith, resilience, and generosity were evident in everything she did — from the way she cared for her family to the way she extended herself to others in need.

We will forever cherish the memories we shared — the stories, the smiles, the lessons, and the love.

Though she is no longer with us in body, her spirit

lives on in the lives she touched, the values she instilled, and the love she gave so freely. We will carry her memory in our hearts and honor her legacy by living with the same grace and kindness she exemplified.

*"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith."*

— 2 Timothy 4:7

Rest well, Aunty Rita. You were deeply loved, and you will be dearly missed.

Demirifa Due!!



# Tribute from the Judicial Service of Ghana

## **Matthew 11: 28–30, KJV**

*“Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: And ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”*

**You will remain in our hearts forever—a beautiful soul whose life and work touched so many. We remember with love and gratitude an extraordinary woman, mother, and judge whose service to her nation and the cause of justice was marked by integrity, compassion, and excellence.**

Justice Mrs. Rita Agyeman-Budu was a woman who loved her country deeply, loved the law sincerely, and served both with unwavering commitment. Throughout her distinguished career, she demonstrated a profound respect for the rule of law, justice, and equality. As a judge, she was fair, firm, and even-handed, ensuring that all who appeared before her were given a fair hearing, regardless of their background or station in life.

Her career in the Judicial Service began on 12th April 1999, when she was appointed a Circuit Court Registrar in Accra. Through diligence, competence, and dedication, she rose steadily through the ranks—serving as High Court Registrar, Deputy Chief Registrar and finally Chief Registrar. Over the years, she worked in several key departments and courts, including the Personnel Department, Complaints Unit, and the Commercial Court in Accra.

Her judicial journey was equally remarkable. After completing her law programme, she was appointed a Magistrate in January 2008 and served at the Ministries Court, Accra, and later at Tema (White House). Her dedication and performance earned her promotion to the position of Circuit Court Judge on 4th July 2011, during which she served in Adum Circuit Court 1, Kumasi, and Accra Circuit Court 5 (Domestic Violence and Gender Court).

Following the successful completion of her LLM in Transnational Legal Practice, Her Ladyship was assigned to Circuit Court ‘B’ Tema, and subsequently

appointed as a Justice of the High Court on 15th July 2016. In that capacity, she presided over High Court ‘B’ Tema, and also served as an additional Circuit Court Judge handling Motion, Divorce and Matrimonial matters at the High Court ‘C’ Tema.

Justice Agyeman-Budu’s sense of duty went beyond the courtroom. In March 2020, she was granted permission to serve as a member of the Rapid Response Team for Human Rights and Justice at the Christian Council of Ghana, further exemplifying her passion for justice and service to humanity. Her later years on the Bench saw her posting to the High Court, Gbetsile (Accra) on 9th October 2023, where she served diligently until her untimely passing on 18th July, 2025.

Over her twenty-six (26) years of dedicated service, Justice Mrs. Rita Agyeman-Budu distinguished herself as a devoted public servant, an industrious professional, and a compassionate human being. Her legacy lives on — in the judgments she rendered, the principles she upheld, and the lives she touched within the Judicial Service and beyond.

While we mourn her passing, we take solace in the exemplary life she lived—a life of purpose, faith, humility and distinction. Her contribution to the administration of justice in Ghana will forever be remembered and cherished.

Fare thee well, Justice Mrs. Rita Agyeman-Budu.

A grateful nation and its Judiciary salute your memory and bid you eternal rest.

Damirifa Due!



# Tribute from International Association of Women Judges (IAWJ) - Ghana Chapter

We stand on hallowed ground, a silent court, to honor one who made our laws a fort. A beacon bright in robes of solemn black. Her Ladyship, who never turned her back.

Justice Rita Agyeman-Budu, your name is etched in honor, a judicial flame.

For women judges, you were the guiding light, A force for justice, a champion for what's right.

The Ghana chapter, your heart and your domain. You worked to lift and to ease all pain. A host so gracious, with a steady hand, you brought the world to our Ghanaian land.

From Accra's halls to global conferences, your wisdom flowed, dispelling all pretenses.

A mind of law, a spirit of pure grace, you fought for women in every time and place.

Your legacy, a monument of care, for children's rights, and all who felt despair. A voice for those who had no voice to speak, you were the strength for all who felt so weak.

Though death has called you to a higher court, your memory, a precious, lasting thought. We feel your absence, a profound, deep ache.

For all the lives you touched, for goodness' sake.

Rest now, great jurist, your labor is complete, Your final judgment, so profound and sweet. May your good works and your compassion's art continue to inspire every legal heart.

We gather today to remember and celebrate the life of our dear sister and colleague, Her Ladyship Mrs. Justice Rita Agyeman-Budu, a woman of grace, intellect, and vision, who served with distinction as Secretary, Vice President, and finally as President of the International Association of Women Judges - Ghana Chapter. Justice Agyeman-Budu joined the Judicial Service

as a staff on 12th April 1999, and was later sworn in as a District Magistrate on 2nd January 2008. Justice Agyeman-Budu was one of the pioneer members of the IAWJ Ghana Chapter when it was formed in 2010.

Justice Agyeman-Budu was a pioneer in every sense. In the early days of our Association when awareness of our mission was still growing, she used her creativity to bring our message to the public. She scripted a play that was televised on state television entitled "A Call to Justice" – a powerful and innovative way to highlight some of the social, economic, psychological, and cultural barriers that prevent many women from accessing the courts freely. That effort reflected who she was: thoughtful, resourceful, and deeply committed to advancing both the law and the visibility of women within it.

She was a gentle and soft-spoken woman, yet full of wisdom and quiet strength. In her calm manner, she inspired confidence and earned respect. Her words were measured, but always meaningful; her leadership was steady, but always compassionate.

Beyond her professional achievements, Justice Rita was warm, kind, and always ready to lend support to others. She led with humility, inspired with example, and served with quiet dignity.



Justice Agyeman-Budu led by example. She made sure to visit and condole with every member of the Association who was bereaved or had suffered a mishap. She was generous and always one of the largest contributors whenever donations were being collected for members of the Association. It was no wonder therefore that she had a large number of judges accompanying her to Fomena when she had to lay her mother to rest early this year.

Justice Agyeman-Budu was a fashionista. She was always well dressed and spoke about the need to look presentable and nice whenever she was complimented. Justice Agyeman-Budu strove for perfection. She wanted everything she did to be perfect so much that it would cause her to worry a lot.

She was committed to the Association and made an effort to attend every International Conference organized by the IAWJ. She participated in the conferences held in Morocco and in South Africa where she flew

high the Ghanaian flag. It was during her tenure as President of the Ghana Chapter that she led Ghana to host the Africa Regional Conference in Ghana in May 2024; a task she beautifully executed to the admiration of the members who were present.

Though she is no longer with us, her legacy endures – in the Association she helped to strengthen, in the lives she touched, and in the ideals she lived by.

May we honour her memory by continuing the work she began, with the same passion and purpose that defined her life.

May we all be comforted by the word of God in Revelations 14:13 which says “Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on. ‘Yes,’ says the Spirit, ‘they will rest from their labors, for their deeds will follow them”.

May her gentle soul rest in perfect peace.



# Tribute from IAWJ - Africa

Hon. Justice Roli Harriman (Regional Director)

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Ladies and Gentlemen,

We gather today in shared sorrow—but also in deep gratitude—for the life of an extraordinary woman: Lady Justice Rita Agyeman-Budu. A trailblazer, a jurist, a global leader, and to many of us, a trusted friend and sister of the heart.

Rita was a woman who carried the weight of her many titles with effortless grace—but never let them overshadow the core of who she truly was: deeply kind, quietly fierce, and wholly devoted to justice.

As President of the International Association of Women Judges, Ghana Chapter, she carried her passion and vision far beyond Ghana borders.

Rita stood tall among global peers, bringing women judges together in common cause.

I recall, with so much pain now, the frequent calls we made to each other last year preparing for the African Regional Conference which her Chapter was to host in Accra. We spoke almost daily in the month leading up to that conference, and lately towards preparation for the IAWJ biennial Conference that took place in Cape Town, South Africa this year.

I can still hear her soft, quiet voice- ‘my sister Rollee’ she would start very very slowly. What a unique voice!

She believed—not as a slogan but as a principle—that justice must reflect the dignity and worth of every human being, and that women, everywhere, must be empowered to lead in shaping that justice.

Her leadership was marked by quiet strength and inclusivity. She uplifted others. She opened doors. She made room for every voice at the table and ensured that no one walked alone.

Those of us privileged to serve alongside her in the IAWJ Sub-Saharan African Region, knew we were standing with a woman who led not for glory, but from purpose.

But beyond her titles and achievements, Rita was our friend. She was someone who truly saw people—not just their roles, but their struggles, their aspirations, and their hearts. In her presence, you felt heard. You felt valued. She had a rare gift: she could be profoundly wise and delightfully warm in the same breath.

To lose Rita is to lose a light—but not its glow. Her life’s work lives on—in courtrooms and communities, in institutions she helped build and in lives she gently touched. The seeds she planted will bear fruit for generations.

Let us honor her by continuing that work. Let us walk with her clarity of purpose, her steadiness, her unwavering belief that justice must be both strong and compassionate.

Rest well, dearest Rita. You led with dignity, you loved with generosity, and you lived with purpose. We are better because of you. We will miss you more than words can say.

May your soul find eternal peace.



# Tribute from the International Association of Women Judges (IAWJ)

From Judge Mina Sougrati (Global President)

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It is with deep sorrow and heartfelt respect that I pay tribute to Justice Rita Agyeman-Budu, a woman of great wisdom, humility, and unwavering dedication to the cause of justice. Her passing is not only a profound loss to Ghana, but also to the international community of women judges who had the honor of knowing her and learning from her example.

As a colleague within the International Association of Women Judges, she represented the best of our shared mission to uphold the rule of law and to advance the dignity and rights of women everywhere.

On behalf of the global family of women judges, I extend our deepest condolences to her loved ones and to the Judiciary of Ghana. May her soul rest in eternal peace, and may her light continue to guide us in our pursuit of justice with integrity and compassion.



# Tribute from the Teshie Nungua United Church

## ***Ecclesiastes 12:7***

*“And the dust returns to the ground it came from, and the spirit returns to God who gave it.”*

With deep sorrow and heavy hearts, Teshie Nungua United Church, pay tribute to our dearly beloved member, Her Ladyship Justice Rita Agyeman-Budu, whose sudden passing on Friday, July 18, 2025, left us all in profound shock and sadness.

Her Ladyship, together with her devoted husband and children, joined Teshie Nungua United Church over a decade ago. In that time, she became not only a familiar face but a pillar of faith, integrity, and service to the church. She was unwavering in her commitment to the church, meeting her financial obligations faithfully and offering her time, wisdom, and resources in service to the Lord.

Justice Rita Agyeman-Budu held several important roles in the life of the church. She served as a respected member of the Church Council, a dedicated member of the Women’s Fellowship, a patron of the church

choir and the able Chairperson of the Constitutional Review Committee. In every responsibility she undertook, she exhibited a rare combination of calmness, firmness, and grace, earning the admiration of all who had the privilege of working with her.

Her presence was always felt and her leadership always sought after. It was not uncommon to see her name listed as Chairperson of various church programmes, roles she fulfilled with distinction and humility. Her contributions went beyond duty; they were acts of deep faith and devotion.

Her Ladyship lived a life that exemplified service, strength, and steadfast faith. Though her departure is a great loss to the church and all who knew her, we take comfort in knowing that she fought the good fight, finished the race, and kept the faith.

She will be dearly missed but forever remembered.

Rest peacefully in the Lord’s embrace, Her Ladyship.

Your legacy of faith and service lives on.



# Tribute from the United Church Women's Fellowship

## **Psalm 90:12**

*"So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom."*

Today, with heavy hearts and profound gratitude, the Women's Fellowship of the United Church, Teshie-Nungua Estates, pays tribute to our dearly beloved Sister, HL Justice Rita Agyeman-Budu.

Since joining our fellowship in 2016, Sister Agyeman-Budu distinguished herself as a dedicated and exemplary member. Her commitment to the fellowship was unwavering, and she approached every responsibility with diligence and grace. She was affable and calm demeanor endeared her to all. She was a source of comfort and encouragement, always ready with a gentle word or a reassuring smile. Though she was soft-spoken, her firmness and integrity shone through all her interactions.

Despite the demands of her professional life, Sister Agyeman-Budu always made every effort to participate in our meetings and activities. On the rare occasions when her hectic schedule caused her to arrive late, she expressed genuine concern, never wanting her absence to disrupt the fellowship. She was thoughtful

and considerate, ensuring that she informed us whenever she needed to travel. Her sense of responsibility and transparency set a standard for us all.

Sister Agyeman-Budu was also faithful in fulfilling her financial obligations, consistently paying her dues and any levies required by the fellowship. Her generosity and reliability were evident in both her words and actions.

We have indeed lost a great resource—a woman of wisdom, compassion, and unwavering faith. While our hearts ache with her passing, we take comfort in knowing that she has answered her Maker's call and rests now in the eternal embrace of the Lord.

May you find peaceful repose with your Creator, dear Sister. Rest in perfect peace and rise in glory. Your memory will forever remain in our hearts, and your absence will be deeply felt by all who knew and loved you.

Da yie—Nyame nfa wo kraa nsie! Amen.



# Tribute from the United Church Choir

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

We in the United Church Choir believe that Angels of Jesus are singing a sweet song as they welcome the beautiful soul of Her Ladyship into the Father's bosom.

Her Ladyship Justice Rita Agyeman-Budu and her husband were both Patrons of the United Church Choir, a role she performed so admirably until her glorious call. Her Ladyship loved the Choir so much that she never missed any of our programmes and so if we did not see her at any programme, then it was because she had travelled for other duties. One of Her Ladyship's greatest hallmarks was that she always accepted and availed herself and her resources anytime the choir approached her to take up the Chairperson's Position for our programmes. No wonder she competently steered the proceedings of the Choir's 50th Year Anniversary Celebrations as the Chair Lady so successfully to the Glory of God. It was a memorable day for the Choir and we are always grateful for her leadership role on that day. She never forgot nor left us behind whenever

she had a programme because she made sure we were always invited. Honestly, the United Church Choir always felt pampered by her kindness and love, a nature we will always miss. She made us feel very special.

To the choir, Her Ladyship Justice Rita Agyeman Budu was, kind, affable, understanding, peaceful, very lovely, soft spoken and very very brave. She always had a beautiful smile towards all Choir members. The pieces of advice she gave the Choir have really helped us. How we wish she were around to spur us on as always in the good fight of Faith.

But As we mourn with the family, we also celebrate her great work in God's house knowing so well that Heaven has gained a sweet soul.

Mummy, United Church Choir says Ayekooo, you did a great work, you excelled and you truly supported us. We will greatly miss you but we take solace in the knowledge that you served God with all your heart and you will surely be with Him. You left an exemplary mark in the United Church Choir and it will be a shining guide for us all to emulate.

Rest on Her Ladyship, rest on Patron, rest well in the solemn place of the Lord.

You will always be remembered.



# Tribute from the United Church Constitutional Review Committee

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This tribute is written in honour of our beloved Chairperson, Her Ladyship Justice Rita Agyeman-Budu (Mrs.), whose passing has deeply saddened us and left a lasting void in our hearts.

Justice Agyeman-Budu (Mrs) was appointed Chairperson of our committee in early 2023, following the Council's resolution to review the church's constitution. With her characteristic humility, brilliance, and unwavering commitment to excellence, she led us through a rigorous and thoughtful process of constitutional reform.

Her leadership was transformative. She brought clarity to complex issues, fostered unity among diverse perspectives, and ensured that our work was grounded in both legal soundness and spiritual purpose. Her deep understanding of governance, coupled with her love for the church, made her the ideal leader for this sacred task.

Under her guidance, we successfully completed our

mandate and submitted the draft constitution to Council on 3rd May 2024. This milestone stands as a testament to her dedication, wisdom, and tireless service. Though she is no longer with us, her legacy lives on in the very fabric of the document she helped shape — a constitution that will guide our church for generations to come.

Justice Agyeman-Budu (Mrs) was more than our Chairperson; she was our inspiration and our friend. Her faith, integrity, and grace touched each of us profoundly. We are grateful to have served under her leadership and will carry forward the values she embodied.

“Blessed are those who die in the Lord... for their deeds follow them.” — Revelation 14:13

Rest well, Justice Rita Agyeman-Budu. You have run your race, kept the faith, and left behind a legacy of service and love.



# Tribute from Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship International (FGBMFI), Teshie-Nungua Chapter

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*"Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints." — Psalm 116:15*

With deep sorrow and yet thanksgiving to Almighty God, we, the members of the Teshie-Nungua Chapter of the Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship International (FGBMFI), pay tribute to our dearly beloved sister and friend, Her Ladyship Mrs. Rita Agyemang-Budu, who was called to eternal rest after a short illness.

Her passing has left a deep void in our hearts and in the life of our Fellowship. A faithful and good member, Her Ladyship served among us with grace, wisdom, and unwavering commitment. Alongside her devoted husband, she stood as a pillar of strength in our midst—supporting not only the spiritual growth of our Chapter but also generously meeting the material needs of members in quiet, selfless ways that reflected her deep love for the Lord.

In her distinguished role as a Justice of the High Court in the Republic of Ghana, she upheld truth, fairness, and integrity—values that flowed naturally from her deep faith. Yet beyond the courtroom, we knew her as a gentle soul, a woman of prayer, humility, and kindness. Her smile lit up our gatherings, and her counsel brought peace and wisdom to many.

We are heartbroken. We had hoped for more years with her—more fellowship, more encouragement, more testimonies of God's goodness through her life. But God, in His infinite wisdom, has called His daughter home. And though our hearts are heavy, we submit to His will, knowing that she rests safely in the arms of her Maker.

*"Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on... 'Yes,' says the Spirit, 'they will rest from their labor, for their deeds will follow them.'" — Revelation 14:13*

Indeed, Her Ladyship's deeds speak for her. Her quiet sacrifices, her unwavering faith, her love for God's people, and her contribution to the vision of the FGBMFI will never be forgotten. She believed in the transforming power of the Gospel in the marketplace and lived it out in both her public and private life. Her absence from our Chapter is deeply felt, but her legacy continues to inspire us.

To her beloved husband and family, we extend our deepest and heartfelt condolences. We mourn with you, and we also stand with you in faith, believing that she has only transitioned from this temporary life into eternal glory.

*"Well done, good and faithful servant... Enter into the joy of your Lord." — Matthew 25:21*

Her Ladyship has fought the good fight, she has finished her race, and she has kept the faith. We thank God for the privilege of knowing her, fellowshipping with her, and learning from her example.

Farewell, noble daughter of the Most High. Sleep well in the bosom of your Savior. You are forever in our hearts.

With love and in solemn remembrance,

The Teshie-Nungua Chapter

Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship International (FGBMFI),

Say farewell, Her Ladyship, Madam Rita, Mrs. Rita Agyeman-Budu,

Rest in Peace Mama Rita,

Da yie.

Till we meet again in heaven.

Amen!



# Tribute by Mfantisman Old Girls' Association (MOGA) 1978 Year Group

## 2 Corinthians 5:1

*"For we know that if the tent which is our earthly home is destroyed, we have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by human hands."*

We MOGA 78, full of happy go lucky "Seenagers", woke up on the cool Saturday morning of 19th July, 2025, ready for our usual weekend jives on the platform. Unfortunately, this fun-filled platform was being populated with messages of the sudden demise of our dear Sister, Her Ladyship Justice Rita Agyeman-Budu, mostly "doubting Thomases", others enquiry and some few factual confirmations. We were so stricken with grief upon authentic verification that, we found it difficult to process the information, however, consistent with above quotation, we have indeed accepted this reality of life.



In September, 1975, a unique bundle of happy go lucky teenagers, from the great Mfantisman Girls Secondary School (known then), returned from the usual long vacation to our new Class of Form 3, to realize a new shy face among us. This shy, beautiful, slim young girl who transferred from the Yaa Asantewa Girls Secondary School, Kumasi was Rita Ayiku. We had two

streams of classes "S" and "M" which we termed Saltpond and Mankessim respectively with Rita in "M" and assigned to Butler house. As teenagers, our excitement of having a sister from another girls' school, created avenue for bombarding her with several questions. Her soft responses endeared her to our hearts and "Bam", we wholeheartedly accepted her into our midst. Her friends from Butler House and "M" Class took a decision to shield her from all our naughtiness but she still kept pace with us. Rita though very quiet and unassuming, was very sociable and had a unique way of cracking funny jokes which made us laugh till our sides ache. She usually sat in the front of the blackboard, never drawing attention to herself, only heard when answering a question by a teacher. She was a persistent and resilient student, very focused on achieving the objectives to her dreams, while still keeping her signature smile even through trying moments. No wonder, she ended up being a great judge.



From 1978 onwards, though, the journey took us to different places, some of us maintained linkages, Rita included, to still nurture the existing bond of friendship. However, it was when we formed the "MOGA 78" group, to re-kindle the joy and fun we had as teenagers as well as give back to the school, that our lives really intertwined as support to each other. Her Ladyship Justice Rita Agyeman-Budu was almost always

there with us and somehow managed to draw her husband, Mr. Kwame Agyeman-Budu (ESQ) with their baby last to our gatherings. How Rita made that possible is only her unique style, and so MOGA 78 had a special relationship with her husband whom we affectionately called "Daddy".

Our Ladyship Justice Rita, we discussed holding a special "chillaxing" session for you after clearing some backlog of work due to the burial of your dear mother in May, 2025. Sadly, you suddenly vanished, gone with the wind to the forever land. With difficulty, we MOGA 78 agree with Isaac Watts that "There is a land of pure delight, where saints immortal reign; Infinite day excludes the night, and pleasures banish pain. There everlasting spring abides, and never-withering flowers; Death, like a narrow sea, divides this heavenly land from ours." (MHB 649).

Paraphrasing H. W. Longfellow, we indeed can make our lives sublime, and departing, leave behind us footprints on the sands of time. Thus, our very own Justice Rita Agyeman-Budu, your melody will linger on in our hearts, even though your song is ended.

MOGA 78 and MOGA National express our deepest condolences to the husband, Mr. Kwame Agyeman-Budu (ESQ), children, and entire family. May the Lord's banner of love be upon them.

Onyimnyamfo Ewuraba Amaku, the epitome of grace and peace. Your life in retrospect, reflected our school motto and song 'Obra nye woara abo, na obrapa so gye owura kwan.'

Ampa wo obrapa agye wo kwan wo sor.

Da yie, Da Yie, Da yie. Nyame mfa wo kra nsie.



# Tribute to a Loving Friend and Sister

From Mary Appiagyei-Donkor (alias Obaaku)

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With every shared memory, your light continues to shine. Gone from my sight, but never from my heart.

Over half a century ago, in the classrooms and dormitories of Mfantsiman Girls, I met Rita. We were just girls then, but that bond grew into a friendship that would last a lifetime. We became close in those simple, everyday ways, washing our clothes side by side, sharing stories, supporting each other like yin and yang. Different energies, yet perfectly balanced.

Rita had a gift for remembering our formative years in vivid details. She would tell one story after another, bringing back memories I had long forgotten. We thought we would continue writing that story together well into our old age. I never imagined I would be writing this tribute so soon.

Your life, Rita, was a blessing, and your memory a treasure. I miss you deeply: our Sunday afternoon chats, our ampesi with palm oil "parties," your laughter that could brighten a room, and your wise counsel. Most of all, I miss the warmth of your friendship, steady and true.

I will never forget the way you stood by me in my most difficult times. Travelling to my village to support me after the loss of my father and later my sister. Those moments touched me in ways words cannot fully capture.

We, your MOGA '78 sisters, are so proud of you. The only one among us to become a judge - and not just any judge, but one admired across the profession for your fairness, integrity, and wisdom. You blossomed into the "just judge" that so many respected, always valuing confidentiality and honouring truth. To us, you were always simply "Rita," but to Ghana you were a trailblazer: President of the Association of Women Judges, a working mother who excelled in many spheres of life.

In recent years, I cherished seeing you whenever I visited Ghana. Our last conversation was just the Sunday

before you left us. We spoke for over an hour - about our school days, about your holidays to North America, and we ended as we always did, with your familiar words to me: "Obaaku, k) da." How I wish we could have had one more call, one more chance to laugh together, one visit to London as we had discussed.

I remember also being with you in Kumasi when you had your first child. Witnessing your joy as you began your journey as a mother. And I am grateful for all the milestones we shared, the tears and the laughter alike.

Rita, my friend, my sister, your life was rich with purpose and your legacy will endure. You leave behind a mark of excellence, fairness, and love. Though I grieve, I am grateful for every moment we had.

Rest well, my dear Rita.

Da yie. Nyame mfa wo kra nsie.



# Tribute from the Ghana Institute of Journalism Alumni

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It is with profound sorrow that the Ghana Institute of Journalism Alumni bids farewell to one of our brightest and most accomplished daughters, Her Ladyship Justice Rita Agyeman-Budu (née Ayiku). To us, Rita was more than a name in the alumni register—she was a friend, a sister, a trailblazer, and a shining example of what dedication and discipline can achieve.

Rita's journey with us began with the quiet determination and humility that would define her life. She walked the halls of GIJ with a deep hunger for knowledge and a passion for excellence. In June 1991, she earned her Diploma in Journalism after successfully meeting the school's rigorous requirements—examinations in English Language, Journalism, Public Relations, Advertising, Political Science, and Political Economy, and the submission of a dissertation approved by the Academic Board.

Her brilliance shone unmistakably when, in March 1992, she was honoured with the prestigious Augustino Neto Prize for Best Student in English. Sponsored by the Ghana National Procurement Agency, the award was not merely a recognition of academic excellence—it was a testament to her sharp intellect, clarity of thought, and mastery of communication.

Though trained as a journalist, Rita's path would lead her into the noble profession of law, where she merged the power of words with the pursuit of justice. From her early service as a Magistrate in 2008, she rose to become a Circuit Court Judge in 2011 and was appointed a High Court Judge in 2016. As President of the International Association of Women Judges, Ghana Chapter, she became a voice for the voiceless, an advocate for the rights of children, and a tireless champion for the empowerment of women.

Her influence reached far beyond Ghana's borders. Rita represented our country at international judicial forums, contributed to landmark initiatives such as the Global Leadership of Women Project, and played key

roles in the organisation of IAWJ biennial and regional conferences across Africa and beyond.

Yet, for all her accolades and achievements, Rita will be remembered most for her humanity—her warmth, her humility, and her unshakable belief in fairness and compassion. She was a woman who carried her greatness lightly, and in doing so, inspired respect, love, and admiration from all who knew her.

We, her colleagues and friends from the Ghana Institute of Journalism, take pride in having shared in her early journey. Her life is a powerful reminder that the values nurtured in our classrooms—integrity, excellence, and service—can shape destinies and transform nations.

Her funeral and final rites will be held on Saturday, November 22, 2025, at the United Church, Teshie-Nungua. She was 64 years old. We extend our deepest condolences to her beloved husband, children, grandchildren, and all whose lives she touched. Rita has run her race with honour; she has kept the faith.

Farewell, dear Rita. You have made us proud. Your light will never fade. May your soul rest in perfect peace.

*"A beautiful soul is never forgotten; It leaves footprints on every heart it touched. Though your voice is silent, your deeds still speak — And the light you shared will guide us still."*



# Tribute to My Beloved Friend & Sister

From Dr. Susana Larbi

## **Psalm 116:15**

*“Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of His saints”*

It is with a heavy heart that I write this tribute. I met Her Ladyship when we were registering for our courses in University of Ghana, Legon. The queue was long and we happen to follow each other so we engaged in conversation to while away the time, then we realized we were mothers and wives making efforts to advance our academic career. This immediately brought us together to a friendship which I will cherish in my lifetime. As we shared the same dynamics, we were there for each other encouraging, inspiring, motivating, supporting and sharing what works to help us pursue our academic lives successfully. On the other hand, we were both committed Christians and I believe that gave our friendship a solid grounding because the epitome of love, our Lord JESUS, was the center of our relationship and together we always depended and trusted in HIM.

Rita, as I fondly call her, was soft spoken, affable, resilient and a true personification of humility and compas-

sion with a penchant to make you laugh. I recall with fondness our “Catch Ups” when we haven’t seen each other for a long time, they were hilarious moments that I am sorely going to miss. Rita dear, now that we are growing old and will certainly need each other to stand the tide of loneliness, you have left me. Truly, the void in my heart cannot be filled and words cannot express the loss that I have incurred. Besides, tears cannot cover the anguish I harbor. You will forever be etched in my memory.

My best friend and confidant, once I heard “If tears could build a stairway and memories a lane, I will walk to you” and ask why now? But who am I to question the LORD, I believe that when the roll was called on earth for an angel you were selected to go up yonder. I am therefore consoled that you are in a better place than here. If you have become my angel, wipe my unceasing tears.

Rita, Her Ladyship, thanks for being there for me with a sweet soul and sharing your life with me. I know you are precious in the sight of the LORD therefore:

FARE THEE WELL AND REST WELL.





# Tribute From Ghana School of Law, Class of 2002

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*There's a land that is fairer than day,  
And by faith we can see it afar,  
For the Father waits over the way  
To prepare us a dwelling place there.*

*Refrain:*

*In the sweet by and by,  
We shall meet on that beautiful shore;  
In the sweet by and by,  
We shall meet on that beautiful shore  
afar*

## **Sanford Fillmore Bennett (1868)**

As the sun radiates through the hour glass so were the days of your life! A life that beamed through many a dull experiences of others but now lies lifeless! A life we, your classmates testify to for its quality and sheer beauty! A life we are proud and happy to have encountered as mates!

You were a member of our class at the professional level of our legal education. Rita as we affectionately called you, your mature presence was a constant source of assurance for a class largely youthful and childish at the turn of the century. With your characteristic smile with which you greeted anyone who approached you or locked eyes with yours on the Makola campus, you were warm, affable and kind!

News of your death struck us with a familiar pain—the pain that has always heralded the sad news of our lost mates. The class of 2002 have sent the two of us up here to announce to the witnesses here gathered of your generosity of spirit Rita, and the bountiful life you lived in your years now spent and over. Members of our class loved you till the last, and we continue to mourn your untimely passing with the silent tears that ooze from our eyes and hearts.

Your night on earth has come dear friend as the sun has set on your works Rita! But your day on God's beautiful shore is just beginning. As earth loses to Heaven's gain, your memory is a blessing to us for our encounter of you, and for the pleasure of calling you our mate.

Today we part with your body but the fond memories shared will remain as a fitting tribute of the lives you touched.

This testament is short, Rita, because truly we ache in our hearts as our voices fail at your loss! Journey well to the life beyond as the angels of Heaven lead you to God the Almighty!

We your mates look on the things which are pure to rejoice at your life as we mourn your passing! We are happy that your life was a thing of good report for which we are inspired. We certainly know that many will find your kind heart worthy of praise and for which we thank our father in Heaven for the blessings of your life and company.

Fare thee well noble mate of the class of 2002! Adios from this life's toil of pain as you find bliss in a world free from tears and sunsets!

Amen!



# Tribute to My Sister-in-law

From Dr. Kwame Agyeman-Budu

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It is with a heavy heart, that I pay tribute to an extraordinary woman, my beloved sister-in-law, the late Justice Rita Agyeman-Budu (Mrs.).

I recall the countless moments we shared, strengthened by the year you spent in the United States pursuing a Master of Laws Degree (LL.M) in Transnational Legal Practice at St. John's University School of Law in New York.

Your academic excellence was a testament to your unwavering commitment to justice. I was honored to attend your graduation ceremony in June 2016, celebrating this remarkable achievement with your loved ones. Your LL.M was more than just a degree – it was a symbol of your resilience and dedication to your

craft.

As a High Court Judge, you upheld the highest standards of integrity and fairness. Your compassion, empathy, and kindness earned you the respect and admiration of all who knew you. You were a true leader, a trailblazer, and a shining example of what it means to serve with distinction.

Your love for our family was unconditional, and your absence leaves a void that can never be filled. I am however consoled by the fact that yours was a life well lived.

Rest in peace, dear Rita. Your memory will be a blessing to us all.



# Tribute to Her Ladyship Justice Rita Agyeman-Budu (Mrs.)

From Prof. Kenneth Agyemang Attafuah, Esq.

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To My Dear Sister-in-Law

It feels so unreal knowing you'll not be seen among the living anymore. Your calm and gentle persona combined with your ever-assured smile to give your presence anywhere that very special feeling welcome. Your conversations were always refreshing and enlivening, and I will truly miss you.

I remember the joy we shared being family and classmates for a while at the Ghana School of Law over 20 years ago. We supported each other with missed lecture notes; it was mostly from you to me when I would occasionally miss a class due to the demands of my work schedule at the Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ), where I was Director of Operations and Chief Investigator, which sometimes involved local and foreign travel. Thank you, Rita, for being there for me when it mattered.

I remember with pride and nostalgia the warmth and excitement you spread in our hearts at your graduation ceremony when you were called to the Ghana Bar and enrolled on the Roll of Lawyers. Your uncommon magnetic love pulled us all together from the various streams and strands of your extended families, from both Juaso and Adansi Fomena. And our "Canada connection" through your sister Grace Sarkodie and your brother Prudent Akwasi Tetteh Ayiku made it all so extra special between us, with nice short chit-chats.

I will forever cherish our chats in the corridors of the Ghana School of Law, as well as your caring and affectionate enquiries about my wife Joyce and "the little ones". Just like your own "little ones", mine have grown into "mighty men, with one of them – Nana Boansi Agyeman – graduating with a Master's degree from the GIMPA Law School where your affable and brilliant son, Dr. Kwaku Agyeman-Budu, serves as Dean! And, oh, as you knew before your sudden demise, I too

hold a post-retirement lectureship in the LL.M Program at the GIMPA Law School, with Kwaku as my Dean! Surely, the grace of the Most High has been sufficient for our two families! With your dear husband, my big brother Kwame, and the rest of your families, we shall keep fresh in our hearts the joyful memories you created and left with us.

As I close this short tribute and bid you farewell, I pray that the Great Architect of the Universe keeps your gentle soul in His bosom in all eternity, till the day of the resurrection, when all the faithful departed shall rise again, and we shall meet again.

Rita, my dear sister-in-law, my dear friend, my Law School classmate, Your Ladyship: Rest in Peace.



# Tribute from the Sarpong Family

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## ***Her Journey's Just Begun***

**By Ellen Brenneman (modified)**

*Don't think of her as gone away, her journey's just begun, life holds so many facets, this earth is only one. Just think of her as resting from the sorrows and the tears in a place of warmth and comfort where there are no days and years.*

*Think of how she must be wishing that we could know today, how nothing but our sadness can really pass away.*

*And think of her as living in the hearts of those she touched...for nothing loved is ever lost and she was loved so much.*

Today, our hearts are heavy, and words feel small in the face of such sudden loss. Aunty Rita, you were more than family, your warmth, laughter, wisdom and love were all wrapped into one. You were a woman whose love, grace and warmth touched every soul you encountered.

Aunty Rita was a blessing to our family and to all who knew her. She had a heart full of compassion, a gentle spirit, and faith that quietly guided her words and

actions. Her beautiful smile could brighten any room, and her wisdom brought comfort in difficult times. She had a heart that welcomed everyone and a spirit that drew people close. She listened with patience, spoke with wisdom, and cared deeply for those around her.

She was a woman of grace and compassion, always ready to lend a listening ear and share the joys of others. Whether at church, or family events, her presence felt constant and her spirit uplifting.

Though her passing came suddenly and our hearts ache with sorrow, we take comfort in knowing she is resting safely in the arms of the Lord. Her time on earth was marked by love and dedication, providing service to others, a role she took seriously.

She was more than an Aunty, she was a friend, a guide and a blessing to us all. We will miss her kind words, her laughter and her unwavering love.

Rest peacefully, dear Aunty. Her memory will forever live in our hearts.



# Tribute from the Kwarteng Family

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## **Psalm 39:4-5**

*“Show me, Lord, my life’s end and the number of my days; let me know how fleeting my life is. You have made my days a mere handbreadth; the span of my years is as nothing before you. Everyone is but a breath, even those who seem secure”*

Some losses hit harder than words can express. One moment, they are here, laughing, loving, and living, and the next, they are memory we were not ready to hold. The plans, the dreams, and everyday moments we took for granted are now echoes of what could have been.

Her Ladyship Justice Rita Agyeman-Budu and the husband became close to us when they joined Teshie Nungua United Church.

Their son, Dr. Kwaku Agyeman-Budu, was however a very close friend and classmate of our son Emmanuel Kwadwo Kwarteng. They all schooled at Ridge Church School, where Mrs Kwarteng was their Maths teacher.

Our friendship became more of a family when we realised Mr. Kwame Agyeman-Budu was an old student of Konongo Odumase Senior High School, Great KOSS, where Mrs. Kwarteng also attended and also a native

of Ashanti Akim. The bond became stronger. We were part of the cherished moments of the family, the marriage of their children, and also when she was appointed as a Justice of the High Court of Ghana.

What happened that nothing was heard of any illness? Just a call from our Resident Minister early morning on Friday 18th July 2025 to visit your residence, only to be told of your demise. What a blow! What a shock!

We wish heaven had visiting hours, and we would ask if we could take you home, but we know what they would say “that it’s for the best”

H/L Rita, why did you leave without a word? You remember the dance at the residence of the Donkor’s, when your dear husband told us he will give us a call if you complain of any pain? Why now? You have left us many questions than answers.

The pain feels unbearable, but love doesn’t fade. It stays warm into the fabric of who we are.

Gone too soon but never forgotten.

Always loved.

Always missed.

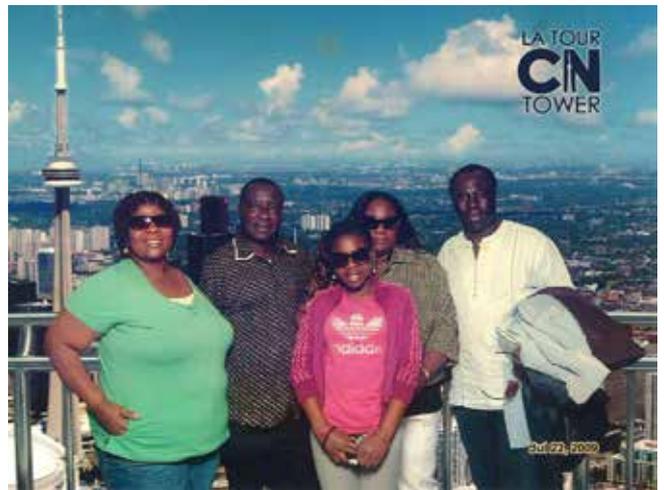
Rita! Rest in perfect peace in the bosom of the Lord.

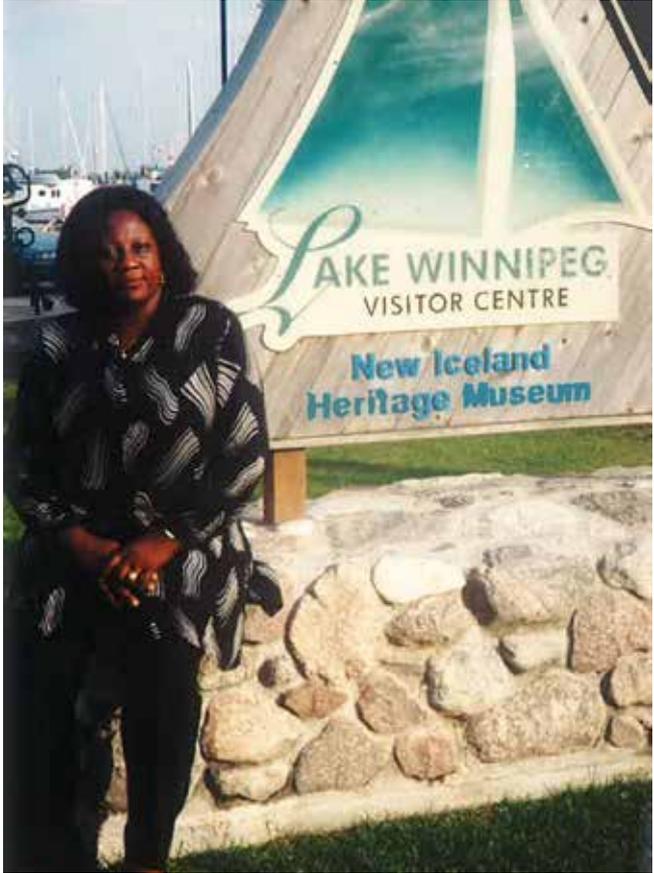


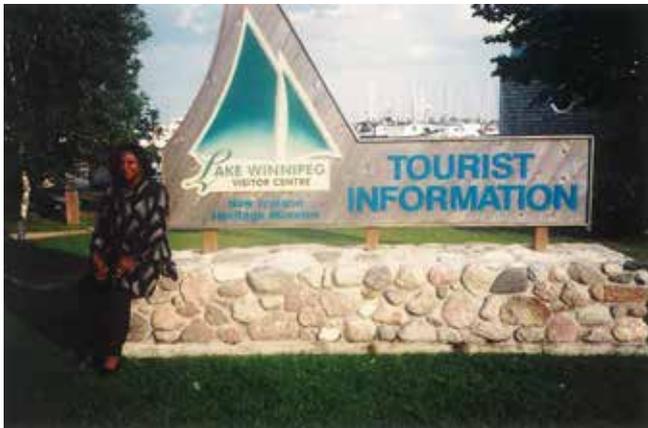
# Gallery











































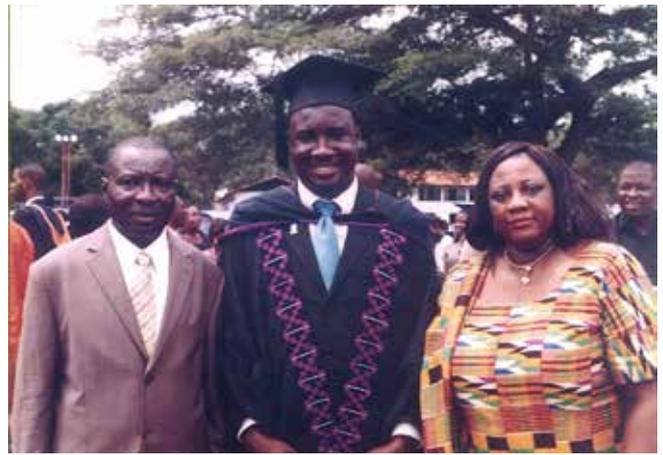




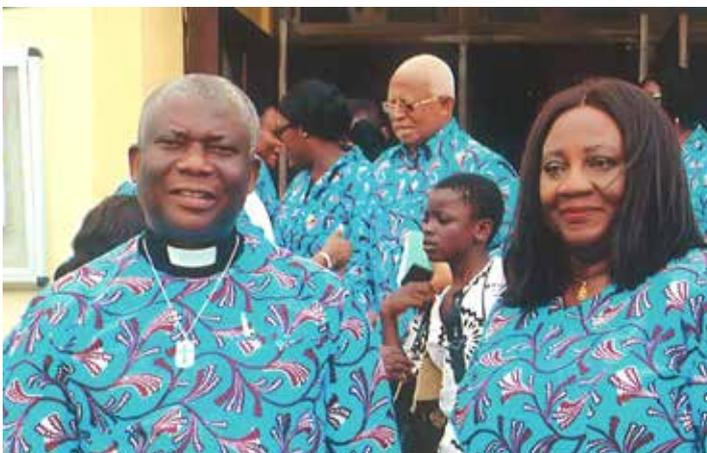
















# APPRECIATION

The entire family of the late Justice Rita Agyeman-Budu (Mrs.) wish to express their heartfelt gratitude and appreciation to all who mourned with them during their time of bereavement.

Your support, prayers, donations and words of sympathy will always be remembered.

May the Almighty God richly bless you.



Kindly scan the QR code or visit the link to share your heartfelt tribute and read the digital brochure: [justiceritaagyeman-budu.memoraonline.com](http://justiceritaagyeman-budu.memoraonline.com)