



*Celebration Of Life*

**CHRISTOPHER  
YAWO GAVU**

(AKA FO TOPH / PAPA GAVU)

**1936 - 2023**



Burial, Memorial and Thanksgiving  
Service for the Late

CHRISTOPHER  
YAWO GAVU

**PRE-BURIAL SERVICE**

Friday, 13th October, 2023 at 8:45am,  
Trinity United Church on Trinity Theological Seminary campus,  
Mempeasem Accra.

**Burial Service**

Saturday, 14th October, 2023 at 9am  
Evangelical Presbyterian Church, Avatime Dzogbefeme, Volta Region

**Thanksgiving Service**

Sunday, 15th October, 2023 at 9am  
Evangelical Presbyterian Church, Avatime Dzogbefeme, Volta Region

**Private Burial @**

Avatime - Dzogbefeme

# Funeral Services for the late **Presbyter Catechist Christopher Yawo Gavu**

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## **Orders of Service** ◇◇◇◇◇◇

### **PRE-BURIAL SERVICE AT TRINITY UNITED CHURCH, LEGON ARRIVAL**

Filing Past, songs and some tributes

Procession of Church Choir and Clergy  
Call to Worship  
Opening Hymn: It is well with my soul (EPH 526)  
Prayer  
The Apostles' Creed  
Selections by the choirs and church groups present.  
Last opportunity for filing Past  
Biography  
Tributes  
Hymn: I need thee every hour (EPH 384 Mehia wo yesiayi)  
Closing of the casket (during the singing of the hymn)  
Scripture Passage  
Sermon  
Hymn – Wo yletivi nyuie la (EPH 350)  
Offering  
Prayer for the Bereaved Family  
Vote of Thanks  
Announcements  
Closing prayers and Benediction  
Closing Hymn – Guide me O Thou Great Jehovah (EPH 648)  
Recession and departure of Cortege

### **BURIAL SERVICE IN EPCG, DZOGBEFEME**

Procession of Church Choir and Clergy  
Call to Worship  
Opening Hymn – 266 – Agbe Mavɔ yome mati  
Prayer (Psalm 90) and the Apostles' Creed  
Selection by Choirs present  
Biography  
Tributes  
Thanksgiving to God (In song and offering)  
Hymn – EPH 272  
Scripture Passage  
Sermon  
Hymn – EPH 255  
Offering (for the bereaved family)  
Vote of Thanks  
Announcements  
Liturgical readings  
Closing prayers, the Lord's prayer, and Benediction  
Closing Hymn – EPH 587  
Recession

### **AT THE GRAVESIDE**

Invocation  
Hymn – EPH 585  
Committal  
Prayer and Benediction  
Closing Hymn – EPH 591

### **OFFICIATING CLERGY (ACCRA AND/OR DZOGBEFEME)**

Rev. Dr. Setri Nyomi  
Rev. Frank Anku  
Rev. Prof. Dorothy BEA Akoto  
Rev. Samuel Torku  
Rev. Justice Senyo Blekor  
Catechist Patience Nyako  
Ag. Catechist Presbyter Edith Buatsi  
Catechist Richard Sarku Darkey

### **BEREAVED CONGREGATIONS**

EPCG, Accra New Town District (Light of the World and Bethel Congregations)  
EPCG, Vane District (Dzogbefeme Congregation)

# Biography



We find ourselves gathered today, not merely to mourn the departure of a great soul but to celebrate a life spectacularly lived. We tell the story of Christopher Yawo Gavu, dearly called Fo Toph but widely known as Papa Gavu (PG) because he was a father to many.

Born to the late Johnson and Agnes Gavu as their treasured last born in September of 1936, Toph as he was dearly known then began his life journey with his parents in the peaceful surroundings of Avatime Dzogbefeme and later at Avatime Vane in the household of Francis William Attah. His early days were graced with the vibrant and loving energy of a large family, where he learned the foundational values that would govern his remarkable life.

Our dear Fo Toph did not just live; he soared, breaking barriers, and setting precedents. He started his education at the E.P. Church Schools, then successfully transitioned to Mawuli School in 1951 and completed in 1955, where he earned his West African School Certificate, a testament to not only his intelligence but his determined spirit.

His desire to achieve greatness in life further saw him travel to Accra with his friend and classmate from Mawuli School, the late Mr. Silvanus Maxwell Kwawu of blessed memory, where after doing a series of odd jobs including being a shoe shine boy, he enrolled at the Post & Telecommunications Engineering School, Accra in 1957. After the completion of those studies, he was employed into the then Ghana Post & Telecommunications Corporation (P&T) as a Junior Technician. He continued to pursue greatness and eventually managed to gain admission into the University of Science and Technology, Kumasi, in 1959. He completed his university studies in 1965 and returned to P&T as an Engineer in charge of the public and private exchanges in Greater Accra Region.

During his university days, that unquenchable thirst for knowledge and expertise drove him to establish

international contacts that led to him leaving Ghana in 1966 to Europe. He toured several European countries at that time, including taking the time to train at the Phillips International Telecommunications Training Centre in Holland. In May 1968, he returned to Ghana with his newly acquired skills and insights, to continue contributing to nation building activities at P&T Corporation. Consistent with his passion for learning, he took the opportunity to study Public Administration at the Institute of Public Administration in 1968, increasing his skills and setting him up for management.

PG's professional path was as illustrious as his academic, weaving through various capacities at Ghana Post & Telecommunications Corporation from 1965 to 1983, rising, through merit and hard work, to the pinnacle of his career. His role took him to Canada where he worked at Bell Canada in 1976 during which he

also studied at Algonquin College, Ottawa, Canada. He was also an Instructor at the Post & Telecommunications Engineering School. During the political turmoil in Ghana, he had to leave the country to Nigeria where he worked as Director of Engineering at Giant International Company Limited, Lagos, Nigeria where he designed, installed, and maintained the national Police Telecoms Network. He returned to Ghana after five years and saw out his diverse and prosperous Telecoms Engineering Career at Kludjeson International as the Telecoms Manager in charge of all engineering works of the company. In his spiritual journey, PG sought and found the Lord, studying at Victory International Bible Training School, earning a diploma in Bible Studies, and even imparting knowledge there for a period. He also attended Word of Faith Bible Institute (WOFBI) of the World Mission Agency Inc., Ghana. His faith was not mere belief; it was action, manifested in every deed, every word, and every prayer. He was a Senior Presbyter of the Accra New Town branch of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church, Ghana, the Bethel Congregation, and he joined the Very Rev. Francis. K Amenu, Rev. Laurenz Kwasi Kpui and the entire Bethel Congregation to plant a branch of the EPCG at Kotobabi in February 1998, and he was named as the Catechist for the new Congregation at Kotobabi who lovingly called him Cattey.

Amidst his towering achievements and substantial contributions to society, Papa Gavu (PG) never lost sight of the cornerstone of his being: Family. His heart found its eternal counterpart in Miss Eniton Ruth Anku from Avatime Gbadzeme, whom he married on a





splendid day in London on April 20th, 1968. His home was eventually occupied by his six sons, each embodying fragments of his wisdom, strength, and intellect. Undeterred by the demands of his numerous roles outside family, he ensured that each of his sons not only pursued but also attained a minimum of a first-degree qualification, thereby sowing the seeds for their prosperous futures. However, his paternal embrace extended far beyond biological offsprings. John Gavu, Agnes Tsakpa, Ken Gavu, Emmanuel Kudjoe Ofori-Atta (of blessed memory), Vinolia Anku, Charles Avakame, Paa Willie Quintin and several other relative's children found a guardian in him as they transitioned through various phases of life under his roof. His compassion knew no biological bounds as children outside his familial ties, such as Akpene Lavoe and Juliana Ahorlu, were lovingly adopted into his abode. Every child, and every child's friend that passed through his home was inevitably imbibed with the principles that he held dear, ensuring that his legacy of wisdom, charity, and integrity perpetually echo through generations. His home, perpetually infused with love and guidance, became a nurturing ground for many, underscoring his unwavering belief in the transformative power of education and the boundless potential of unity and collective growth.

But let us pause and recognize PG not merely for his professional, family and academic feats but for being an inspiration in his community, the first Engineer from Avatime Dzogbefeme, and the first to venture abroad. PG was a very humble man and never glorified himself. He was a unifier, a sponsor, a promoter of education, and benevolent. His love for Avatime Dzogbefeme and the broader Avatime Community was as immeasurable. He sponsored numerous children and promoted access to education. He hosted many marriages in his home and promoted unity. He also hosted the Office of the Secretariat of the Executive and Oversight Committee of the Avatime Development Committee set up by the Over Lord of Avatime Traditional Area, His Very Excellency Osie Adjatekpor VII, where many Avatime Amu Festivals were planned, organised or coordinated from this office. PG was more than a man; he was an institution.

Today, as we stand on the precipice of farewell, let us not mourn the sun that has set but celebrate the dawn that it heralded for many. PG, Fo Toph, Papa Gavu, today we immortalize your spirit, your deeds, and your unwavering love in the annals of our memories.

Journey well into the ancestral lands, knowing you have etched your legacy into the bedrock of our beings. Your tale will be told from generation to generation, a timeless echo through the mountains and valleys of Avatime and beyond.





# From Wife Mrs Eniton Gavu



*“I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world, you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.” John 16:33*



Today, 13th October, 2023 is exactly twenty-eight (28) days since you suddenly departed and it's still very fresh and painful. You did not look like you would die when you left the house to Cocoa Clinic that faithful day. I expected you to come back with the usual smile saying "Mama I'm back" thanking God. Instead, the news of your demise rather hit me hard as if the whole world around me had suddenly ended.

Daddy, I was in total denial for a while, but got strength through the Holy Spirit and accepted the news. I thank God for your blessed life and how you fought a good fight and have finished the race and firmly held your faith. You passed on peacefully

with a victor's crown of righteousness which the Lord, the righteous judge awarded you... (2nd Timothy 4:7-8). The Holy Spirit will complete the care and support you were giving me till the end of my life. Amen.

We met as young students socially, after we graduated in different years from Mawuli School before going to KNUST and developed relationship through friends and relatives during our university years. It was interesting how that happened. We were both science students you doing Electrical Engineering and Telecommunication and I was in Pharmacy School. Our friendship and love developed incrementally. It was so unique because we used college life to develop a long-term relationship based on principles and our family and community values. We both developed consciousness for identity that provided the basis for sense of personal value and worth as individuals based on our Christian and family values.

I was not a very healthy young lady during our KNUST days even though I was pretty. I had health issues and therefore was not bouncing in doing many social activities. The doctors at a point recommended surgery, and I was often in the hospital. You were one of the persons who was always there to encourage me. Little did I know at that time that, in my old age you will be exhibiting same loving care and dedication for me. I always give glory to God for this grace and strength. Daddy, you were really born a caregiver.

Every marriage has its ups and downs. We as human got the share of our challenges. But we stayed together to fulfil God's will. Prayer and devotion were the foundation and core to our relationship. The Bible says pray that ye enter not into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing but the flesh is weak. - Matthew 26: 40. We prayed for one another – James 5: 16. We asked God for Wisdom for our marriage and preparedness for parenting. By grace we became Marriage Counsellors Ourselves.

The good Lord Blessed our union. The joy and blessing of raising six boy children - Francis, Franklin (twins), Kafui, Lipe ,Nikoi, Senyo was incredible. We missed having a daughter. But that is the doing of the Lord. Having 23 grandchildren is just the doing of the Lord and such a blessing ...we fostered several siblings children in our big house. We enjoyed the warmth in family life.

Barely 8 months ago, Sunday, 21st January, 2023, we lost one of our children, Kafui. And just as I'm trying to cope and adjust with the situation in the midst of my severe spinal excruciating pains, you have also left me .... but as believers, it is God's will and it is well with my soul. Even though I'm going through this experience, I am not crushed. At times I don't know what to do, but quitting is not an option. We can be persecuted, but God has not forsaken us. We may be knocked down, but not out. (2 Corinthians 4:8-9).

I want to take this opportunity to thank all our friends and family for the outpouring of love over the past few days. It has been extraordinary – and each story you have shared will help keep Daddy alive in our hearts and memories.





“What we once enjoyed deeply, we can never lose. All that we love deeply becomes a part of us.”



Brothers and sisters, my children, are you facing an enormous storm in your life, and you're not sure what will get you through it? When riding through any storm, you must remember that God is bigger than your circumstances. The Bible tells us, "Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD, your God will be with you wherever you go" (Joshua 1:9). It's important to have faith in God even when dealing with any storm in life, but this can be especially difficult when you're anxious or fearful. This is easier said than done when you think of all the things around that can insight fear and despair. Being anxious-natured can make your problems feel colossal and cause us to lose sight of the one thing that can pull us through – our Father in Heaven. The truth is, we have hope through the promises of God.



As believers, we know that death is gain so we shall see one another someday in heaven. We have some understanding that life begins and ends God's way


Daddy, Papa Gavu, PG, we will all miss you! You will always be in my heart and the love I have for you will never ever die. The children and I will always remember and pray for you.

May the angels carry you safely home and may you rest peacefully in the bosom of your maker till we meet again.

*Thank you, Daddy,*

*Rest in Peace*

*Ter Weagame loo*

A close-up photograph of two hands clasped together in a supportive grip. The hands are dark-skinned, and the person on the right is wearing a gold ring on their ring finger. The background is a light-colored, textured surface, possibly a hospital bed or a table. The lighting is soft, highlighting the texture of the skin and the fabric of the clothing.

“There are no goodbyes for us,  
wherever you are, you will always  
be in my heart”

# Children

When we reflect upon the life and legacy of Papa Gavu, we are met with a torrent of memories, teachings, emotions, and legacies that he left behind. To capture the vastness of his influence, the depth of his teachings, and the warmth of his love in mere words is an endeavour that may never truly do justice to the man he was. Yet, as we attempt to chronicle his journey, we find ourselves not just reminiscing about the past but also recognizing the ever-present impact of his teachings in our daily lives. Each story, each lesson, and every gesture of love from PG is a testament to a life lived with purpose, integrity, and an unwavering commitment to family. This tribute, though it may never fully encapsulate the breadth of his life's work, seeks to honour the indelible mark he left on our hearts and minds.

## **PG WAS A MAN OF PRINCIPLE AND PEACE**

Papa Gavu was more than just a guiding figure; he was a living testament to a life lived with unwavering principles and a heart anchored in peace. His daily actions

echoed the very essence of his beliefs, and in his footsteps, we found a blueprint for integrity and righteousness.

Every lesson he imparted was not merely verbalized but lived. When he cautioned us against certain paths, it wasn't just a warning from a place of concern; it was backed by the conviction of him never having treaded those paths himself. His life was his teaching. His consistency in thought, word, and deed created an environment of trust where promises were not just made but kept, and words were not just spoken but lived.

Yet, for all his firmness in his principles, PG was a sanctuary of peace. He approached life's trials and tribulations with a remarkable serenity, teaching us that one's reactions and responses to challenges spoke volumes about one's character. In moments of dispute or discord, his mere presence was like a soothing melody that calmed tempestuous waters.



His peace was not the absence of storms but the calm assurance in their midst. Even in the face of adversity, PG's demeanour rarely shifted from its composed state, showcasing a resilience that was grounded in an inner peace, a peace that he nurtured through understanding, compassion, and a deep-rooted sense of morality.

To know such a man was to witness the harmonious blending of steadfastness and serenity. To be raised by him was to learn the art of balancing unwavering principles with the grace of peace. In Papa Gavu, we didn't just have a father; we had a beacon of light, guiding us towards a life of genuine principle and tranquil peace.

### **PG WAS OUR TEACHER**

From the four walls of our house to the great outdoors, Papa Gavu's teachings permeated every facet of our lives. His home was not just a residence; it transformed into a dynamic classroom where life's most crucial lessons were imparted.

Every corner of the house echoed with wisdom, every item a potential prop for a lesson waiting to be shared. With PG, learning was not confined to textbooks and timetables. Instead, it was interwoven into the fabric of our daily lives. From teaching us the intricacies of fixing a broken tool to imparting wisdom about handling life's adversities, PG was the ever-present educator, armed with both knowledge and experience.

His methods were unique. He believed in a holistic approach to education, understanding that while academic achievements were essential, life's real tests lay beyond the realms of schools and universities. Through hands-on experiences, thoughtful discussions, and guided explorations, he ensured we were well-equipped to face the world's challenges with confidence and discernment.

Papa Gavu's lessons extended beyond practical skills. He instilled in us values, ethics, and moral compasses that have sought to guide our actions and decisions throughout our lives. With each shared story or imparted piece of advice, he moulded our characters, helping us differentiate between right and wrong, instilling in us a sense of responsibility, and nurturing our empathy and compassion.

One of his most profound teachings was the art of self-reliance. By guiding us through tasks, allowing us to make mistakes, and encouraging us to find solutions independently, he cultivated a sense of resilience and resourcefulness within us. We learned early on that



while seeking help is essential, relying on our abilities and judgments was equally crucial. However, PG's teachings were never one-dimensional. Alongside the serious lessons were moments of joy, laughter, and play. He recognized the importance of balancing hard work with leisure, ensuring we grew up understanding the significance of self-care, relaxation, and cherishing life's simpler pleasures.

In Papa Gavu, we had not just a father but an enlightened mentor. He was our compass in the turbulent seas of life, our guide through its intricate mazes, and, most importantly, our teacher who prepared us not just for exams but for the grand test that is life itself.

### **PG WAS A GENIUS**

In a world where expertise is often confined to one's professional title or academic degree, Papa Gavu stood out as a testament to true genius—one not just of intellect, but of hands, heart, and sheer determination. His genius was not restricted to theories, papers, or lectures; it was evident in the very world he built around us.

PG's talents spanned a spectrum that left many in awe. He was a craftsman who could breathe life into inanimate objects, creating and repairing with an attention to detail that was nothing short of meticulous. From the school bags that carried our dreams to the footwear that carried us, he was the artisan behind them, meticulously sewing, crafting, and ensuring that each piece was not just functional, but also a piece of art.

His engineering prowess was evident in the way he could dismantle an entire car on any Saturday morning and, by the end of Sunday, have it purring like new. These weren't mere mechanical exercises for him; they were symphonies of parts, gears, and wires, all orchestrated under his deft touch.

Beyond the tangible, PG's ingenuity found its expression in solutions to everyday challenges. A problem that would puzzle many would be met with thoughtful silence from him, followed by an innovative solution that often left us marvelling at his brilliance. Yet, his genius did not stop at objects and solutions. He was an architect of experiences too. Under his guidance, our home transformed into an arena of games and tournaments.





From table tennis to badminton, golf to card games, he not only taught us the rules but also the spirit behind each game. These were not just activities to pass the time; they were lessons in strategy, patience, and fellowship.

In every endeavour, whether it was fixing a leaky faucet, crafting a new tool, or organizing a neighbourhood sports tournament, PG's genius was evident. But what truly set him apart was his humility. Never one to boast, he let his work speak for itself. And in its eloquence, we recognized the brilliance of a mind that was ceaselessly curious, endlessly innovative, and unyieldingly dedicated.

To many, genius is a term reserved for the likes of scientists, artists, or prodigies. But in our lives, when we spoke of genius, it was with an image of Papa Gavu in our minds—an everyday genius who transformed the ordinary into extraordinary, one creation at a time.

### **PG WAS THE CAPTAIN, COACH, AND MANAGER**

Our home became sacred grounds where lessons transcended mere sport. He was more than just a father indulging in playtime; he was our captain, our coach, and the manager, all rolled into one indomitable spirit. He taught us that every game mirrored life's broader canvas. There were victories to celebrate, losses to learn from, and countless strategies to decipher.

As our coach, PG's teachings were profound. With every game of table tennis or badminton, every football game or golf swing, there were life lessons cleverly woven in. He taught us discipline, the value of persistence, and the importance of teamwork. His feedback was constructive, always pushing us to strive for excellence, yet reminding us that true victory lay in the journey, not just the destination.

The tournaments he organized weren't mere competitions; they were gatherings of unity and fellowship. As the manager, he seamlessly orchestrated these events, ensuring everyone including our neighbours had a role, fostering a sense of community.

Beyond the games, the laughter, and the competition, deeper bonds were forged. PG was not just a father to his sons but a mentor to many. He used sports as a canvas to paint broader life lessons, ensuring that we weren't just players on a field but champions in the game of life. And even now, when we step onto any of life's arena, the echoes of his teachings resonate, guiding us, reminding us, and cheering us on.

### **PG WAS A PILLAR OF FAITH**

In the tapestry of PG's life, faith stood as the most vibrant thread, glistening with devotion and unwavering belief. It wasn't just about attending Sunday services or following rituals; for Papa Gavu, faith was a lived experience, a guiding compass that influenced every decision, every act.

He instilled in his six sons, and indeed in every life he touched, the significance of a strong spiritual foundation. Sundays at church were non-negotiable, but it was more than just attendance. It was about understanding, internalizing, and living the tenets of faith. He believed that a life rooted in Christ was like a tree firmly anchored to the ground; come wind or rain, it stands tall, unshaken.

And as we remember PG, it's this legacy of unwavering faith that shines the brightest. In the hymns that he loved, in the prayers he said, and in the church he so cherished, his spirit lives on, reminding us of the power of belief, the strength of conviction, and the endless grace of a life lived in devotion to a higher calling.

### **PG WAS OUR GUIDE IN ADULTHOOD**

We grew under the protective shade of a mighty oak, flourished under his nurturing guidance. In the intricate dance of life, PG was both our anchor and our compass. Navigating the waters of adulthood, with its inherent storms and calms became an endeavour of strength and purpose under his tutelage.

Adulthood, with its challenges, responsibilities, and tests of character, was a journey we embarked upon with our father's wisdom echoing in our ears. PG didn't merely instruct; he demonstrated. His actions, often louder than his words, showcased the essence of integrity, responsibility, and commitment. He reminded us that the true measure of a man was not in his material successes but in the richness of his character and the depth of his values.



Facing the complex challenges of adulthood, be it in our professional endeavours, personal relationships, or our spiritual quests, PG's teachings became our guiding light. He often emphasized the importance of hard work, resilience, and unwavering faith. He believed in the power of prayer, perseverance, often reminding us that challenges were merely stepping stones, designed to elevate, not deter.

In him, we saw the embodiment of true adulthood. He was a pillar of strength, not just for us, but often extending his wisdom and support beyond the family. His doors, much like his heart, were always open, ready to offer counsel, solace, or simply a listening ear. His approach to navigating adulthood was holistic, balancing the pragmatic with the emotional, the material with the spiritual. He instilled in us the belief that while we should strive for success, we must always remain rooted, remembering the values we were raised with.

Today, as we traverse the paths of our lives, every challenge we overcome, every success we celebrate, and every lesson we learn is a testament to the foundation PG laid for us. In his teachings, his stories, and his memories, we find the courage and wisdom to navigate the intricate tapestry of adulthood, ever grateful for the compass he has provided.

### **FINAL FAREWELL TO OUR STAR**

The inevitability of life is that all stories, no matter how grand or profound, must come to an end. There's an African proverb that says, "When an elder dies, a library burns to the ground." With PG's departure, we didn't just lose a father; we lost a reservoir of knowledge, a beacon of guidance, and a comforting presence that had been our constant through our journeys life.

That fateful night, the dimmed lights of the hospital room bore silent witness to our anguish and sorrow. Our attempts to cling onto him, to somehow keep him with us were but in vain. The bond we shared was unbreakable, yet the cruel clasp of mortality had other plans.

The realization was crushing: the man who held our hands as we took our first steps, the guiding force behind our lives, the voice of wisdom and reason, was leaving us. The body that once resonated with life and warmth lay still, signalling the end of an era.

Yet, in the midst of our grief, there was an undercurrent of gratitude. For we had been blessed with the privilege of being raised by a man of such stature. A man who not only lived his life with integrity, grace, and purpose but also instilled those very values in us.

So, as we bid our final farewell, we remember not just the end, but the beautiful journey of a life lived fully, a journey that has now become our guiding star.

Papa Gavu, your journey on this Earth might have concluded, but the lessons you've imparted and the love you've shared will resonate for generations to come. Your memory is our guiding star, illuminating our paths as we strive to make you proud.

*Rest in Peace*

You were my motivator, cheer leader and my dependable source of strength in times of diverse levels and forms of weaknesses.

At different times since you left, I have felt totally helpless at crossroads and realised how real Psalm 118:9 is.

This is a picture of 'The project' I started on the day you left us. In my heart I have dedicated it to you. Its looks nicer running than in pictures. Just so you know, I went to work the day after knowing you would have expected that.

Rest well Papa Gavu.

*Nikoe*





# Grandchildren



Together, we, his cherished grandchildren, come together to pay tribute to a remarkable man who filled our lives with love, wisdom, and guidance. His name, Christopher Yawo Gavu, was synonymous with warmth and care, and to us, he was always our beloved Papa Gavu.

Papa Gavu's legacy is woven with threads of skill, knowledge, and patience. His understanding of life's intricacies was akin to a beacon in the dark, guiding us through both smooth seas and rough waters. His skills were a testament to his craftsmanship, turning challenges into opportunities with the precision of an expert.

Like a sturdy oak tree, he provided us with shelter and stability, a source of unwavering support. His steady hand and wise counsel were always at the ready, a beacon of reassurance in uncertain times. His patience, too, was boundless, a testament to his love.



His teachings were more than lessons; they were the foundation upon which we built our lives. In quiet moments, we hear his voice, gentle and wise, leading us through life's twists and turns. His faith was a rock, unyielding even in the face of adversity, a faith he shared through the quiet eloquence of his actions.

As we stand here, we remember the words of Ecclesiastes 3:1-2: "To everything there is a season, a time for every purpose under heaven... a time to be born, and a time to die." Papa Gavu's season has come, leaving us with hearts heavy with sorrow, but also brimming with gratitude for the immeasurable blessings he bestowed upon us.

In this time of mourning, let us find solace in knowing that his legacy will endure in the hearts and minds of all who were touched by his presence. May we strive to carry forward his love, compassion, and unwavering faith.

*Rest in Peace*



# Sibling Florence Yawa



Ne viviti do ɔe nyea-gbemɔ dzi,  
'Ye ɔikeke na mɔkpɔkpɔ bu,  
Fewuɔulawo le koyem hã la,  
Maɔo ŋui ɔaa be, woava yi.  
Woava yi, woava yi, woava yi, woava yi,  
Nye vevesese, hũɔeɔewo keŋ,  
Aɔatsi babla, woava yi.

ɔFa Toph came directly after me by birth and he was the last born of seven children. Our mother's pet name for him was 'Edzemegbor' which literally means value of the family or the beauty of a family.

We started school here in Avatime Dzogbefeme, I used to follow my younger brother wherever he went. That was why all my friends were his friends, It has always been just the two of us. At age 10, our uncle Williams Atta who was our father's younger brother came for Christopher (ɔFa Toph) to live with him and his family at Avatime Vane, but every evening they came to sell kerosene at Dzagbefeme, I always followed them to Avatime Vane.

ɔFa Toph after completing Middle School Education at Avatime Vane, moved to further his education at Avatime Amedzofe (Standard 7) and later to Ho Mawuli school . It was only in Gavu's family house that a special room was made for the males who were able to enter secondary school. They all did well to attend the University.

I recall with fond memories the radio made by my brother ɔFa Toph in those days. It was a wonder . It was unique, showed great technical skills and marked him out as a genius. These days electronics are everywhere but my brother created made one during early his days.

Ofa Toph you were a gift to me.

I had the feeling that my brother left me long ago, because he promised to celebrate my 90th birthday for me, but here I am still waiting for that to happen. Oh death.

I haven't seen you my brother in ages, I am 98 years old and hoping when I die you and your children would bury me as you promised because I have only one child. Hummm did you inform your children about all these before leaving me alone in this wicked world? Did you tell them to love me just as we were to each other? ɔFa Toph our brothers and sisters, (Fo Emma, Daa Eugenia, Daa Luise, Daa Ebuama and Fo Edhart) left you and I here because they were certain that both of us can manage to care for each other. I'm sure they were not worried. Why should it be I ,your elder sister saying farewell to you...

Life is indeed really unfair and death unpredictable!

It's no more you staying at Vane and coming to sell kerosene at Dzogbefeme with me following you to Vane, we are separated forever by death even though we were inseparable growing up.

Your memories would forever remain fresh in my mind. I love you but the Good Lord loves you perfectly and will keep you forever covered in His Glory.

Indeed death is wicked but we would surely meet again in the bosom of Our Maker.

Toph, wor babae loo.

Hede nyuie dzudzor le nutifafa me.

Nifor wor le naa..... fɔwɛ trɛ...

Hɛ wor trɛ si mɔka ni monɛ si lea wɔyɔrɔ mɛ ni nie ya.....

" Ku doava kuyor "

" Woaga moe loo."



## Sister In-Law Mrs. Jane Amavi Kwawu, Da Ama



I was deeply saddened to receive the news of Fo Toph's sudden passing, which I learned of while I was in the diaspora. My immediate response to the news was, "What happened?" It's hard to believe that I had just left him... But despite the sorrow, I know that it is well.

It is time to peacefully transition to God's glory, having lived a fulfilling life. Today, let us thank God and celebrate your life rather than mourn, just as you had wished. We are grateful for your love and care, especially directed towards your dear wife, Mama Eniton Gavu, 'the boys,' the numerous grandchildren, siblings, and friends. You excelled as a leader, father, grandfather, caregiver, and provider, leaving a profound impact on many lives.

Fo Toph, you were among the progressive young men of your generation in what became the country of Ghana and the Avatime region, where you hailed from. I fondly recall your long and special relationship with my late husband, Max Kwawu, as great and bosom friends. Your journeys began as schoolmates in elementary school in Amedzofe, and continued when you both went on to become pioneer graduates from Mawuli School in 1955. You both continued to develop professionally, attending the Ghana Post & Telecommunications Technical School (GPTTS), now the University of Telecommunication, and became

Telecommunication Engineers. After a short stint at Ghana Post & Telecommunications, with Max, you continued on to the University of Science & Technology (now known as the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology) and other professional and education achievements followed.

I cherish the memories of the interesting things you both did as young men, making your relationship unique and awesome. Your technical skills and social life decisions were especially noteworthy.

Fo Toph, among the many cherished memories I have of you, one that stands out is how you and Max treated us—my sister Eniton, who later became your wife, and me, Jane—with respect, honesty, and commitment during our dating days. It was a wonderful and convenient experience for both of us, given how closely we grew up as sisters. We were genuinely happy during those times, as you were dependable and caring boyfriends to us. Your wisdom and broad perspective on life were highly trusted and appreciated.

You were a principled and resilient person, period! Your consciousness of heritage and clear life direction reflected your values in faith, quality living and a broad outlook on issues. As a scientific and people-centered individual, your high integrity grounded in faith set you apart—qualities not commonly found in many. Your influence and support shaped many of us into who we are today. Thank you for being a role model and beacon for many who had the privilege of entering your orbit.

I am grateful to God for the example you set for us on how to care and support a spouse at their time of need. Your unwavering example as caregiver to Eniton for 12 plus years is a testament, and legacy to the person you have always been. Thank you for living your faith and principles for all to see, for your clarity of purpose, for your commitment to supporting your brothers and sisters in the church and for living the role of husband, father, brother, cousin, clan leader and friend. You were the best at all of those!

Intellectually, while I was aware this day would come, the shock still reverberates with me. After all the LORD had seen to it that your Octogenarian years were relatively health so like many those thoughts of your pending death was pushed in the recess of my brain. Oh, death, where is your sting? Fo Toph, you will never be forgotten. Your memory will forever live on in our hearts.

I know you are in heaven and the crown of righteousness is already given to you. We believe you are being loved by the angels as expected. Amen

May the Almighty Bless your soul and have internal peace in heaven where we have no doubt that you have already settled.

*Continue your spiritual oversight role as Papa Gavv for us as usual.*

*Rest in Peace*

*Gamoelo*

## Daughters In Law



*“For none of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself. For if we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord’s.” Romans 14:7 - 8*

Papa Gavu as we affectionately called him, was a true Christian, a guiding light for us all. He offered his wise advice whenever it was needed, always with a gentle and humble spirit. He welcomed each of us into his family with open arms, treating us like his own daughters, and showering his boundless love on his grandchildren, who were his greatest joy.

His unwavering encouragement for us to stay together as a family was a testament to his belief in unity and togetherness. Every Christmas, he would lovingly gather us all; the children and grandchildren, a tradition that fostered a sense of closeness and warmth that we will cherish forever.

Papa Gavu’s legacy is not just one of faith and love but also of the importance of family bonds. His humble and caring nature will forever be an inspiration to us all.

We will miss you dearly Daddy, however we are consoled because his spirit of unity and love will continue to guide us. Thank you, Papa Gavu, for your profound impact on our lives.

*Rest peacefully in the blossom of the Lord till we meet again. Amen.*



# Sena Kwawu and Family



As we gather to celebrate the remarkable life of my dear Uncle, we remember a man whose unwavering faith, dedication as a caregiver, and love for his family touched the lives of all who had the privilege of knowing him.

Fo Toph lived a life that spanned over 87 years, and throughout those years, he exemplified a profound devotion to his Christian faith. His unwavering belief in Christ was the bedrock of his existence, guiding his actions and inspiring those around him. His faith was a source of strength and a beacon of hope for all who crossed his path.

In addition to his deep faith, Fo Toph was a devoted husband who cared tirelessly for Da Eniton for 12+ years as she battled with her back problems. His commitment to her was a testament to the depth of his love and the selflessness of his character. His caregiving served as an example of the profound love that can exist within a family and served as a living testament of marital love and devotion.

As a father, Fo Toph was a steadfast presence in the lives of his six children (plus one, me, as spent many days in my youth under his care). He provided not only love and guidance bday was also a shining example of what it means to be a responsible and caring parent. Whenever you see the best in us, his children, you see the living testament of the values he instilled in us.

Fo Toph was blessed with over 23 loving grandchildren (plus two) who adored him. He cherished the role of being a grandfather and reveled in the joy and laughter they brought into his life. His wisdom and love were gifts that he generously shared with each of them.

Fo Toph's legacy is one of faith, love, and unwavering dedication to family. His life serves as a reminder of the power of love, faith, and selflessness in shaping the lives of those around us.

Today, as we say our farewells, we carry with us the memory of a man who embodied faith, love, and the enduring bonds of friendship. We say goodbye with heavy hearts but also with gratitude for the love, faith, and the inspiration Fo Toph brought into our lives. Though he may no longer be with us in the physical sense, his memory, and the lessons he imparted will continue to guide and inspire us.

I appreciate Papa Gavu for the enduring love and friendship he had with my father, Max Kwawu, for over 80 years. That bond was a constant in my father's life and served as an anchor during tough times in his life. For this, I will be forever grateful. I also appreciate him for being a pillar of support for my mother, Jane Kwawu, through the regular travails of life. Somehow, he found time to be there and offer support, when distance made it hard for me to do so. These acts of love make Papa Gavu a superhero to me.

Rest in peace, Papa Gavu. Your legacy of love and devotion will forever live on in the hearts of your family, your friends, and all who were fortunate to know you.

*With heartfelt condolences*

# Kofi Yakpo (Hong Kong)



Papa Gavu has departed the land of the living and thus parted from our company.

What remains are vivid memories of a towering figure in our lives. Memories that cannot be easily packaged into a few sentences. But it is worth sharing a few impressions of what Papa Gavu meant to us.

I recall sometime in the 1980s, PG, as he was affectionately called by his children, took us out on a little excursion on the occasion of the birthday of one us. Excited as we were, we hopped into the car, and drove downtown, more than certain that we'd have a blast in some fashionable ice cream parlour.

We were surprised when we pulled up before the psychiatric clinic at Asylum Down. In shock and awe we were led through the wards where victims of hard drug abuse had been locked up. We were taught a life-long lesson about the possible consequences of irresponsibility towards ourselves.

I also recall other occasions when PG would teach me an intellectual lesson, exposing logical flaws in my youthful arguments against the drabness of German football. "Kofi, you are biased, football is a business, it's not about beauty. So German football serves its purpose."

But there was much more to Papa Gavu than his unwavering outward impression.

In the 1980s, when PG worked in Lagos for a few years, he would come back with presents from the glittering far-away world that Nigeria represented to Ghanaians back then; wind-up robots that could walk, toy guns with blinking lights that made shooting noises, and above all, books that were unavailable in the depleted bookshops in Ghana of the time.

Papa Gavu will always remain an exemplary figure in my life, a feeling I have passed on to my children, who fortunately spent a summer with their grandfather some years back and still hold the encounter with him dearly.

*Rest in Peace*

# Osie of Avatime Traditional Area



Life deals a blow when one least expects it. But whatever the case, Almighty Aya's prevalent strength and Mercy hold and keep us together.

The life of Papa Gavu (PG), whom some of us knew from a distance was full of achievements not for one, but for all. From the youthful and energetic days, we were told he dedicated his skill, knowledge, profession and know-how to many, a youth and to Avatime.

Controversies could have made him take decisions that were not popular but were aimed at one thing, the fulfilment of God's Will and Desire in his life.

Avatime benefited lots, from his profession, Ghana benefited, Korle Bu hospital benefited and Post and TeleCommunication now, two entities could not be left out. Even at the point of his departure, there was controversy, whether it was him or the other. Avatime Dzogbefeme continues to benefit from his invaluable contribution, even in death. This year's

Avatime AmuFest is going to be a testament of how his ideals, love, vision and desire for Avatime Dzogbefeme's continuous unity will stand the test of time and thrive after him.

A man whose desire to see the youth flourish in their chosen fields, while respecting the laid down structures and institutions of progress and development in Avatime Dzogbefeme, Avatime, Volta Region, Ghana and Afrika, is no more. The greatest tribute to his memory is to fix the cracks in town, to respect tradition and custom, to ensure that the youth feel proud to be called the 'adults-in-waiting'. A no nonsense and firm man who showed the way in all fields. A man whose accolade and achievement will stand tall after him. A professional par-excellence but humble to the core. How could that happen? but, it did and we have to accept it.

On behalf of the Chiefs and People of Avatime, I say "Papa Gavu, you fought your God-Given fight, you made your mark. We shall live your dreams and continue from where you left off"

Our hearts go out to your lovely, 'Enimira', Mama Gavu nee Anku, your kids and grand kids and to the people of Torwuiè, stay more united with love, tolerance, fellow-feeling and sacrifice.

PG, atɔ wɔagan mumɛ lo.  
PG, fare thee well  
PG, hede nyuie.

Atɔ kuia tsya liwoe tɔ, kokooko.



# Adontehene of Avatime and Chief of Avatime Dzogbefeme.

## Agya-Bansah Dzapraka X



*“ Success is not about how much money you make; it’s about the difference you make in people’s lives.” - Michelle Obama*

Mr. C.Y Gavu’s philanthropy was a genuine expression of humanity for our generation.

Today, we gather not to mourn but to honour a remarkable individual who dedicated his life to the selfless act of making a difference in the society. This tribute is a humble acknowledgment of the outstanding philanthropic endeavours of Mr. C.Y Gavu. In a community which is overshadowed by individualism and neglect, Mr. C.Y Gavu stood tall as a shining example of compassion, empathy, and generosity.

Mr. C.Y Gavu exemplified the true spirit of philanthropy and understanding that giving is not merely an exchange of material possessions but a transformative act that has the power to uplift communities, empower individuals, and shape a better society. His unwavering commitment to education has touched the lives of many students in Dzogbefeme with his educational trust fund he named, Addo Max Educational Trust Fund, leaving an indelible mark on the hearts of those who have benefitted from his benevolence.

It is said that the measure of greatness lies not in the accumulation of wealth or possessions, but in the impact one has on the lives of others. Mr. C.Y Gavu’s greatness radiates through the numerous initiatives he had spearheaded, be it in providing education to underprivileged children or the several overtures for peace and progress of Dzogbefeme.

If we take pioneers such as Mr. S.K Apedu, E.K Gavu, Okusie Winfried Agrobese Dzapraka IX etc. as the first generation of scholars [ former students of Amedzofe Senior School], then Mr. C.Y Gavu belonged to the second generation of prominent scholars of this soil. He was however different from many others because he manifested the fruits of the Holy Spirit as stated in Galatians 5:22-23. These are love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

Indeed, the impact of Mr. C.Y Gavus’s philanthropic efforts reached far beyond the immediate beneficiaries. His acts of selflessness is an inspiration and a call to action for others to rise above their limitations and ignite positive change in Dzogbefeme. His story is a testament to the fact that each one of us has the power to make a difference, irrespective of our backgrounds or resources.

As we pay our tributes to this extraordinary philanthropist today, let us remember that his achievements are a reminder of the immense potential that lies within each of us. Let us be inspired to lead lives driven by compassion, empathy, and an unwavering commitment to making a positive impact on the world around us.

In honoring Mr. CY Gavus's philanthropy and loyalty, we not only celebrate an exemplary individual but also affirm our collective responsibility to create a more equitable and compassionate society. His legacy will continue to shine as a guiding light, ensuring that the spirit of philanthropy, selflessness and patriotism thrive in our midst.

Mr. C.Y Gavu and his entire household embraced me as the new chief of Dzugbefeme and supported me personally and my council of chiefs (Okusiga of Dzugbefeme) especially during the celebration of Easter festivities. He committed himself to uniting Dzugbefeme citizens in Accra and offered his residence for all gatherings. Let it be put on record that many of his compatriots who are also our citizens would never agree for such gatherings in their homes even if they were for a fee. Mr. C.Y Gavu was one of a few scholars who wouldn't run away from his people under the pretext that the people of our dear homeland are dangerous!

Finally, Mr. C.Y Gavu was an icon we would never be able to replace. We honour him for his humanitarian activities. He sowed good seeds and we pray to the almighty not to only give him an enviable place to rest but bless his off springs bountifully.

Amen.



# Da-Awsui Tsakpa and Children



*Blessed are the dead in the Lord from henceforth, yeah, said the spirit they shall rest from their labour and their works do follow them. Rev. 14:13.*

Ɖfa, as we usually called you, was always present with us at home during our childhood. He was always joyful. The news of Ɖfa Toph coming home from Accra always resulted in everyone comports themselves. We had to show we were well mannered and disciplined. After all the disciplinary was about to arrive.

Ɖfa I joined you and the family in Accra when I gained enrolled at the Nursing Training School at Ridge Hospital in 1971. Ɖfa, together with mama, saw to it that I was natured and well brought up as a teenage daughter. For this I am eternally grateful. Your training and well bringing has made me what I am today.

Ɖfa you were a role model to me - your wisdom, patience, commitment, gentle but firm reproach and admonishment, pieces of advice and constant encouragement are things I cannot forget. Daddy you allowed my children also to be part of the family and handled them also as your grandchildren. They boast of a unique grandfather and consider him a gift from God, Daddy we are grateful.

Daddy, Daddy, WHAT A WONDERFUL MENTOR YOU WERE.

Daddy, I visited you four weeks before your departure and noticed a vast change in your physical appearance but I you encouraged me that all was well. Daddy, little did I know you were saying goodbye when you gave me a prayer assignment You asked that, I pray for your total healing. In fact that became a serious prayer topic for me and my children until the day you took your final breath.

Daddy, on behalf of all your nieces and nephews, I am saying, we are grateful for all that your unique characteristics brought into our lives.

Daddy, Daddy, we bid you fare well, May your creator grant you Eternal Rest.

Goodbye, goodbye, Goodbye. Hede nyuie Hede nyuie, Atɔ woagà mɛ lo!  
Mawu Nans Kplimi, miagakpe.



# Evangelical Presbyterian Church Light of The World Congregation, Kotobabi



*“Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.” “Yes,” says the Spirit, “that they may rest from their labors, and their works follow them.”*

*Rev. 14: 13.*

Our beloved, the late Catechist and Presbyter Christopher Yawo Gavu (Catey) alias ‘Ampara’ was an experienced Presbyter of the Bethel Congregation of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church, Ghana - Accra New Town.

We vividly recollect that when the Very Rev. Francis. K Amenu, assisted by Rev. Laurenz Kwasi Kpui and the entire Bethel Congregation decided to plant a branch of the EPCG at Kotobabi in February 1998, he enthusiastically joined the three-day procession from Wednesday 18th to Friday 20th February, through the streets of Kotobabi and the environs.

He was named as the Catechist for the new Congregation at Kotobabi. Catey C.Y Gavu on that first day, Sunday, 22nd February, took full leadership of the new Congregation, which started under a tree at the Pastor’s Manse and was named, Light of the World Congregation, with forty four (44) worshippers, made up of twenty seven (27) adults and seventeen (17) children.

Presbyter Gavu was the sole manager, and he worked with a few dedicated members who gave him their support for a whole year. It was in August of that year that the renowned musician and composer, Mr Kenn Kafui, now of blessed memory joined the congregation and formed a Church Choir.

At the Congregation’s first anniversary, a nine (9) member Management Committee was put in place to help Catey C.Y. Gavu. His vision as a leader, standing by the name of the Congregation “Light of the World” was to build a model Congregation which

will radiate the light of our Lord Jesus Christ. The Congregation’s slogan, “Light of the World”, with the response, “Shine, shine, shining” was therefore to keep reminding members of their worth. His emphasis was on quality and not on just numbers.

## **FAITH AND SPIRITUAL ACTIVITIES**

Catechist Gavu, from the onset of his administration believed in training his congregants in spiritual ways. He advised as many as could afford it to attend Bible School. Through his advice we have a trained Catechist and two Reverend Ministers for the E.P Church from the congregation. He trained a lot of lay preachers, liturgists, teachers and readers of the Word. Public Holidays in the years were his school days. This he extended to the Sunday school and ensured that they take Bible readings on the 3rd Sundays of the month in the main church activities even to date.

He helped institute activities that would enable the church to grow including: Reading the Bible chapter by chapter from Genesis to Revelation, Bible discussions on Sundays, Testimony Sundays, Wednesday Evening Bible Teachings, Friday Evening Bible discussions and Prayers. The last Saturdays of each month was for Fasting and Prayer, and there were quarterly All-Night prayer sessions, etc. He had Bible memory verses for the congregants every week. He ensured that he outlined his topics, and researched to equip teachers for their work and constantly reminded members of the church of any impending tasks that they had been assigned as the deadlines approached.

Catechist C.Y Gavu liked record keeping and set up a committee to ensure this. He also helped to publish booklets on the church activities, Bye laws, Financial Policies, Bible studies and Prayer Guidelines. This booklets were all designed for the Light of The World Congregation's growth.

His evangelism programmes were not compromised. Under his direction, the Congregation would move outside the Chapel to the Western and Eastern entrances of the premises in the open, to the main lorry station of Kotobabi in the evenings with drums and megaphones to organise service activities to win souls. Outreach programmes were organised under his leadership successfully at least twice per year to visit, worship, encourage and strengthen the E.P Congregations back in the Volta Region. He organised for evangelistic outreach teams, as well as for second-hand clothes, shoes and bags contributed by members of the Light of the World Congregation to be sent to Dzogbefeme Avatime(charity begins at home), and other places such as Dorfor Afaode in North Tongu, Ve-Deme, Tefle, Anyako, Akoefe-Tokoe, and Dzalele (just to mention a few). His evangelism activities included donations to Children Homes and the Nsawam Prisons.

Catechist Gavu believed in building the spiritual growth of members so much so that Baptism and Confirmation lessons annually was strictly done by him to prepare members. His last day at church in August this year (2023), he taught the current candidates before going home.

Our, dear Catechist Gavu believed that as Christians, it was improper for a man and woman to live together and even producing children without proper marriage, including presenting themselves to their spiritual father (God) for His blessings in His house. He taught on the spiritual and legal necessities of doing these. He led a crusade of the church sponsoring solemnization

of many marriages in very simple ways, devoid of the very expensive wedding activities. Couples will just come to church on Sundays after a few days of counseling for their old or fresh marriages to be blessed. The congregation then organises the refreshment from its Welfare funds and a lot of couples benefitted from this.

Catechist Gavu respected the laws of the State so much that he always wanted to ensure that the congregation's operations were within Ghana's legal framework, including the chapel being gazetted for marriages.

### **PROJECTS**

The leadership of the Congregation under Catechist Gavu undertook several projects through the contacts made with external and internal friends and well wishers:

He was against the celebration of Harvest and believed that a Church should grow and develop through imbibing the spirit of free giving in congregants through Bible teachings. Through these knowledge, members voluntarily came out with donations of items and money for any project.

Leadership by example, he printed the first hundred pieces of cloth for the Congregation in commemorating the 10th Anniversary. The Chapel, with all accessories of worship, office equipments were through donations. Maintenance and renovation activities were normally done by members and his own direct participation, even at his advanced age.

Catechist Gavu came out with a vision that the Congregation should put up a gigantic multi-purpose five -storey block which he dedicated to the children of the congregation, who were worshipping under a tree as "Children's Block" Project. Some members of leadership and the Congregation took him for granted.

The experienced Engineer that he was, he brought a draft copy of the Planned Project, drawn by him and quickly had total approval of the church. He formed a Committee and ensured that the draft plan was redrawn with appropriate architectural designs, and structural engineering put in place. He made sure that registration of documents were done at all levels.

The children are grateful to him that though the project is still at grounds level, he directed that the Sunday school starts using it. The children were then led by himself and the Congregation from under the tree with a joyous procession to the building in progress. It was his big wish which he told the Congregation severally that when he passed on, he should be laid in state in this Block.

### **SOCIAL ACTIVITIES**

Catechist Gavu believed in unity of purpose and service to the down trodden. He never hesitated to call and visit sick members and others with special challenges. To maintain unity, he believed in social activities and partook fully and happily in them.

We were sure of his Roasted Goat which he generously provided at our Christmas parties and Easter Picnics, while asking members to come with plenty food and drinks, including 'Cake tortoe'.

Cathey Gavu, in all purposes and intents was a visionary, honest, an inspiring and sincere Leader. He was very dedicated, punctual and totally committed to all activities of the church, irrespective of time and venue. His whole life, day and night was "Light of the World". Even on his sick bed he was constantly checking to know what was going on.

He gracefully and diligently lived and served as a disciple of Jesus Christ, and faithfully and fearlessly corrected congregants who attempted to disrespect or go against church leaders and regulations. He believed in in

the Bible's directive not to despise spiritual leaders. To him we cannot falter in our faith, instead we should turn to Scriptures to absorb the words and rely on the Holy Spirit for guidance in strengthening our faith in God. Until his last breath, his favourite scripture was Philippians 4: 4-7, this he taught the Congregation as an antidote for all ailments

### **CONCLUSION**

Cathey, by scriptures we know that for everything, there is a season, but we prayed and wished you had stayed around a little, at least for our 25th Anniversary, but the good Lord knows best. Light of the World fraternity is indeed proud of your innovative, spiritual leadership and fatherly care.

All the ministers who have served the Accra New Town district and the Light of the World congregation in the last three decades, from the Very Rev. Francis Amenu to the current Rev. Dr. Setri Nyomi and Rev. Samuel Torku are filled with admiration for you and gratitude to God for your leadership and impact.

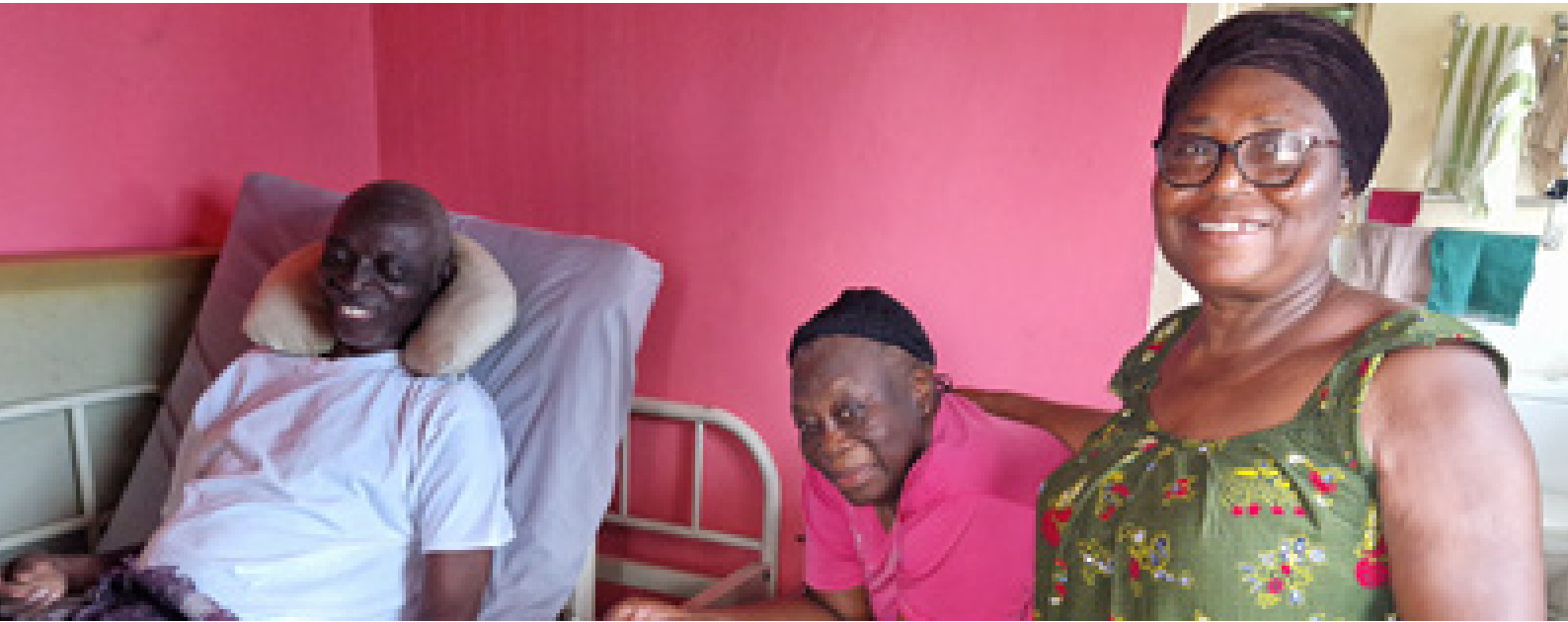
Indeed your memory will remain as an embodiment of the Congregation. We wish you a good joyful rest with our Maker and we believe, "you have fought the good fight, you have finished the race, you have kept the faith. Now there is in store for you the crown of righteousness which the Lord, the righteous Judge will award you on that day, and not to you only, but also to all who have longed for His appearing."

Papa Catechist Christopher Yawo Gavu, your day of toil is now done, you have successfully run the race of life. We pray the Father, grant you, His wearied one, rest forever more! Rest in perfect peace till we meet again on the Resurrection day.

Mia fofo, Papa Gavu, Ampara, dzudzor le nutifafa me.

Amen.

# Fo Sammy, Sister Happy and Family to a Loving Father



Daddy, we learnt you fell sick and have now been discharged home. We visited you on Thursday, 31 August, 2023. You were full of your usual smiles and humour. You told us about how God had been faithful to you and had saved your life in many circumstances. You were very optimistic that by God's saving grace and mercy, you will be healed. We prayed with you and left in high spirit. Little did we know, that was the last time of seeing you and listening to your wise counselling. The news of your sudden demise fifteen (15) days later, 15th September, 2023, was therefore a great shock and pain to us.

We had very close and intimate relationship with Papa Gavu and the entire family, when in 1991, Fo Sammy and family moved from Ho to Accra to work with the Environmental Protection Agency (then a Council). Accommodation was a real issue in Accra, and Papa Gavu offered us accommodation until we found our own later. We became part of the Gavu family and No. 1 on your prayer list. You showed us loving care and provided us security and protection as a father. Our problems became your problems, and our children became your children. Sister Happy became your favourite daughter and each time she upgraded her academic status, you will jokingly say "I have revised the marriage dowry, come and pay more". This explains how well knitted our children have been with the Gavu family till today.

Papa Gavu, your exemplary life on this earth has taught us unconditional love and kindness. We are grateful for the opportunity to share our dreams, hopes, love, and relationship with you and especially the good counsel you gave us. You will forever be remembered as a man of the people.

A man who stood by the family throughout;  
A man who was a hero to all who knew him;  
A man who loved unconditionally;  
A man who believed in sharing and caring; and  
A man who put a smile on people's faces.

Daddy..... Fo Sammy, Sister Happy, Eric, Esenam, and Dela are saying, "Fare thee well ... Sleep well in the bosom of God your Heavenly Father".  
Amen

# Mama Vivian Esi Ahadzie on Behalf of All The Women of The Light of The World EPC



You have fought a good fight and you have finished the race.  
You have kept the faith and finally the crown is laid up for you.  
The crown of righteousness which the LORD the righteous  
judge will give to you on that day. Not to you only but to all  
who have loved his appearing.

*2 Timothy 4 vs 7-8*

Oh our dear ambassador of the Lord Jesus Christ, our Icon in the faith. With a very heavy heart we mourn you our dear Catechist C.Y Gavu.

Cate , you were our teacher, director, consultant, counsellor , and a mentor. When we were faced with life's difficulties, it was to you we were turned and you were always swift to respond and provide us with a quick solution to these problems.

Cate C.Y Gavu, for 25 years he taught us the word of God and how to pray . You gave us the insight and pushed us to go out and compete with our other colleagues in the presbytery. These yielded good results. Through your immeasurable support and guidance , we were able to place 1st or 2nd in these competitions.

Cate, you are indeed a good teacher of the word of God.

Daddy you have left your body but we know that spiritually you are alive with the Lord.

Papa, we the women and our children are heartbroken as your departure have left a vacuum in our hearts. However, we will not mourn like those without the hope of resurrection.

We are saying, be with the Lord almighty in heaven till we meet again.

Fare thee well Cate,

Papa journey on ampaara ampaara

# Rev. Obed Kwadzo Klu



“The good men perish; the godly die before their time and no one seems to care or wonder why. No one seems to realize that God is taking them away from evil days ahead. For the godly who die shall rest in peace”.

*Isaiah 57:1,2*

I have worked with the Catechist, Presbyter Christopher Yawo Gavu for Six years, 1999 - 2005, when I was the District Pastor of the Accra New Town District of the E. P. Church, Ghana. During this period, he was the Catechist of Light of the World E. P. Church, Kotobabi, the youngest congregation opened one year earlier by the Accra New Town E. P. Church. He was an elder put in charge of this new congregation. Under his dynamic leadership, he made this young congregation the most progressive and vibrant among the three congregations I served.

He understood the Scriptures and was a great preacher and teacher. He stood for the cause of his pastors and knew how to care for them. He collaborated well with the pastors and helped to steer the affairs of the Church smoothly. Surprisingly, Mr. Gavu was one catechist who never forgot me even in my retirement. He was able to organize the Light of the World E. P. Church to visit me and worship with me at Bame with resources to support the congregation, members of the congregation and the community at large.

The congregation at Bame fondly remembers the Catechist Mr. Gavu and the Light of the World E. P. Church to date.

*Fare thee well my brother and Catechist Fo Yawo.*

*May your soul rest in perfect peace.*

# Pr. Mrs. Beatrice Anku-Agudetse (Auntie B)



*“Loved Ones Don’t Die; They Live in The Shadow Of Men” Skg 2023*

My Heart is heavy with grief and my mind is battling with confusion, to accept that Catechist C.Y. Gavu, my true anchor is truly gone.

I came into contact with Cate..... as I affectionately call him and immediately drew closer to him personally on the 28th February 1998 ,that is 25 years ago, when E.P.C.G (Light of the World) Kotobabi was being established.

You always gave me assignments to do most of which I tried hard to decline. With your encouragement, I was able to do more than I thought I could do. This over a period has made me the person I am today.

Together we served God, went to places, outdoorings, visited homes etcetera. You always emphasized the value and importance of knowing the word of God as individuals and made sure we each had a bible and actually read it. You’ve been a true friend, a brother, and a partner in Christ.

Your advice to me personally, cannot be forgotten. I visited, prayed, and sang your favorite song (Ewe Hymn 312) with you, and exchanged calls with you even in your last hours here on earth with us. I was praying that you would get better, but God knows best. I never knew you were passing on so soon. I am comforted knowing you are resting in your maker’s bosom and smiling down on us.

Cate, though I am sad you are gone, within me, I am glad that I got to know you. Your life has taught me, what it means to love God, with all your heart, with your mind and strength. I now know what it means to live one’s life for the kingdom of God. You have forever impacted my life positively and for this, I’m so grateful to God.

Sad to bid farewell to you Cate. I will surely miss you. It is not a goodbye, but rather until we meet again.

*Cate. C.-Y. Gavu, ( Ampara Ampara ) Hede Nyuie*

*Dzudzor le nutifafa me*

# The Offspring of E.P Church, Avatime - Dzogbefeme



In solemn tribute to Christopher Gavu's name, an elegy of everlasting love.

We gather here, hearts shrouded in sorrow's frame.  
A philanthropist, a beacon of light,  
A patriot who championed Torwui's might.

Oh Christopher, amidst the trials we face,  
Your presence was a source of strength and grace.  
Through selfless acts, you nurtured every seed,  
Your kindness knew no bounds, your spirit, freed.

Torwui community, your cherished land,  
You worked with fervor, lending a helping hand.  
Unity built, scholarships granted, hope instilled,  
You believed in progress, dreams never still.

A philanthropist, whose heart overflowed,  
With love for all, a vibrant spirit showed.  
In every smile, in every life you touched,  
Christopher's legacy, forever clutched.

Though parted from this earthly realm we mourn,  
Your memory in our hearts shall brightly burn.

# Mr. & Mrs Stephen Adoboe



Mie buna abe ndi xletivi siwo xe fe kekli xeawo  
kata ene; ye miedzona le dɔ siwo miewɔ la gbɔ.  
Ke woa tso mia dɔ wo do ŋku mia dzii...

**(PHB 584)**

Daddy, we thank God for the day he brought you in contact with us.

You brought a great change to our lives and nurtured our faith in God. We are truly blessed to have known your unwavering principles and steadfast commitment to the Word and works of God which has served as a guiding light for all who crossed your path.

Your life was a testament to the unyielding faith you held in your heart for God, and your teachings served as a compass for us and all who were seeking spiritual guidance. Your unwavering dedication to your calling was matched with your deep and abiding fear of God. This undoubtedly, inspired reverence and awe in all who had the privilege of hearing your teachings and sermons.

You were not just a spiritual leader but also a living embodiment of the values you preached. Out of your passion and travails emerged Reverend Ministers and Prophets; Rev. Richard Nubla, Rev. Felix Fiabu, Prophet Willson Gudu, and student Pastor Stephen Adoboe to mention but few. Daddy, the seedlings you have planted would surely grow to the glory of God, our Creator.

Papa, we love you, but God loves you most. Rest peacefully with the Lord our God till we meet again!

In a world often characterized by shifting values and uncertainties, we were truly blessed to have known CY whose unwavering principles and steadfast commitment to the Word of God were a guiding light for all who crossed his path. His life was a testament to the unyielding faith he held in his heart, and his teachings served as a compass for those seeking spiritual guidance.

CY's unwavering dedication to God's calling was matched only by his deep and abiding fear of God, which inspired reverence and awe in all who had the privilege of hearing his sermons.

CY was not just a spiritual leader but also a living embodiment of the values he preached.

# Rev. Felix Yao Fiabu



If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die  
to the Lord; so then,  
whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's

*Rom 14:8*

Your presence in the Evangelical Presbyterian Church, Ghana Light of the World Congregation, has impacted many people with the love of Christ.

You were the father of all, and you insisted that everyone should study the Bible and practice the word of God. You never allowed anyone to ridicule the leaders of the church.

You were very hard-working, and you always advised the youth to work hard. Your Bible teaching skills helped many people develop a love of Bible study in the church. You always insisted that the youth should hold humility as the greatest virtue they could have in life, and you were an example. Your humble approach to issues has brought joy to many people.

Your common saying that the church is not just the E.P. church but the light of the world, and we must send the light everywhere in the world, is producing much fruit. Your death did not bring an end to your good works. The many young people that you raised will keep the flame alive.

Rest in peace. Catechist

Paix à son âme. Papa, dzudzɔ, dzudzɔ dzudzɔ le nɔtɔfafa me.  
hede nyuie.



We extend our heartfelt thanks to all friends and sympathisers, who in specific and diverse ways assisted and mourned with us during the funeral of our beloved  
Father

**CHRISTOPHER YAWO GAVU**

May the Good Lord abundantly bless and reward you all.

**The Nyaku - Gavu Family**



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**12<sup>th</sup>** sunday  
november  
2023

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