

In loving

MEMORRY

of

SARAH BAABA
DJABATEY

09.08.1960 - 02.03.2024



Saturday, March 9, 2024

9:00 AM: Visitation

10:00 AM: Service

Marlan Gary Funeral Home

The Chapel of Peace - East

5456 E. Livingston Ave.,

Columbus, OH 43232



ORDER OF SERVICE

Pastor Todd Naille, Officiating Minister

OPENING PRAYER

HYMN - *Thy Way Not Mine Oh Lord*

SCRIPTURE READINGS

1st Scripture Hebrews 4: 11-16

2nd Scripture Hebrews 5: 7-10

3rd Scripture Hebrews 6: 17-20

SERMON

HYMN - *Through All the Changing Scenes of Life*

BIOGRAPHY

TRIBUTES

HYMN - *It is Well With My Soul*

Reverend Joseph Amponsah

THE EULOGY

PRAYER & BENEDICTION

Please join us afterwards:

FINAL FUNERAL RITES

Saturday, March 9, 2024

6:00 PM - 10:00 PM

SEU Ohio Event Services
8405 Pulsar Place, Columbus, OH 43240

THANKSGIVING SERVICE

Sunday, March 10, 2024

11AM Service

Vineyard Columbus - Westerville
6000 Cooper Rd, Westerville, OH 43081

HYMNS

Thy Way Not Mine Oh Lord

1 Thy way, not mine, O Lord,
however dark it be;
lead me by thine own hand,
choose out the path for me.

2 Smooth let it be or rough,
it will be still the best;
winding or straight, it leads
right onward to thy rest.

3 I dare not choose my lot;
I would not if I might:
choose thou for me, my God,
so shall I walk aright.

4 The Kingdom that I seek
is thine; so let the way
that leads to it be thine,
else I must surely stray.

Through All the Changing Scenes of Life

1 Through all the changing scenes of life,
In trouble and in joy,
The praises of my God shall still
My heart and tongue employ.

2 Oh, magnify the Lord with me,
With me exalt His name;
When in distress to Him I called,
He to my rescue came.

3 Oh, make but trial of His love,
Experience will decide
How blest they are, and only they,
Who in His truth confide.

4 Fear Him, ye saints, and you will then
Have nothing else to fear;
Make you His service your delight,
Your wants shall be His care.

It is Well With My Soul

1 When peace, like a river, attendeth my
way,
When sorrows like sea billows roll;
Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to
say,
It is well, it is well with my soul.

Refrain:
It is well with my soul,
It is well, it is well with my soul.

2 Though Satan should buffet, though
trials should come,
Let this blest assurance control,
That Christ hath regarded my helpless
estate,
And hath shed His own blood for my soul.

3 But, Lord, 'tis for Thee, for Thy
coming we wait,
The sky, not the grave, is our goal;
Oh, trump of the angel! Oh, voice of
the Lord!
Blessed hope, blessed rest of my
soul!

4 And Lord, haste the day when the
faith shall be sight,
The clouds be rolled back as a
scroll;
The trump shall resound, and the
Lord shall descend,
Even so, it is well with my soul.

THE LIFE OF SARAH BAABA DJABATEY

Sarah Baaba Djabatey was the third of seven children, made up of four boys and three girls, from the marriage of the Late Charles A. Quansah and his wife, Florence A. Quansah (now in her nineties). Baaba was born on 8th September 1960 at Chiraa in the Bono Region of Ghana, where her mother was working as a teacher in the Methodist Primary School. At the age of four she started her primary education at the Methodist School in Chiraa and then continued at Abossey Okai Methodist School in 1966, when her mother was transferred to Accra. In 1974, she sat for the Common Entrance Exams while she was in Abossey Okai 2 & 3 middle school. She passed the exams and gained admission to Accra High School (AHISCO) for her Secondary School education leading to the G.C.E. O'LEVEL Exams. When AHISCO started the G.C.E. Advanced Level Course in 1980, she was among the first batch to be admitted and was made the first Girls' Prefect. After the A' Level Exams, she gained admission to Institute of Professional Studies (IPS) (now UPS) for Diploma Studies in Accountancy.

HER EARLY LIFE:

As a young girl attending Accra High School, her early life was quite a difficult one. Growing up amidst a family of six other siblings, all of them attending school and depending on the mother's meager salary and daily sales of doughnuts and pancakes from the business of a determined and hard-working grandmother for sustenance, was a big challenge. A typical day in the life of the Quansahs involved waking up at 4:30am from the sound of a bell or a sprinkle of water if one wanted to stretch their sleeping time. Then a committed Christian mother would lead her children in a morning devotion. Soon after that, grandma's coal pot and other accessories had to be sent outside and made ready for the doughnuts or pancakes. After a breakfast of porridge, one had to wait patiently for pocket money to school which came from the early sales of passers-by. To avoid being late to school, Baaba occasionally had to walk all the way from Abossey Okai to AHISCO at Ridge. The return trip to the house from school, together with friends and classmates was a matter of course. The early hardships in life she experienced made her develop a compassionate spirit towards the deprived in society and a big generous heart for anyone who approached her for help.

HER CHRISTIAN FAITH:

As a result of the strong Christian foundation established at home by a determined mother, Baaba found it easy to deepen her faith in the Lord Jesus Christ in the Scripture Union at AHISCO. Her zeal for the Lord made her join several Christian groups, including Calvary Road Inc., YAFCA, Girls' Brigade in the Methodist Church, etc. Occasionally, she would bring her numerous Christian friends to the house and share with them her meal, some doughnuts, or pancakes. At Calvary Baptist Church, Adabraka where she used to worship, she was a Sunday School teacher and a marriage counselor, as well. Her last place of worship before she left for the US was Grace Chapel International at Kaneshie, First Light. She served in the Children's Department and was also a marriage counselor in the Family Life Department.

HER EMPLOYMENT:

Baaba was employed in October 1986 by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) as an Assistant Inspector of Taxes in their Tax Examination Unit. In June 1999, she was transferred to the Kinbu District as a Principal Inspector of Taxes. In 2005, she was transferred again to the Kaneshie District as the Acting Head, a position she held until she resigned in 2008, to join her family in the US.

HER MARRIAGE LIFE:

Baaba got married to her best friend and working colleague, Eben Djabatay in March 1989. This union was blessed with two boys and two girls. The well-being of her family was her top priority, and she provided a pillar of support and strength to her husband, whom she esteemed highly in the fulfillment of this objective. When she joined her family in the US, they faced numerous challenges but with her steadfast determination, unwavering faith, and a deep commitment to prayer, and hard work the family persevered and rode through the storm. The bond of love and unity she wove into her family was so strong that they never gave up on her or showed any sign of weariness when they had to care for her on her sick bed for more than two years.

HER LIFE IN THE USA:

In the US, Baaba exemplified a profound devotion to her Christian faith and boundless love and generosity to all manner of persons she interacted with. Within the walls of the Church, she found her calling in the Children's Ministry, driven by an unwavering zeal to instill the teachings of Jesus Christ into the hearts of young souls. In her professional endeavors, she worked in various nursing homes, including National Church Residences, providing home care. Her genuine care for her patients forged unending bonds with their respective families. Apart from her professional and church commitment, she was an active member of AGLOW, a Christian fellowship of women and participated fully in their prayer meetings and conferences. With her experience as a marriage counselor, she offered support and wisdom to friends and acquaintances navigating the challenges of marriage life.

HER FINAL YEARS:

The final years of Baaba's life were marked by a courageous battle with illness. Even in the depths of unconsciousness, Baaba's resolute spirit was evident and she provided inspiration to all who witnessed her courageous battle. In the early hours of 3rd February 2024, the Lord called her home.

"Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints." Psalms 116: 15.

Sarah Baaba Djabatay has fought the good fight. Baaba has finished the race. Baaba kept the faith.





Love



TRIBUTE BY HUSBAND

Proverbs 18:22 -

He who finds a wife finds a good thing, And obtains favor from the Lord.

We met in 1983 whilst we both served on the Judicial Council of the SRC of the Institute of Professional Studies (IPS), Legon. My keen interest in geopolitics caught her attention as she sought to introduce Jesus to me after finding out that I wasn't a Christian. We became friends as she learned that I was living in the Awudome Estates area, where she previously resided, and had an aunt and friends also living near the area. Through her gentle guidance, she succeeded in getting me to attend Christian Fellowship meetings on Campus until I finally accepted Christ during TL Osborne's crusade at the Independence Square in Accra. Our relationship developed into a very close friendship until we became so much attracted to each other and finally fell in love. After graduation, destiny seemed to conspire in our favor as we held our first employment at the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) in October, 1986, sharing not only the same workplace but also the same desk for four memorable years.

On March 4th, 1989, we got married at the Calvary Baptist Church, Adabraka, marking the beginning of our shared journey as husband and wife.

My wife was a woman with a sweet spirit and charm, so much that, anyone who came into contact with her felt that energy and warmth which left a lasting impact on their memory. Proverbs 31:10-12 beautifully encapsulates her essence: An excellent wife who can find? She is far more precious than jewels. The heart of her husband trusts in her, and he will have no lack of gain. She does him good, and not harm, all the days of her life. This is what Sarah has been to me these 35 years of marriage. Her affectionate love and selfless devotion during this period of our relationship has been the bedrock that has sustained me during the last 3 dark years of her existence.

We prayed and prayed, trusting His faithfulness, until her last breath. Though her passing has left an irreplaceable void in my heart, The Lord who is sovereign knows what's best for Sarah because He says that His plans towards us are good and not of evil; to fulfill every purpose concerning our lives.

My dear Wife, your desire for our children to love the Lord for themselves and to live for Him was so important to you. You succeeded in keeping them grounded in Him. Thank you, especially for the period when I was out of Ghana. You ensured that they went to church faithfully on Sundays, Bible Study Fellowship (BSF) during the week, and studied the scripture in diligence! Your love and support for our families was so important to you. You were prepared to sacrifice for them in so many ways that impacted my relationship with you in a different way. Thank you!

Sweetheart, I know you are in the bosom of the Lord. I will miss you dearly because you are the only friend I had known and trusted. My life had a meaning because you came into my life. We persevered together through thick and thin because you were the most suitable helpmate. You sacrificed your life for the family, and when it was time for you to reap the benefits of your toil, the good Lord called you home. That is my pain, because His word tells us that the righteous shall reap the fruits of their labor. Yet, what can I say? His word teaches us that in all things we should be thankful.

You not only taught me what love is but demonstrated that love in every aspect of our relationship. Your life touched many hearts especially in our ministry together as marriage counselors over the years. Our marriage was a testament to our counselees because you exemplified the very teachings you imparted to them.

Sweetheart, you were a wonderful companion, wife and lover and I will always cherish your memories.

Ecclesiastes 4:9-11 - Two are better than one, Because they have a good reward for their labor. For if they fall, one will lift up his companion. But woe to him who is alone when he falls, For he has no one to help him up. Again, if two lie down together, they will keep warm; But how can one be warm alone?

I will forever cherish the memories of our last vacation trips, even though our subsequent planned vacations could not materialize due to your health. I really want you to know that your love these 35 years of our marriage will forever be in my heart. Your zeal and love for the Lord has had a profound impact on me, which also strengthened my perseverance during the last three turbulent years of health struggles. You fought hard with all bravery till your last breath.

I now understand your last admonition to me that the end is near and we should begin to get ready to meet the Lord.

May the good Lord keep and preserve you until we meet again in His presence. It's so hard to say goodbye.

Revelations 21:4 - And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.



TRIBUTE BY CHILDREN

A Piece of Us Departed

Where do we even begin? Where do we start? Thank you, thank you, thank you Ma! As your children, we've been privileged to know and experience a love that's truly unconditional, akin to the love described in the Bible.

We are still struggling to gather our thoughts, to fully grasp what it means to lose you at the young age of 63. We are hurting, our hearts are shattered, and it feels like a significant piece of our hearts has departed with you. There's an indescribable and inconsolable void within us, and trying to come to terms with your absence is a journey that seems impossible, but we are willing to embark on it. We are all stewards of the years we have on earth. It's not about how many years you live, but how well you make those years count. As we reflect on the depth of your impact and the legacy you've crafted within this seemingly short time, it becomes evident that your influence transcends mere years. It serves as a poignant reminder for all of us to maximize our time on earth.

Because of you, we have come to know the Lord. We have felt His presence and witnessed His blessings and goodness. Yet, on this Christian path, we have learned that the journey isn't always smooth; it can be filled with twists and meanders, obstacles and trials. The greatest test of our faith thus far has been losing you. It's hard to articulate how this experience has challenged our faith to its core. There were moments over the last two and a half years where we have found ourselves questioning and doubting, but we refused to let go. That's not something you would have accepted. You see, the true measure of a Christian isn't seen in the good times but in how they navigate through trials and tribulations.

Above all, you loved the Lord wholeheartedly. You served Him tirelessly and faithfully, always eager to introduce Him to others. Your greatest passion was nurturing children in the ways of God. Every child who crossed your path adored you because you gave them your undivided attention, and showed genuine care. It is no surprise that you were a Sunday school teacher in all the Churches we attended. Hearing countless testimonies from people who encountered you fills us with immense pride as your children. They got a glimpse of what we experienced daily! If she was here today, she would remind us all to love the Lord and serve him faithfully. She would utter these words, What does it profit a man to gain the whole world, yet lose his soul?. It was her reminder for us to seek Him "diligently" above everything else.

Mom, you exuded peace. Sometimes, maybe sometimes, to a fault. But that was your essence. Where there was strife, you always returned with peace and a Bible verse. For as long as we can remember, whether it was a disagreement with a sibling or frustration with a situation, you always ended your counsel with, "Remember, as much as it depends on you, strive to live at peace with everyone."

Those words had a magical way of diffusing the frustration we felt in that instance. Over the years, we have encountered numerous situations where we felt you were justified in reacting like any normal person would, but you always chose the less traveled path. You never lost your temper. Where there were remarks meant to agitate you, you never took the bait. Instead, it was returned with a calm and calculated tone. It was as if you prided yourself on being a Trailblazer of Peace for your generation. "It's okay, let it go!" "My children, I choose peace." "I fight all my battles on my knees when I pray to God." - are some of the words she would utter in these moments. There were times when we were very frustrated by your calm response to situations. We wondered, "How can one person consistently take the high road, especially when they're not at fault?" But that was simply your spirit. Peace meant more to you than being right. It's one of the most valuable lessons we learned from you, one we wish to share with everyone today.

Lastly, you were selfless. Your sacrificial nature was one that is to be admired and studied. You always open-heartedly welcomed everyone. From the school bag seller who came around before the school season started, to the fishmonger, Laatele, who brought fresh fish to the house every weekend. Your interactions were never transactional. You went above and beyond spending hours to offer advice and sound tips, sometimes putting them in positions to set them up for success in their respective business. Sometimes, we wondered why they came around so often. It wasn't just to sell their goods but they just wanted to have a conversation because they knew you genuinely cared about their wellbeing. Many, including those gathered here today, can testify to the benefits they received from countless conversations, advice, and counsel with you. For you, the well-being of those around you mattered more than your own. You found joy in resolving issues for family, friends, or even strangers you just met. No wonder many have described you as the glue that held everything together.

Your selflessness was a defining trait. We witnessed it firsthand in our family. Growing up, we saw you and Dad sacrifice your comfortable lives and careers back home just to give us a better future. From juggling multiple jobs, surviving on minimal sleep, to moving out of state for a little while for better opportunities. You never hesitated to put your family first. This selfless attitude stems from your humble upbringing. You always told us, "my siblings and I slept on old trousers and jeans on the floor." You see, mummy knew what it meant to have little growing up, and to her, no matter how little she had, there was always more than enough to go around for everyone. Those were the things that made her happy.

Looking back over the past decade plus, from when we emigrated to the United States to where we are now feels nothing short of miraculous. Two hard working parents who gave up everything for their children. We often tell people that our parents have always been our role models, the standard to which we continue to aspire for.

TRIBUTE BY CHILDREN Cont'd

The painful part that still weighs heavily on our hearts is why the last two and a half years unfolded the way they did. Why couldn't you have lived a little longer to enjoy the fruits of your labor? Why did you have to endure such prolonged suffering? As we ponder these questions, only one explanation seems logical: it was your final act of selflessness! You knew that your sudden departure would have been even more devastating for us, so you held on as long as you could to prepare us for this moment.

You see, our mother rejoiced in the fact that one day, she will be reunited with her Lord. She sang hymns and prayed about it continually. Mummy understood that earth is our temporary home. Philippians 1:21 states "For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain." Just like Paul, mummy knew her death would bring glory to God, and not just that, but that her faith would come to fruition and she will live with her Savior forever. She longed for the day when her death would bring her face to face with Jesus.

Mom, there are countless things we will miss about you, and countless things we are grateful for. We will miss our deep conversations, where it often felt like you could read our minds. You predicted many situations before they actually occurred. You were indeed blessed with a prophetic gift. Your advice, wisdom, and encouragement will always hold a special place in our hearts. Though you are no longer here, your spirit continues to guide us. We now find ourselves asking, "What would mummy do?" when faced with any obstacle that life throws at us.

Our constant laughter at any and everything will be missed. We would sing and laugh. Sometimes at people or at ourselves. It brought us so much joy sitting together in the living room and laughing about everything. These moments would never be duplicated but the memories will live forever. But most of all, we will miss your presence in our lives. It's been painful navigating through major life events without you, but you're proud of us and we can feel your smile from above. We want the world to remember the kind of mother you were. The values you instilled in us are ones we carry with us, the same ones we hope to pass on to our children and to the next generation.

We are grateful beyond words to have been blessed to call you mum. Couldn't have asked for a more perfect mother. In our eyes, you were flawless. You embodied everything we could ever hope for in a life partner, and especially for me Jesse, I am grateful you had the chance to know and love Ida for many years. Your support for us continues to warm my heart till today. Though our hearts still ache from your absence, we choose to focus on the light you brought into our lives. Our act of selflessness today is accepting that as much as we wish you were still here with us, God decided He needed you more, and we are at peace with that decision.

Heavenly Father, please welcome our mother into Your kingdom and place her by Your side, where she truly belongs. For we know You have prepared a place and more for her. She defied the odds on Earth, and now she's Yours. In Your kingdom, there is no pain or sorrow. Mom is finally free! Though our hearts ache from her loss, help us find solace in the memories we all shared with her, in the laughter and tears, the triumphs and tribulations. She has left behind a legacy of love, compassion, integrity, and peace that will forever remain in our hearts.

Until we meet again in the next life, rest peacefully, our sweet mother. Do not worry about us because we promise we will continue to embody the spirit of love and togetherness as a family. Our home will continue to be a place of peace just like you've taught us. We love you forever Baaba Djabatey.

Ma, Da Yie!
Your loving Children,
Debbie, Jesse, Judy & Jeffrey



TRIBUTE BY MOTHER

Baaba's favourite hymn was:

"Through all the changing scenes of life, In trouble and in joy, The praises of my God shall still, My heart and tongue employ."

Sarah, my beloved daughter, (also known as Mena Aba Akoah, after her grandmother) was my third child amidst seven children I gave birth to.

She grew up committed strongly to the Christian faith, which I introduced to all my children, in our early morning devotions I led, when they were growing up with me, in Accra. As an officer of the Girls Brigade in the Methodist Church, I made sure she was enrolled in the group. Sarah loved to read and memorise the Scriptures and she would often gather children around her for Bible memorisation contest, giving small rewards to those who excelled.

It was upon her insistence and effort, that I came to the US to grace the wedding ceremony of Debbie, her first daughter and also my granddaughter. Baaba also organised a grand family reunion in Florida, giving me the opportunity to see my grandchildren and my great grandchildren. In Ohio, she would often take me round to see beautiful places. One morning, while preparing for work, she fell ill. Little did I know that it was the beginning of her health challenges. After that, we went to Virginia together to celebrate with her sister-in-law, Diana's golden jubilee birthday. When it was time to return, she suggested I stay behind to enjoy the Summer for a while. Little did we know that our parting moments were beginning.

One day, after her return to Ohio, our usual telephone chat stopped. I later learnt she had been hospitalised and couldn't engage in any conversation with anyone. As a mother in anguish, I continually prayed to the Lord for her healing and complete restoration to enable mother and daughter enjoy their sweet fellowship once again. The wait prolonged for more than two years until 3rd February, this year when it pleased the Lord to rather call Baaba home.

It is difficult to accept the fact that our telephone conversation and our fellowship have come to an end. I miss my beloved daughter so dearly. I, indeed, miss her voice, full of care and comfort for me. But I'm comforted to know that though you are absent from the body, you are present with the Lord Jesus, our Saviour.

Rest thee well, Mena Aba Akoah
Rest thee well my beloved daughter.

TRIBUTE BY SIBLINGS

I Corinth. 15: 54,55.

“Death is swallowed up in victory. O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory?”

Death, indeed, has a sting and the pain it causes is excruciating when it is so close. At Bethany, Jesus couldn't hold back his tears when he witnessed the pain death inflicted on the sisters and friends of Lazarus. At Calvary, He was bruised and wounded, and experienced death in His own body. But on the day of Resurrection, Jesus Christ swallowed up death in victory and His promise to His believers in John 14:19, came into effect. “ Because I live, you will live also.” Our beloved sister, Baaba, though absent from the body, is alive with Jesus Christ, her Saviour and Lord, and this truth comforts us, her siblings.

Sister Baaba, or Babs, as we affectionately called her was a unifier and a peace broker in the family in times of petty squabbles and disagreement. When she got married and started having her own children, her interest in the well-being of our children never waned. In times of financial hardships, she helped us pay the school fees of our children. Her generosity knew no bounds. From the US she occasionally shipped barrels of used clothing, store rejects and all kinds of household items she felt would be of benefit to us and our children. She was a pillar of support to us all. In the US she never forgot the birthday of our dear Mum, and would always send money for a party to be organised for her. When it was time for the wedding of her first born daughter, Tsaako in 2018, she honoured our Mum with an invitation to the US to grace the event. Then in July, 2019 she organised a grand reunion in Florida to enable our Mum interact with her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren in the US. Once or twice every month, she would call each one of us and chat with us. We always looked forward to her call.

In July, 2021 we received with shock the news of Baaba's admission to the hospital in a state of unconsciousness. When the team of Specialists handling her case informed us she was not responding to treatment, all the family members, including our cousins in Switzerland came together, for daily, weekly and monthly intercessory prayers for her.

However, on 3rd February, 2024 the Almighty God, the Eternal Father of all flesh, decided to call our sister home. We are grateful to God for the positive impact Baaba made in our individual lives. Even her sickness once again revived the corporate prayer sessions and the fellowship we used to have while growing up.

We end our tribute with her favourite hymn MHB 427:

“Through all the changing scenes of life,

In trouble and in joy,

The praises of my God shall still, My heart and tongue employ.”

APPRECIATION

Romans 12:15

Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn.

The Djabatey and Quansah Families extend their heartfelt gratitude for your prayers, support, and love during these last difficult years.

Your presence, comfort, and gestures of sympathy have provided us with strength and solace.

Thank you for standing by our side and for honoring the memory of our beloved Sarah Baaba Djabatey.

God Bless You!



Scan to view an extended version of this program,
containing additional tributes.

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