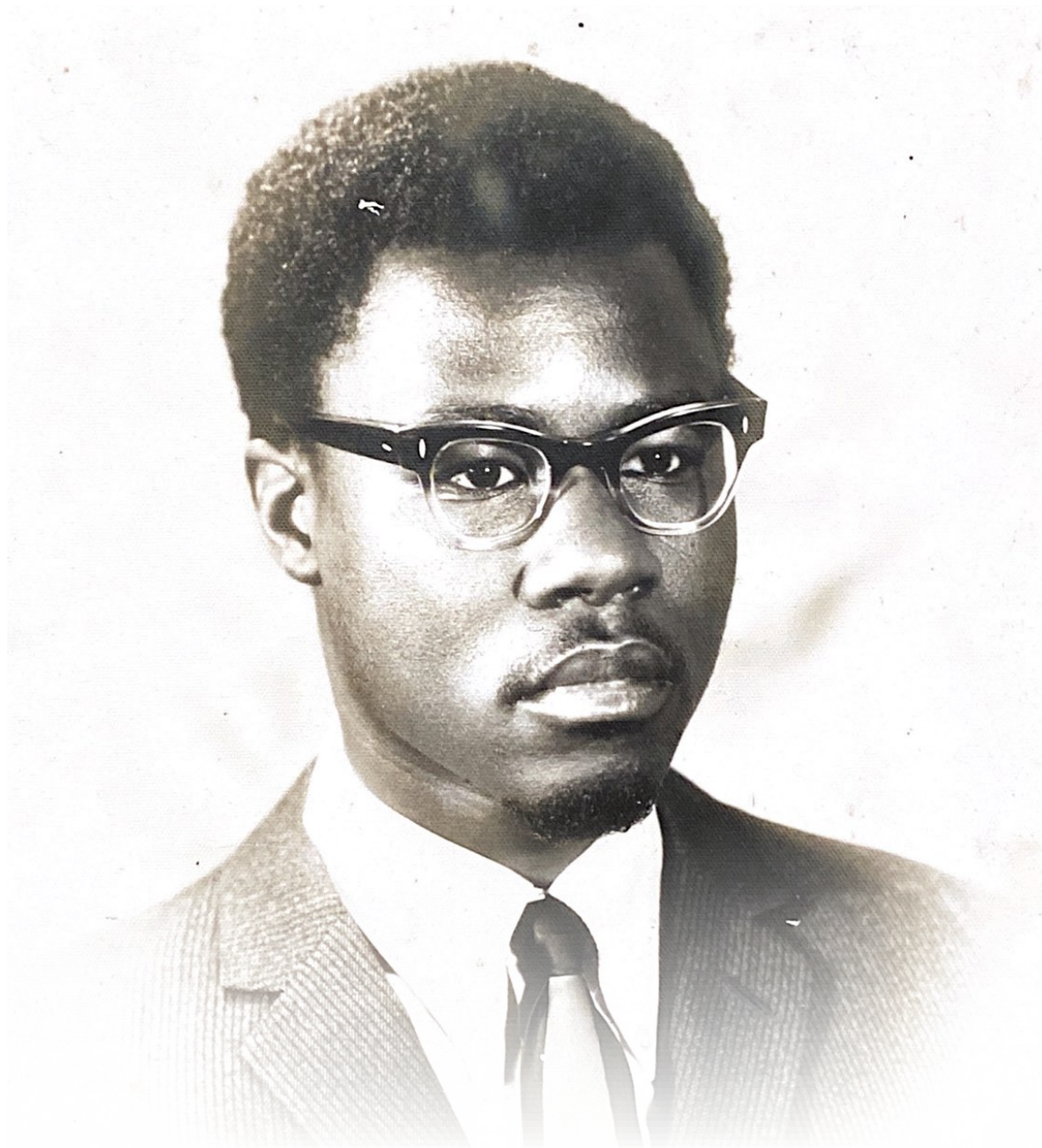




PROF. BAWA AWUMBILA

(1943 – 2023)





His Journey's Just Begun

"Don't think of him as gone away
his journey's just begun,
life holds so many facets
this earth is only one.

Just think of him as resting
from the sorrows and the tears
in a place of warmth and comfort
where there are no days and years.

Think how he must be wishing
that we could know today
how nothing but our sadness
can really pass away.

And think of him as living
in the hearts of those he touched...
for nothing loved is ever lost
and he was loved so much."

By Ellen Brenneman

ORDER OF SERVICE

PART I

- 7am - Arrival and Reception of Body
- Laying in State
- Reading of Tributes
- 9am - Funeral Mass

PART II - ORDER OF THE MASS

Introductory Rites

Entrance Hymn – CH 349 – Abide with me
Greeting
Kyrie
Opening Prayer

Liturgy of the Word

First Reading: Revelation 14: 12-13
Responsorial Psalm 42
Alleluia
Gospel: Matthew 5: 13-16
Homily
Prayer of the faithful –
Offertory Collection – Songs by the Choir

Liturgy of the Eucharist

Preparation of gifts
Prayer over the gifts
Preface
Sanctus
Agnus Die
Communion Hymns:
• CH 376 - Take my life and let it be
• CH 416 - When we walk with the Lord
• CH 413 - Amazing grace how sweet the sound
• CH 392 - God be with you till we meet again

Concluding Rites

Prayer after Communion

PART III

Biography
Announcements
Gratitude
Final Commendation

PART IV

Private Burial

PART V

Funeral Rites at Yiri Lodge
South Legon, University Of Ghana
Saturday, 8th July 2023

Thanksgiving Mass

Sunday, 9th July 2023
9am

Requiescat in pace

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Don't Weep For Me

W

Don't weep for me
For I've made it home
Through Heaven's gates
There I may roam.

Wipe your tears
And dry your eyes
I'm in a better place
With Heaven as my prize.

Don't weep for me
No tears and no sorrow
Live life for Jesus
He promises tomorrow.

//

BIOGRAPHY

OF THE LATE

PROF. BAWA AWUMBILA



Introduction

Prof. Bawa Awumbila was a distinguished university professor, renowned veterinarian, and dedicated researcher who made significant contributions to the field of animal science and veterinary medicine. Born on 7th October 1943 in Ghana, he grew up with a passion for agriculture, which ultimately shaped his career and life's work.

Prof. Bawa Awumbila, known affectionately as Dr. Bawa, was a prominent figure in the Ayouda clan of Zawse, in the Binduri District of the Upper East Region. He was the son of Azong Awumbila, a Gold Coast Police officer hailing from Zawse, and Agosying Apaat from Wande in the Bawku Municipality.

Early Life and Primary Education

Tragically, Prof. Awumbila lost his father at a young age. However, his senior brother, Asitanga Asiane, residing in Gambaga at the time, took him under his wings and brought him to Gambaga in the North East Region. It was in Gambaga that Prof. Awumbila began his educational journey at the Gambaga L/A Primary School. Subsequently, he enrolled at Nalerigu Middle Boarding School, and later transferred to Bawku Middle Boarding School. At Bawku Middle Boarding School, he shared the classroom with notable individuals such as the current Wande Chief, Naba Thomas Abilla, as well as Norbert Abilla, Charles Akame, John Awimbilla, Issaka Belko, and the late Dr. Abatenl.

He then went to Government Secondary School, Tamale (GSST), now Tamale Secondary School in 1958-63. He completed his GCE O-level in 1963. Demonstrating exceptional academic capabilities, Prof. Awumbila consistently ranked high in his class, which earned him a scholarship to study veterinary medicine in Kiev, Ukraine.

Prof. Awumbila went through challenging times in his childhood. However, his indomitable spirit, unwavering commitment to his goals, the support of some relatives and the grace of God propelled him forward.

Tertiary and Postgraduate Education

After completing his GCE O-level at Tamale Secondary School, He taught at the Zebilla middle school (1963-65). Notable students of his at Zebilla middle school included prominent individuals like the Honorable Cletus Avoka and Prof. George Agbango.

Prof. Awumbila pursued higher studies in prestigious institutions across different countries, immersing himself in diverse academic environments. He attended Kharkov State University in the USSR from 1966 to 1971, where he studied veterinary medicine and gained a strong foundation in the field. He continued his academic journey at the Ukrainian Agricultural Academy, where he obtained his M.Sc. Vet. degree in Veterinary Surgery in July 1971. After this time, he also earned a Doctor Medicinae Veterinariae (Dr. Med. Vet.) degree in Veterinary Pathology from Justus-Liebig University in Giessen, Federal Republic of Germany, between 1971-1975. .

He enrolled at the Free University of West Berlin, Germany, in October 1975, where he received a Postgraduate Certificate in Tropical Animal Health and Production. Throughout his educational journey, he received scholarships, fellowships, and awards, including support from the Ghana and USSR governments, the Otto Benecke Stiftung in Germany and the International Atomic Energy Agency.



Professional Life

During his academic life and upon completing his professional studies, Prof. Awumbila embarked on a remarkable career that spanned several decades. This was marked by his dedication to the advancement of veterinary science. He served as an Assistant Veterinarian to Dr. J. Ehmke in Stade, Germany, from August to December 1971, gaining practical experience and further developing his veterinary skills. He then worked as a Scientific Assistant at the Veterinary Pathology Institute of Justus-Liebig University in Giessen in 1975, where he contributed to research and academic activities.



Returning to Ghana in 1976, Prof. Awumbila assumed key roles in the Ghanaian government and played an instrumental part in shaping agricultural policies and practices. He became a Veterinary Officer in the Ministry of Agriculture from 1976 to 1979, where he was involved in disease control, animal health programs, and livestock management initiatives. His expertise and leadership qualities led to his appointment as Deputy Minister of Agriculture in the Third Republic of Ghana, responsible for Livestock and Fisheries, from 1979 to 1981. In this capacity, he spearheaded efforts to enhance livestock production, improve disease control measures, and promote sustainable fisheries practices in Ghana. He conducted extensive research and extension work in Ghana's livestock industry, playing a pivotal role in establishing grandparent stock poultry farms and dairy farms. He was also involved in the procurement of trypanotolerant cattle from Guinea and Senegal, facilitated by the World Bank Project and the Ghanaian government. Prof. Awumbila's service as Deputy Minister was abruptly truncated by the 1981 Coup d'état. As part of the aftermath, all ministers and deputy ministers were required to report for detention and evaluation by the military government. Prof. Awumbila, known for his unwavering integrity, voluntarily reported, confident of his innocence. Due to his impeccable reputation, he was released after just 10 days, being among the first batch of ministers and party functionaries to regain freedom. This episode showcased his resilience and unwavering commitment to ethical conduct and public service.

Whilst at the Ministry of Agriculture and as the Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Prof. Awumbila was a part-time lecturer at the Department of Animal Science. Prof. Awumbila's professional transition to the University of Ghana began in 1982 when he joined as a Lecturer in the Department of Animal Science after his release from detention.

Over the years, he made significant contributions to the academic and research landscape of the university. His dedication and expertise led to his promotion to Senior Lecturer in 1993 and ultimately to the position of Associate Professor in 2004.

Over the years, he made significant contributions to the academic and research landscape of the university. His dedication and expertise led to his promotion to Senior Lecturer in 1993 and ultimately to the position of Associate Professor in 2004. His extensive knowledge and experience made him a sought-after mentor and advisor to numerous students, inspiring them to pursue excellence in the field of animal science. He was key in the decision making processes that led to the establishment of the School of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Ghana and was a pivotal founding member of the School. He also played a key role in the UG School of Public Health, where he taught about zoonotic diseases. Prof. Awumbila's time at the University of Ghana included participation in various committees and boards within the University of Ghana, including the Academic Board, Faculty of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Stations, Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research, University of Ghana Medical School, Inter-faculty Committee, School of Public Health, Board of Graduate Studies, College of Health Sciences, Legon Hall Council, and the Board of the School of Agriculture.

Beyond his university affiliations, Prof. Awumbila actively engaged in national and international endeavors, making valuable contributions to various committees and organizations related to veterinary medicine and agriculture. He chaired the Ghana FAO Commission and Ghana Fisheries Commission in 1980, where he played a pivotal role in policy formulation and implementation. He also served as a member of the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) Aquatic Animals Commission, providing expert insights and guidance on matters related to aquatic animal health. He was a member of the Ghana National Committee for the Control of Tsetse and African Trypanosomiasis, the Ghana National Committee on Toxic Chemicals, the Ghana National Committee on Residue of Veterinary Drugs, the Animal Research Institute (CSIR), the Codex alimentarius, and the Veterinary Council of Ghana.

Prof. Awumbila's contributions to veterinary medicine and agriculture extended beyond Ghana's borders. He undertook various national assignments outside Ghana, including travels to Guinea and Senegal for the procurement of trypanotolerant cattle. He also led government delegations to Bulgaria, Romania, Egypt, Yugoslavia, and Rome, representing Ghana in important conferences and negotiations.



Prof. Bawa Awumbila's research work focused on areas within animal science, including livestock production, disease control, genetics, and sustainable agriculture. His studies aimed to improve animal productivity, enhance food security, and develop strategies for disease prevention and control. He published numerous research papers, articles, and books, sharing his expertise and findings with the scientific community.

Throughout his career, Prof. Awumbila received numerous recognitions for his exceptional contributions to the field of veterinary medicine. He was a recipient of the Ghana Veterinary Medical Association's Distinguished Service Award, the Officer of the Order of the Volta Award from the President of Ghana, and a Life Patron of the Ghana Animal Science Association. During his professional journey, he received even more scholarships and fellowships from many prestigious institutions, including the German Academic Exchange Service, the African American Institute, the J. William Fulbright program, and the British Council. His remarkable achievements and unwavering commitment to advancing animal science and agriculture have left an indelible mark on the academic and research landscape in Ghana and beyond.

Prof. Bawa Awumbila's legacy as a distinguished veterinarian, esteemed professor, and dedicated researcher will continue to inspire future generations, encouraging them to pursue excellence in the field of animal science and make meaningful contributions to society. His contributions to the agricultural sector and his unwavering dedication to improving the lives of both animals and people will be remembered and celebrated for years to come.

Family and Social Life

After returning from Germany and starting off his professional career in Ghana, Prof. Awumbila met the love of his life, Prof. Mrs. Mariama Awumbila when they were introduced by her brother Dr Sam Bugri on a visit to the University of Ghana while she was in her final year. Dr Sam Bugri and Prof Awumbila had been close friends for several years and he had no problems encouraging his sister into a relationship with his friend.

Prof. Awumbila's integrity and gentle nature captivated Prof. Mrs. Mariama Awumbila's heart, leading to their marriage in 1980. Their union faced an early test when Prof. Awumbila was detained by the military government shortly after the birth of their first child, Bawa Jnr. They confronted this challenge together, a trait that would define their bond throughout their remarkable 43-year journey. Over the years, they were blessed with three more children: Selma, Aisha and Abubakar (Baba). Not too long after welcoming their last child, Prof. (Mrs) Mariama Awumbila was presented with an opportunity to pursue her Ph.D. in the UK. Prof. Awumbila supported his wife through this opportunity, holding down the fort and caring for the children while she was away.



Prof. Awumbila's social life was vibrant and woven around his cherished relationships with family, friends and colleagues. Renowned for his impeccable wit and humor, he had an ability to light up any room with laughter. During his children's younger years, Prof. Awumbila devoted quality time to them, regularly taking them and his wife to the Accra Polo Club to socialize with friends and enjoy some of their favorite meals. His children fondly remember enjoying refreshing swims at the Celebrity Golf Club pool and attempting to ride horses at the Accra Polo Club. He delighted in sharing his extensive knowledge of animals with them during their visits to the Accra Zoo. Prof. Awumbila enjoyed slaughtering, cleaning and preparing the animals that fed his family and would often involve his children in this activity, making a biology lesson out of it. On holidays and special occasions, Prof. Awumbila would compliment the excellent culinary skills of his wife, by demonstrating his ability to spice and grill meats. Together they would cook up phenomenal meals for the family time and time again.



Prof. Awumbila was deeply rooted in tradition and culture, particularly when it concerned the people of the north. His involvement in the Samanpiid festival of his motherland, was memorable to all. Throughout his life, Prof. Awumbila embraced his heritage, championing the values and customs of his community. He had an indelible memory of cultural events and development of his community.



Prof. Awumbila was a devout catholic, who was very proud of his faith and attended mass regularly at the St Thomas Aquinas church. His life of service, loyalty and care of people and animals serves as a testament to his christian beliefs.

After fulfilling his professional duties, Prof. Awumbila would often unwind alongside fellow academics and friends at the Loggia common room or Commonwealth Hall common room. There, amidst laughter, refreshing drinks, and the finest kebabs in Ghana, they engaged in both casual banter and passionate discussions on various subjects. Weekends often saw Prof. Awumbila mingling with friends and peers at the Accra Polo Club, where he not only socialized but also served as the club's Veterinarian, showcasing his expertise in animal care.

Prof. Awumbila was a member of the Boabab club, which consisted of senior members of the University of Ghana hailing from the north. Prof. Awumbila was a cherished member of the club and served as a mentor to many club members, who viewed him as a father figure and often sought his advice. Prof. Awumbila's profound impact and invaluable advice on a myriad of matters are deeply felt by the entire club, leaving an irreplaceable void. He was also a member of the Bawku Tieltaab Senior Citizens Club.

Additionally, Prof. Awumbila was an active member of the esteemed 'Sunday Group' tennis club in Legon, where he showcased his passion for the sport. His participation in these social and recreational activities served as a testament to his ability to strike a harmonious balance between his professional endeavors and his joyous interactions with loved ones and peers.

We bid farewell to Prof. Bawa Awumbila, a remarkable man who will be deeply cherished in the hearts of his family, friends, colleagues, loved ones and all those fortunate enough to have crossed paths with him. His legacy of profound humility, unwavering integrity, and boundless kindness will continue to inspire and resonate within us. As we lay him to rest, may the earth embrace his remains gently, while his spirit finds eternal peace. Prof. Awumbila's presence will be greatly missed, but his impact on our lives will forever endure.



Death Is Nothing At All



Death is nothing at all.
It does not count.
I have only slipped away into the next room.
Nothing has happened.

Everything remains exactly as it was.
I am I, and you are you,
and the old life that we lived so fondly together is
untouched, unchanged.
Whatever we were to each other, that we are still.

Call me by the old familiar name,
Speak of me in the easy way which you always used.
Put no difference into your tone.
Wear no forced air of solemnity or sorrow.

Laugh as we always laughed at the little jokes that we
enjoyed together.
Play, smile, think of me, pray for me.
Let my name be ever the household word that it always
was.
Let it be spoken without an effort, without the ghost of a
shadow upon it.

Life means all that it ever meant.
It is the same as it ever was.
There is absolute and unbroken continuity.
What is this death but a negligible accident?

Why should I be out of mind because I am out of sight?
I am but waiting for you, for an interval,
somewhere very near,
just round the corner.

All is well.
Nothing is hurt; nothing is lost.
One brief moment and all will be as it was before.
How we shall laugh at the trouble of parting when we
meet again!

- HENRY SCOTT-HOLLAND.





TRIBUTE BY THE WIDOW

PROFESSOR MARIAMA AWUMBILA



Today, we gather here to honor, remember, and bid farewell to a remarkable man, my beloved husband, Prof. Bawa Awumbila.

I am overwhelmed with memories that span over four decades of love, companionship, and shared experiences. Our journey together began in late 1978 when we met through my senior brother and your very good friend, Dr Sam Bugri. You had just returned from postgraduate studies in Germany. In December 1980, we sealed our commitment in marriage, vowing to stand by each other through thick and thin. Together, we welcomed four beautiful children: Bawa Junior, Selma Sumaya, Aisha Gosying, and Abubakar (Baba), all of whom, by the grace of God, are doing well.

From the moment we met, I knew there was something special about you. You entered my life as a humble, kind-hearted man of unwavering integrity. Even in your quiet demeanor, you possessed a wit and intellect that drew me closer to you. You always had a joke for every situation, even during challenging times. You were a caring provider who always provided for our family, ensuring our every need was met. Friends and family would comment on the abundance we had whenever they visited us. Having experienced challenges in your own childhood, you vowed that our family would never lack anything we needed.

When the opportunity arose for me to pursue my Ph.D. in the UK for four years, you selflessly held the fort and brilliantly cared for our four children. Our youngest was just one year old at the time, while our oldest was eight years. In those challenging years when distance separated us, I eagerly awaited our monthly calls, where you would bring our children to the University Guest Center so we could stay connected in the era before cell phones and the internet. You took good care of our four children, often taking them to the Polo Club on weekends, where they were spoilt with several goodies.



Your unwavering support for me and the children continued as my career became more demanding, as I balanced duties at the Geography Department and the new Center for Migration Studies and often requiring extensive travel. Your presence was a source of comfort and strength during these demanding periods. Not only did you support me throughout our journey, but you also embraced my family as your own, fostering strong bonds with my parents, brother, cousins, nephews, and nieces and forging joking relationships with many of them. I was particularly touched when in the mist of a life threatening medical scare I had in 2020, which required major surgery, you told me after a prayer session that you wished you could exchange your life for mine to spare me having to go through this health ordeal. Our prayer answering God heard our prayers and worked a miracle in our lives which made surgery unnecessary.

You were a unique Ghanaian man, defying gender stereotypes with your culinary skills, especially when it came to preparing exotic meals, particularly meats. You imparted this knowledge to our entire family, teaching us the fine art of spicing, grilling, and cooking meat to perfection. You even tried to pass on this art to your two sons-in-law, although I am not sure how successful you were in this regard.



In the last few years, you found joy in playing with our grandchildren, keeping a watchful eye over them while I lectured via Zoom and took care of the home. Your face would light up each morning when I brought the grandkids to greet you and you would give them all chocolates and from the stack of sweets you kept by your bedside specially for them. Since your passing, Oyata, our 4 year old grandson keeps asking whether you took all the chocolates with you to heaven.

In terms of your work, I was privileged and proud to witness and support your pioneering career in veterinary medicine. From your dedicated public service as a young veterinary doctor, to Deputy Minister of Agriculture to your pivotal role as a founding member of the University of Ghana School of Veterinary Medicine, your contributions have left an indelible mark. Since your passing, many of your younger colleagues and former students have recounted to me how you mentored and encouraged them to progress in their careers, a testament to a life well lived.



In our 43 years of marriage, we faced our fair share of challenges, but we faced them united, guided by love and the grace of God. One of the most trying periods of our marriage came when you were put into detention as part of the 1981 coup d'état. I had to hold the fort while worrying about your well-being, but your integrity shone through, and you were among the first batch of ministers to be released. Together, we weathered storms such as the Bawku conflict, navigating the challenges that came with being from opposite sides of the ethnic conflict, always striving to protect our children caught in the middle, through no fault of their own.

In the weeks leading up to your passing, we discussed how many of our friends and colleagues had departed from this world recently. Little did I know that in just about two weeks, you would join them. When I visited you at the University of Ghana Medical Centre (UGMC) on Sunday, May 21, 2023, and left you at 7 pm, little did I know that in about one hour after I left, you would be called home by your Creator. That day, several friends visited you, and you shared your usual lively and long chats with them. Our Son, Bawa Junior called you around 6.30 pm, and you both exchanged your usual jokes. We were expecting your discharge the following day, and as I packed some of your belongings, I left you with the words, "God be with you," never knowing that would become my final prayer for your eternal journey. Less than an hour after I left, we received a call that you had taken a turn for the worse and we raced back to the hospital, but the Lord called you home.

The suddenness of your departure has left us all in shock and disbelief. It feels impossible to fathom that you are no longer with us. The pain of your absence lingers, and we find ourselves unable to touch the fruits and packaged food you loved, still sitting in our fridge. The void you have left behind can never be filled, but we give thanks to God for your life. Though we mourn your absence, we take solace in the knowledge that your soul is at peace, guided by the divine hand of God. We are particularly strengthened by the words in Isaiah 41 verse 10:

"Fear not, for I am with you, be not dismayed, for I am your God, I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand"

Thank you for sharing your life with me. I will cherish the memories we built together forever. Rest in eternal peace. Farewell, until we meet again.

TRIBUTE BY
THE FIRST CHILD
BAWA AWUMBILA JUNIOR



“The life of one we love is never lost. its influence goes on through all the lives it ever touched. “

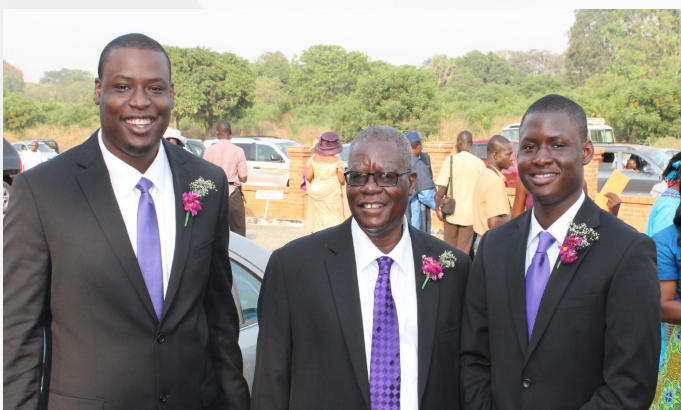
- Christopher Holloway

Today, I gather my thoughts and emotions to honor the life of an extraordinary man—my beloved father. Words cannot fully express the depth of my gratitude for the profound impact he has had in my life and the legacy he leaves behind. Through the prism of cherished memories, I reflect on the remarkable person he was. celebrating his love, strength, and unwavering guidance.

From an early age when I will follow him to work with his clients to treat their animals. I learnt a lot of things that would later on help me to mold my life and become the person who I am today.

You taught me the power of resilience and perseverance, be it waking up at the crack of dawn to teach me how to properly slaughter a chicken, sheep or goat, and he would give me a biology lesson on the animal parts and later quiz me on the knowledge I had acquired., reminding me that obstacles were mere stepping stones towards growth and self-discovery.

You were committed to making sure that we were well educated. I remember how I used to be unhappy about how you would make sure that I finished my homework early on the weekends while my friends were outside playing in the trees. I now know as a grown up, how important that was, for my own good and I would give anything to experience one of those moments again.



I remember looking forward all week to our weekend trips to the Accra polo club, even though to this day I still don't know any of the rules of how to play polo. I got to run around with my siblings and meet so many different people as well as have my staple weekend sausages and fries and to me, that was everything.

I can still hear him whistle my name (Junior), or how he used to call me alhaji. I can still see him coming up the driveway where I will run to meet him. I can still hear his stern booming voice guiding me and scolding me when I had done something I shouldn't have been doing. You had the remarkable ability to remember details about my friends and my past experiences that I had long forgotten. I remember how you visited me every other weekend when I was in boarding school just to make sure that I was fed and also how you made sure that I had the resources that I needed to be successful all the way through graduate school as only a loving father would do.

We shared a lot of very memorable father and son moments, and I am very grateful for every single one of them. I cherish the countless conversations we have had, the laughter we have shared and the memories we have created together and I am lucky to have had you as a father

You all know how my father was a beacon of light, and the profound positive impact that he had on many of our lives. A steadfast presence who illuminated the path before us. Some of you may know him as a father, a brother or a grandfather but Whichever way you got to knew him, I am certain that he has had a positive impact in your life.

I remember our last conversation that very fateful day when we had our usual banter and jokes and how you told me about how Aisha and mama had brought you a burger and some Banku and then proceeded to tease me about how I didn't have any Banku.

As I bid farewell to my dear father, my heart aches with a mixture of grief and gratitude. I mourn the loss of his physical presence, but I am eternally grateful for the time we shared and the profound impact he had on my life. The lessons he imparted will continue to shape my actions and guide me through the years to come.

Though he may no longer be with us in body, his spirit lives on in the memories i hold dear. He will forever be a source of inspiration, a guardian angel watching over us.

As I navigate the journey of life, I carry his love in my heart, drawing strength from his memory and striving to make him proud.

In this tribute to my beloved father, I celebrate a life well-lived—a life filled with love, wisdom, and grace. Rest in peace, dear father, knowing that your legacy will forever shine brightly in the hearts of all whose lives you touched.

Gbim som - sleep well.



TRIBUTE BY
THE SECOND CHILD
SELMA A. MATE-KOLE

Losing a parent is an experience that thrusts you into a situation where you struggle to find the right words to express your emotions. Memories flood your mind, and you grapple with the question of how to capture the essence of the person who meant so much to you. Such is the case with my tribute to my father.

Known as Prof to many and Dr. Bawa to even more, but to me, you were simply Daddy. A true teacher at heart, you always aimed to make every "lesson" as accessible as possible. I recall a time in JSS when I couldn't identify the different parts of a ruminant's stomach. Without hesitation, you took it upon yourself to enlighten me. On an early Saturday morning, you slaughtered a whole ram, took out its four distinct stomachs and allowing me to feel the texture of each one. However, when I faced my agricultural science exam two days later and had to answer the question about the number of stomachs a ruminant possesses, I mistakenly wrote "2" instead of "4." That's when I believe you finally accepted that science was not my calling.

Throughout my childhood, you constantly sought ways to expose us to a multitude of experiences. Whether it was taking us to the university farms on weekends, bringing us to your department and classes during school vacations, or accompanying you on house calls to treat animals, you made sure we were immersed in your world. We would spend most weekends at the Accra Polo Club, or learning to swim at the Celebrity Golf Club and sometimes to the Accra Zoo where we would be given lessons on the different species of animals. There was never a dull moment with you.

I vividly recall the day you delivered a horse at the Accra Polo Club, overcoming the challenge of a breached birth by skillfully maneuvering the baby into position. It was a sight too intense for a 10-year-old to witness, but one I will never forget. What struck me even more was your ability to resume your interrupted dinner at the Chukka Grill immediately after the procedure, displaying both dedication and an unwavering appetite.



We bonded over our shared love for meat, good food, and crime movies and TV shows, such as CSI, 24, Bones, and NCIS. You would often point out the inaccuracies in the science portrayed and critique the insect activity at crime scenes, blending your passion for veterinary medicine with our shared entertainment.

And then there were those late Christmas Eve nights, where we would stay up until midnight, meticulously seasoning meat for our Christmas lunch. We would carefully select the perfect "large pieca" (Frafra potatoes) sent by Uncle Francis to create pieca salad and shrimp cocktail. The Christmas steak was always cooked to perfection. Our friends will always find excuses to come over on Christmas day or Boxing day just for your cooking. We all called you the "Grill Master".

As I grew older and started a family of my own, I began to appreciate the sacrifices you made for us when we were growing up. We used to chat like old friends whenever I would visit and you would me every day to find out how my children are doing (even when they spent the night with you). I miss those calls, I miss our talks, and I miss your jokes.

Now, as I grapple with the enormity of your absence, I find myself struggling to capture the full depth of my emotions. I will miss your stories the most. Your experiences as a child, going to school abroad and expansive knowledge and the wealth of information you retained. We talked several times about writing a book. But somehow we never got around to writing. There was always some story or gossip to tell.

Finding the right words to honor you is an immense challenge, as there are countless moments and lessons you bestowed upon me. Your dedication, knowledge, and love have shaped me into the person I am today. Though your presence may be lost to us, your spirit lives on within me, and I will forever cherish the memories we created together.

Rest in peace, dear Daddy, knowing that your love will forever be cherished in the depths of my heart.

"I thought of you with love today but that is nothing new I thought about you yesterday and days before that too, I think of you in silence I often speak your name All I have are memories and your picture in a frame Your memory is my keepsake with which I'll never part God has you in His keeping I have you in my heart."

Love always,
Selma.





TRIBUTE BY
THE THIRD CHILD
DR. AISHA A. ANANE-BINFOH

Romans 14:8:

“If we live, we live for the Lord, and if we die, we die for the Lord. Therefore, whether we live or die, we belong to God.”

With a heavy heart, I stand here today to pay tribute to my extraordinary father, a man whose impact on my life and the lives of countless others will forever be cherished. Words fail to express the depth of my admiration for you.

The news of losing a loved one is always a difficult burden to bear, and your passing, Daddy, signifies the loss of not just a beloved family member, but also a patriarch, mentor, advisor, and role model. You played multiple roles in our lives, leaving an indelible mark on our hearts.

As your third and favorite child, you named me after your mother, Gosying. I fondly recall how you would affectionately call me ‘Mama Aish.’

You were a man like no other, an embodiment of love, humility, intellect, and compassion. You were an icon to be emulated, a true representation of what a family man should be. Your humility, unwavering support, hard work, and constant presence in our lives made you irreplaceable.

You provided us with a childhood filled with treasured memories. During Mama’s absence while pursuing her Ph.D., you took on the role of both parents. From making delicious beef burgers for us every morning, preparing fresh yogurt, and taking us to the polo club every Saturday evening, to our visits to the zoo where you got me a pet monkey and always ensured I had bananas to feed them, to making Christmas lunch with Selma. These moments became invaluable as we grew older.

I vividly remember when you drove all the way to Achimota school to show the headmaster your curly hair when I was falsely accused of texturizing mine against the rules. Your unwavering support and determination were evident in every aspect of my life.

I still long for those evenings when you would carry me on your back during our walks to the car after leaving the polo club. Those moments were priceless, etching a profound connection between us.

In addition to our well-being, you placed immense importance on our education. Your unwavering interest in my medical school journey, often blending your veterinary medicine background with my lessons, made the path smoother for me. I recall when I expressed difficulty with histology, and you surprised me with two microscopes at home to practice my slides. That’s just how devoted you were to my medical education. After medical school, you continuously encouraged me to specialize as soon as possible, assisting me in choosing my specialty.

I also remember when I had regular migraines, and you took me to the hospital and when the doctor dismissed the urgency, you advocated and fought for me to be taken seriously. Now, as a Doctor and a parent, I understand the doctor’s perspective and I also appreciate your unwavering care and concern for your child.

You imparted practical skills to us all, teaching us to fix things around the house and passing on your remarkable grilling expertise. Rest assured, your culinary legacy will live on through the next generation.

Our last conversation on that Sunday afternoon, when I brought you a burger for lunch in the hospital, is etched in my heart. I never anticipated that it would be our final conversation, thinking you were coming home the next day only to get a call that evening that the worst had happened. I am grateful to God for blessing you with a fulfilled life, and I find solace in knowing you are watching over us from heaven.

I miss the evenings spent in your room with Annaya. I miss her playful attempts to snatch your phones and remote control. I miss you giving her a slice of apple every evening, which led to ‘apple’ becoming her first word. I miss the daily Toblerone treats you gave her. I miss you, Daddy.

As I bid farewell to my beloved father today, my heart overflows with gratitude for the memories we shared and the lasting legacy you’ve left behind.

With all my love,
Mama Aish



TRIBUTE BY
THE FOURTH CHILD
ABUBAKAR (BABA) AWUMBILA

“When you are sorrowful, look again in your heart, and you shall see that, in truth, you are weeping for that which has been your delight.”
– Kahlil Gibran

Daddy, I still can't believe you're no longer with us. The suddenness of your departure has made it incredibly difficult to comprehend a world without you. It feels surreal, and I find myself struggling to accept this new reality. It's impossible not to feel the void left by your absence.

When I reflect on my life now, it becomes abundantly clear how much of an influence you had on shaping the person I've become. Your values, your wisdom, your humility, your integrity and your love have left an indelible mark on me.

One of the qualities I admired most about you was your insatiable curiosity and genuine interest in understanding the world and everyone you encountered. You never shied away from exploring new ideas or engaging with diverse perspectives. Your thirst for knowledge was contagious, and it inspired me to embrace learning and exploring this complicated world we live in with an open mind.

You always supported me, even when I chose a path that was different from what you wanted for me. I remember when I decided to pursue a career as a software engineer instead of returning to school for an advanced degree as you advised, you didn't falter in your support. On the contrary, you took a keen interest in my work, always showing genuine fascination and encouraging my pursuit. Your belief and interest fueled my confidence and motivation, and I cannot express how much that meant to me.

I fondly recall the days when you brought home all sorts of fascinating pets. From that tortoise you rescued migrating from a dried pond, teaching me everything about its care and warning me not to get my fingers snapped off by its shell, to humoring me when I wanted to keep a scorpion as a pet even though Mama, in her wisdom, rightfully vetoed that idea. You always found ways to make learning and discovery exciting.

When I was blessed with the opportunity to study in the United States at the age of 18, I was scared to venture out on my own into the unknown, far from home, and unsure of what awaited me. But you soothed my fears by sharing your own post-graduation experiences and adventures in the USSR and Germany, instilling in me a sense of adventure and curiosity for the world.



That defining moment in my life transformed me and set me on a path of exploration and personal growth. The struggles of acclimating to a new country at that young age were immense, but you did your best to support me in your own unique way from afar.

Our conversations about my hobbies, like geocaching and growing my own vegetables, revealed surprising parallels to your own experiences in youth and made me realize I was more like you than I realized.

Your ability to remember the relationships I formed with friends from various walks of life was remarkable. You never forgot any of my friends, even the ones you briefly met. You would inquire about them, recalling details I had long forgotten. Your memory was a testament to your genuine appreciation for human experiences and your ability to make lasting connections.

Your sense of humor was a gift that brightened even the most challenging situations. I remember sharing work-related stress with you, and you would effortlessly find humor in the midst of it all, like our running joke about making some lizard jerky. Your ability to find joy and laughter in the face of adversity was truly remarkable.

My childhood memories are filled with countless acts of love from you. I remember eagerly awaiting your arrival home every night, rushing to greet you at your car. Even when you caught my older brother and me raiding the kitchen fridge at midnight, you playfully referred to us as the “midnight movers,” transforming our mischief into a lighthearted memory.

Our weekend trips to the polo club hold a special place in my heart. While you socialized with your friends and colleagues, I had the opportunity to play with their children and enjoy my favorite grilled sausages from the Chukka Grill. As I grew older, I came to cherish our Saturday mornings where I would drive you to buy kenkey at the night market and run errands at the university farms. I still remember the animal anatomy lessons you taught us on Saturdays when we would slaughter, clean and prepare the animals we ate as a family. Now that I am older, I really value that experience of understanding the source of the food I consumed.

Every day, I strive to live up to your example of profound humility, unwavering integrity, hard work, and kindness. You embodied these virtues effortlessly, and may they continue to guide me as I navigate through life. I hope and pray that I am able to live up to your example.

Thank you for everything, Daddy. I love you, and I miss you deeply. May your soul find solace and tranquility as you rest in the presence of the Lord.

Till we meet again,
Your son, Baba.

TRIBUTE BY
PROF. BAWA AWUMBILA'S FAMILY

ISAIAH 57:1-2

**“Good people die and no one understands or even cares. But when they die, no calamity can hurt them.
Those who live good lives find peace and rest in death.”**

Indeed, words cannot describe this difficult moment standing before your motionless body to bid you farewell. As a family, Prof. Bawa Awumbila was known and called Dr. Bawa and was the head of the Ayouda clan of Zawse in the Binduri District of the Upper East Region of Ghana. As a family it's very difficult to understand with a heavy heart reading your tribute today before the congregation. Dr. Bawa was born in 1943 to the late Azong Wimbil who was a Gold Coast Police at the time and a native of Zawse in the Binduri District and Agosying Apaata a house wife of Wande in the Bawku Municipality all in the Upper East Region.

After the death of his father the late Azong Wimbil, one of his senior brother who was living in Gambaga at the time by name Asitanga Asianebe sent him to Gambaga in the North East Region to live with him where he started his Education at Gambaga L/A Primary School, he then proceeded to Nalerigu Middle Boarding School. where he was later brought back to Bawku Middle Boarding in 1958 to join his colleagues like the present Wande Chief Naba Thomas Abilla, Norbert Abilla, Charles Akame, John Awimbilla, Issaka Belko, Dr. Batiny and others, as brilliant student he was always first in class which attained him a Scholarship to study Veterinary medicine in Russia.

The family clearly remembers your difficult and challenging times, when the family could not help you in your education because of poverty but that didn't prevent you from striving hard in life and through prayers and hard work, the good lord answered your prayers and placed you in the higher level of your academic ladder. You were a man of tradition and culture who did not shy away, especially what was to do with the people of Kusaug and we could remember when you chaired the Samanpiid festival of your motherland, the Kusaug.

Your absence within these few days makes us feel the heat of the sun that makes us know that the shadow of the mighty tree has really fallen.

Dr. Bawa we love you but the creator loves you most and we will continue to pray for your soul.

Dr. Bawa, rest well with your maker.

Pam sum.

TRIBUTE BY GRANDCHILDREN



AIDEN MATE MATE-KOLE



Grandpa, this is a tribute to you from your loving grandchild!

Remember when I used to comb your hair and jump on your walker when I saw you walking by? It was so much fun! You always looked so happy, and I liked making you smile. You had silvery hair, and I enjoyed combing through it.

Grandpa, you never got mad at me when I jumped on your walker. Instead, you would laugh and play along! We had so much fun together. Those memories make me happy, and I will always remember them in my heart.

You always asked me what I did in school and what books I read. You were so interested in me, and it made me feel special. You made me feel important, Grandpa. I remember when you took us to see the animals at the university farms last Christmas. It was so exciting! We saw cows, goats, white horses and donkeys! We even saw big trucks on the farm. It was the best time ever!

Grandpa, I want you to know that I love you so much. Even though you're not here anymore, I will always remember the fun we had and how you made me feel special.

Thank you for being the best grandpa in the whole wide world!

ADRIAN OPATA MATE-KOLE



Dear Grandpa,

I want to tell the world about you, the sweetest grandpa anyone could ever have. You always made me feel so special with your warm hugs, high-fives, and the yummy chocolates you gave me every day. Mate and I loved to ride on your walker whilst you pushed us around, which turned into exciting adventures for both of us.

Christmas will be boring without your chocolates. You were my superhero, always ready to put a smile on my face with your magical chocolate treats. I'll never forget the sparkle in your eyes when you handed me those yummy candies.

Mummy said you have gone to be with Jesus in Heaven. But Jesus is in my heart. That means you are in my heart too.



TRIBUTE BY GRANDCHILDREN

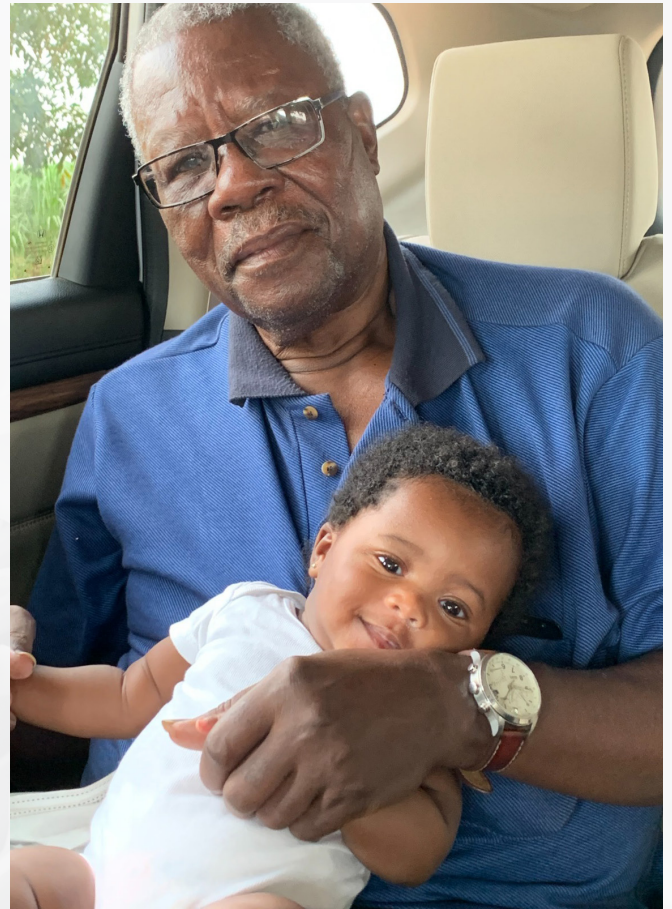
ARIANNA DAALE MATE- KOLE

To my dearest Grandpa,

Thank you for being such a wonderful grandpa, Grandpa. You make my world brighter with your love and laughter. As I grow older, I know mummy will show me our pictures together and tell me all the wonderful stories of you babysitting me.

I'll cherish these memories we're creating together, and one day I'll tell everyone about how we wore matching ribbons in our hair. You always gave me chocolates and made me feel so special. I learnt to eat apples from stealing from your plate.

I love you, Grandpa, to the moon and back!



ANNAYA ROSE AFUA ANANE-BINFOH

Dear Grandpa,

My mother was named after your mother so you called me your sister.

I play on your bed every morning and evening.

Grandpa gave me a slice of his apple every evening, that's why my first word was 'apple'. He also gave me Toblerone every evening.

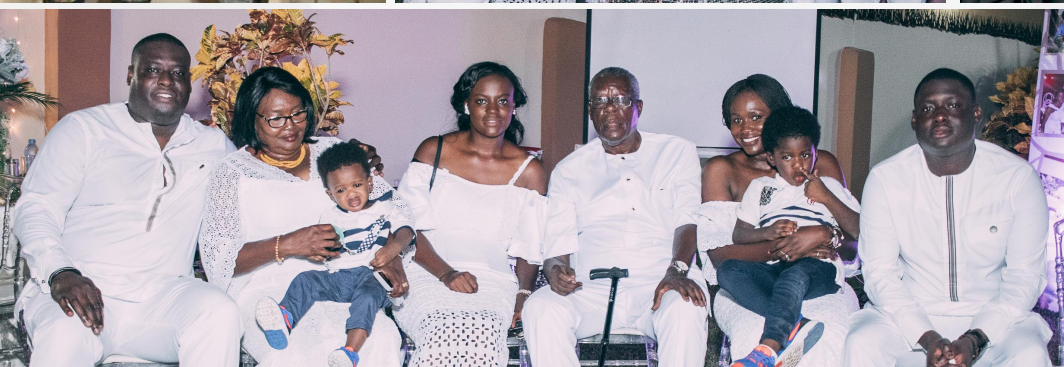
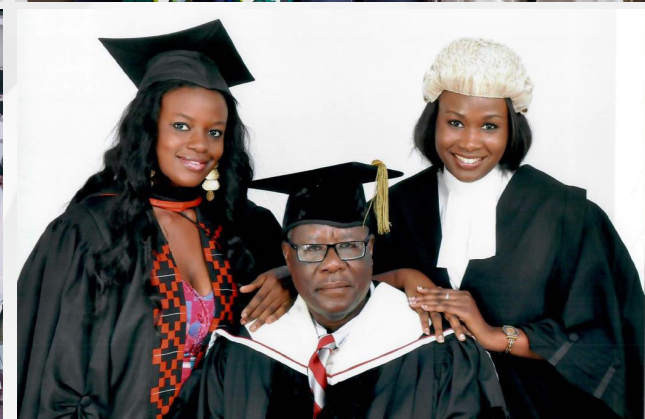
I miss playing on Grandpa's bed and hiding his remote.

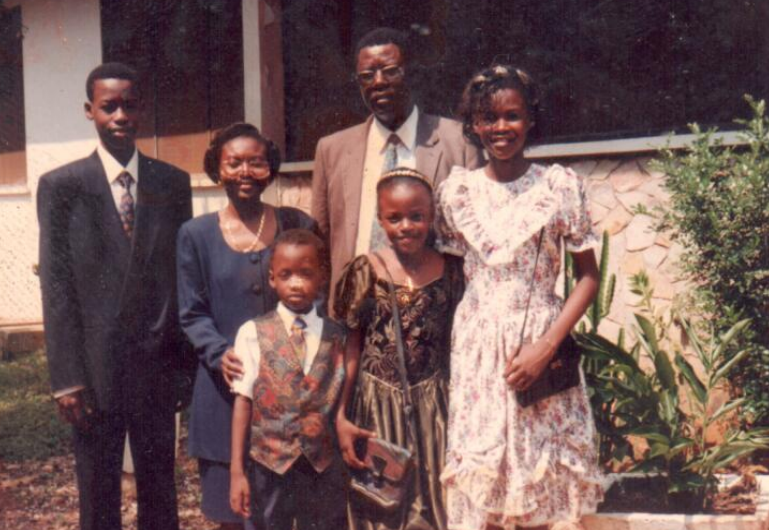
I miss you Grandpa,

Love,

your sister Annaya Rose







TRIBUTE BY
BROTHER-IN-LAW



DR. SAMUEL BUGRI



A close Friend and Brother-in-law

We grew up together in Bawku and after completing secondary school, we both made use of Eastern European scholarships that Dr.Kwame Nkrumah had secured from his Non Aligned Movement Countries.

You: to Kiev in Ukraine to study Veterinary Medicine and I, to Sarajevo in Yugoslavia to study Medicine.

We came back in the early 70s.

I was posted to Tamale and you remained in the veterinary headquarters in Accra. We stayed in close contact and whenever I was in town, we would spend time together breaking bottles and vice versa when you came up North. After many years in Europe as young graduates, we decided it was time to settle down and raise families. We were both looking for soulmates when your eyes fell on one of my sisters. To this date, I'm so glad the introduction I made back then was a fruitful one, and you got your soulmate. You as a Kusasi was brave enough to marry a Princess from one of the biggest Mamprusi royal families. We wondered whether it will work, but where there is a will there is surely a way and with love and the grace of God that marriage has endured all this time.

Thank you for honoring the introduction to my sister.

Your contribution to Veterinary services in Ghana and the faculty of Animal sciences and Agriculture at the University of Ghana will always be remembered, deeply appreciated and highly respected.

Early in April 2023, you called to check on me and we had a great chat on the phone. Little did I know that was the last time I would hear from you. The memories we shared; I will always keep.

May your soul rest peacefully in the bosom of Father Abraham.

Farewell my dear friend and brother-in-law.



TRIBUTE BY
BROTHER-IN-LAW

EMMANUEL YAKUBU

I first met my late brother-in-law (Doc as we affectionately called him) around 1979 when he was busy wooing my dear sister and his widow (Professor Mariama Awumbila). I was in boarding school at the time (I believe most of you know the kind of not so palatable food we often had), so when Doc invited myself and my cousin, William, to his residence at Osu and made us spaghetti with salad, we relished the meal and tucked into it like there was no tomorrow, lapping up every last morsel. After that he introduced us to the Squash computer game for the first time, and we really had a lot of fun at his house. All in all, he was such a magnanimous host. Unfortunately every good thing comes to an end as we had to return to our dormitories that evening, but I considered there and then, that he was an ideal candidate for the hand of my sister.

Doc was kind and treated people with respect; he welcomed me into his home and treated me as his younger brother. He was a hands-on person and I learnt a lot from him. In essence he became the default big brother I never had. This was reciprocated and he used to refer to me as 'my soul brother'. He was a very good cook and made the best grilled fish. He always made sure, anytime I was visiting to bring him new supplies of his favourite spices. My most loved was the roast pork he would cook over the weekends and I always looked forward to this.

I remember receiving a black Adidas tracksuit as a gift from one of Doc's numerous trips abroad. I became the envy of my house mates at Achimota School and every time I wore it, I used to get approving looks and comments.

Doc, when I last spoke with you on Saturday 20th May, you told me you were going to be discharged the following Monday. You did not give me any inkling that the end was so nigh. I was thus very shocked and beyond words, when I received the devastating message that you have been called home to the Lord.

I will always cherish your encouragement to stay focused and the many other nuggets of wisdom you offered. I vividly remember the words of advice you gave me when you were going to drop me at Kotoka Airport in September 1991 enroute to board a flight to the UK for the first time. Thank you for being a part of my life.

You will forever remain in our hearts and thoughts. May the perpetual light of the Lord shine on you; sleep well until we meet again.

TRIBUTE BY
SON-IN-LAW

EMMANUEL MATE-KOLE

In loving memory of Daddy,

Let me borrow a quote from Shakespeare's Julius Caesar.

“Cowards die many times before their deaths; the Valiant never taste of death but once. Of all the wonders that I yet have heard. It seems to me most strange that men should fear; Seeing that death, a necessary end, will come when it will come”.

It is the latter part of the quote that intrigues me – “Seeing that death, a necessary end, will come when it will come”. This means that death is inescapable. There is no use worrying about it. We can only live our lives to the fullest until then.

The late Professor who I call Daddy had a similar saying and he used it anytime the subject of death or the fear of it came up. His answer was simple and in twi. “Y3b3 wu nti yen da” which means the same thing. There is no use worrying about death. Simply live your life to the fullest. He said it so many times that you would think he originated that twi phrase. Daddy did not worry about death to the very end.

The last time we spoke at the hospital he was making preparations to meet Uncle Amadu at Loggia when he is discharged.

I informed him I was travelling to the UK and asked him what he desired from the UK, his response was simple. He wished for Toblerone to savor with his beloved grandson Opata, who inherited his grandfather's love for sweet things.

Daddy I want you to know that I brought the Toblerone and every piece has found its way into Opata's hands. He will relish them just as he cherished the moments spent with you.

Daddy was a remarkable man whose presence brought joy and warmth to our lives. He was a jovial, down-to-earth personality, and loved engaging in conversations about history, politics and current affairs. He was very knowledgeable about many things.

One particular memory stands out among the many cherished moments we shared. It was the day he introduced me to Chateauneuf du Pape, a wine that now holds a special place in my heart. Each time I drink this wine I will remember you Daddy.

Daddy, we will miss you deeply. Our hearts ache for the laughter, the stories, and the warmth you brought into our lives, especially during our shared Christmas celebrations.

Yet, as we bid farewell, we take solace in knowing that you have found peace in a better place.

We believe that wherever you may be, you are smiling down upon us, guiding us with your love and wisdom.

May your soul rest in perfect peace, Daddy. As we continue on our journey, we carry the memories of your kind spirit, your unwavering love, and the joy you shared with us.

Your legacy lives on in our hearts, and your presence will forever be felt.

Farewell, dear Daddy. You will be cherished, remembered, and celebrated always.



TRIBUTE BY
SON-IN-LAW



NANA YAW ANANE-BINFOH



Sunday, May 21, 2023, was a heartbreaking day for us; we suffered the unexpected loss of a cherished member of our family – my father-in-law. He was known for his caring nature and deep love for his family. We were unprepared for his sudden demise because he was in high spirits and looking forward to returning home.

I had the pleasure of meeting Professor Bawa Awumbila while visiting Aisha, now my wife, at Lower Hill on Legon Campus. He made me feel like a part of the family and ensured I felt at home during my visits.

Prof was always full of life, very engaging and knowledgeable, especially about the many places he had visited around the world and in Ghana and was always ready to share stories. He had a profound sense of humour and no matter the kind of day you had, he could find a way to put a smile on your face and make you laugh.

I had the rare opportunity of joining him with his friends on a few occasions at the Loggia, Senior Common Room of the Mensah Sarbah Hall, where we had engaging and stimulating discussions and debates. The pork khebab was particularly memorable.

Prof was very generous, making sure to treat us to his finest wines and liquor and invited us over for barbecues, where he would share his secret spice blends.

Your passing has left a huge vacuum and our Christmas and New Year celebrations would never be the same. We celebrate your life and will always cherish the memories we shared. Know that your love and peaceful memories will continue to be our guide. You will forever hold a special place in our hearts.



TRIBUTE BY
**SCHOOL OF VETERINARY MEDICINE,
UNIVERSITY OF GHANA**



The history of the establishment of the University of Ghana School of Veterinary Medicine (UGSVM) cannot be told without the role played by Professor Bawa Awumbila, a stalwart of the Veterinary Profession in Ghana.

After his immense contributions to the country's development as Deputy Minister of Agriculture in the Third Republic of Ghana (1979-1981), Prof. Awumbila, a trained Veterinary Surgeon and Veterinary Pathologist, decided to embark on an academic career. He was appointed Lecturer in the Department of Animal Science, University of Ghana in 1982.

While there, the then Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture, Emeritus Professor E.V. Doku (now late), seeing the urgent need for the Veterinary Surgeons to be trained in Ghana requested another doyen of the Veterinary Profession, Prof. R.K.G Assoku (also late), then Head of Department of Animal Science to prepare a proposal for the establishment of the School of Veterinary Medicine in November 1985. That initial process of starting the School was stalled on account of inadequate resources.

However, in January 2006, the Veterinary Council of Ghana, of which Prof. Awumbila was a member formally requested the University of Ghana to renew the establishment effort. Professor Awumbila was able to secure a copy of the earlier University proposal.

This was modified by a sub-committee of the Veterinary Council and presented to the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Clifford Tagoe who promptly set up a committee to plan the establishment of the current University of Ghana School of Veterinary Medicine (UGSVM).

Professor Awumbila played an unforgettable role in planning the School. He was transferred from the Department of Animal Science to the UGSVM in 2010. He was a pillar in the faculty, teaching from the first batch of students, Veterinary Gross Anatomy, Animal Handling and Veterinary Gross Pathology until his retirement. He provided strong support for Administration, faculty development and in other areas of building the School. Prof Awumbila, we of the School of Veterinary, University of Ghana, shall always remember you for the many things you did for the school including your jokes during practical and lecture sessions.

May your soul rest in perfect peace



LAUNCHING OF THE UNIVERSITY OF GHANA SCHOOL OF VETERINARY MEDICINE

TRIBUTE BY
DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL SCIENCE
UNIVERSITY OF GHANA



**“Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me;
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.”**

Psalm 23:4.

Indeed, all Senior Members, staff and students of the Department of Animal Science are still struggling to come to terms with the sudden call to eternity of our senior colleague, teacher and mentor, Prof. Bawa Awumbila. Until his retirement, Prof. Awumbila had been our Godfather and counsellor, the one we consulted whenever we needed direction on issues germane to our field and in most cases, we benefited from his rich experience, amazing memory and well thought through pieces of advice.

We are however consoled by the fact that he has contributed his quota not only to the development of Animal Science and Veterinary Medicine in Ghana but has also been a great part of Ghana's Animal Agriculture.

On behalf of the Vice Chancellor, Provost of the College of Basic and Applied Sciences, Dean of the School of Agriculture, Senior Members, staff and students of the Department of Animal Science, University of Ghana, I extend our deepest condolences to Prof. Awumbila's family.

The late Prof. Bawa Awumbila was appointed as Lecturer in the Department of Animal Science of the erstwhile Faculty of Agriculture in 1982, promoted to Senior Lecturer in 1993, and to Associate Professor in 2003. He served in this capacity in the Department of Animal Science until 2010 when he was transferred to become one of the founding pillars of the newly created School of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Ghana. He supervised many students at both the undergraduate and graduate levels, and conducted pioneering research in animal health and production particularly in the savanna and semi-arid zones of Ghana, which have significantly impacted the livestock sector.

For instance, he was involved in the setting up of grandparent poultry stocks at several commercial poultry farms and his keen interest in horse breeding led him to diagnose an outbreak of African Horse Sickness at the Accra Polo Club in 1986.

Socially, the late Prof. Awumbila was an amazing personality. He will be sorely missed for his great sense of humour, good human relations and his ability to interact freely with colleagues, subordinates, and the many students he taught and supervised. Prof. loved reading and every morning at the Department of Animal Science, he would make sure we go and get copies of the Daily Graphic and the Daily Guide newspapers for him. His commitment to training of students was unsurpassable and he gave his all even when he was on post-retirement contract. Indeed, the Livestock Industry in Ghana has lost a great scientist and an inspiring teacher. May the good Lord Himself console the family and all of us who had the opportunity to work with Prof.

Prof. Bawa Awumbila, senior colleague, teacher, friend, father and mentor, rest in perfect peace in the everlasting arms of the Lord Almighty.
In the sure hope of the resurrection, we believe we shall all meet again.

TRIBUTE BY
**VETERINARY COUNCIL AND
GHANA VETERINARY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION**



**“To everything there is a season. A time to be born and a time to die.
A time to plant and a time to harvest what is planted”.**

Ecc1 3, 1-2.

When giants fall the ground feels it most. When Professor Awumbila fell the veterinary fraternity and academia felt the tremors of the departure of one of their own.

After his training in Kiev the capital of Ukraine in the then Soviet Union in 1975 he came back to Ghana to serve his motherland at a time when the veterinary profession was in its infant stages in Ghana. The task was huge but they had the men to execute it.

As providence will have it, he was posted to the veterinary laboratory to start his journey in veterinary practice. He expected the unknown but conquered it due to his technical competence and the strong desire to succeed. In the laboratory he visited field veterinarians to support the control of Lumpy Skin Disease which was one of the threats to the livestock industry then.

He undertook extensive research and extension work in the livestock industry in the country including veterinary service to poultry farms, hatcheries and feed mills. He was involved in the establishment of parent stock poultry farm in Pomadze Poultry Enterprise, Darko Farms, Akropong Farms and Glamour Farms. He helped establish the Sam & Sam Dairy Farm in 1978.

Professor Awumbila was in Senegal and Guinea to purchase trypanotolerant cattle for a World Bank Project. In 1977 and 1978 he was the first to diagnose an outbreak of African Horse Sickness in Ghana at the Accra Polo Club in 1986. Apart from these activities, he collaborated with the Food Research Institute of the CSIR of Ghana and the Florida A&M University, Tallahassee in the utilization of sea food waste for the production of mushroom and possibly animal feed in Ghana.

His hard work like a candle in the dark caught the eye of the Limman government at the time and was deservedly made the Deputy Minister of Agriculture in charge of Livestock and Fisheries. After the short political lifespan of the Limman administration he did not give up because that was not his style instead, he took a big step into academia to demonstrate his versatility in all aspects of the livestock industry.

As a lecturer, he endeared himself to his students through his patience and unassuming way of delivering his lectures. He served as supervisor for a lot of students, scientists and veterinarians including Dr. Jonathan Amakye-Anim the current Chairman of the Veterinary Council of Ghana and a lecturer at the School of Veterinary Medicine as an external supervisor for his research in Ketosis of Milking Cows.

He was a founding member of the School of Veterinary Medicine of the University of Ghana alongside Professor Aning, the late Dr. Gyening and a few other prominent veterinarians. The products of the school remember the way he carried the abstract of his doctoral dissertation in his pocket on academic occasions such as thesis defense and others. The document was admirably so cute it could pass for a manual. The idea was not to boast but to show how voluminous page of academic research could be compressed and yet maintain its value. In the field of academic debate, he was intimidating yet in social life he was the exact opposite; his huge physical frame notwithstanding.

Academic and political life did not distract him from his social responsibilities to the veterinary profession. He was the Vice President of the Ghana Veterinary Medical Association from 1992 to 1994. His contribution in laying a solid foundation for the association cannot be overlooked.

He was instrumental in helping to promulgate the Veterinary Surgeons Law, Act 305C of 1992 which forms the legal bedrock of the Veterinary Council of Ghana.

To the family we say in times of pain and loss, the timeless God is our greatest comfort. The glory of life is to love and not to be loved, to give not to take, to serve not to be served. These were the qualities in Prof. that we shall miss dearly.

**Now the labourer's task is over;
Now the battle day is past;
Now upon the farther shore, lands the voyager at last.
Father, in thy gracious keeping,
Leave we now thy servant sleeping**

**Earth to earth, and dust to dust,
Calmly now the words we say;
Leaving him to sleep in trust
Till the resurrection day.**

Fare thee well Prof.

TRIBUTE BY
ST. THOMAS AQUINAS CATHOLIC CHAPLAINCY



**“Teach me, O Lord, not to hold on to life too tightly.
Teach me to hold it lightly; not carelessly, but lightly, easily.
Teach me to take it as a gift, to enjoy and cherish while I have it, and to let it go gracefully and thankfully
when the time comes.
The gift is great, but the Giver is greater still.
Thou, O God, art the Giver, and in thee is the Life that never dies. Amen.**

(Theodore Parker Ferris)

Today, we gather to honor and remember a remarkable soul, Professor Bawa Awumbila, whose unwavering devotion and faithful presence within our Catholic community at Legon has left an indelible mark on our hearts.

As we reflect upon his life, we are reminded of the profound impact he had on all who crossed his path.

Professor Awumbila, fondly regarded as one of our esteemed “senior parishioners” by our revered chaplain, Rev. Fr. Abaiku Apprey, exemplified the very essence of a true believer. With his serene voice and wise counsel, he was a constant source of inspiration and guidance for any discussion concerning the growth and future of our church on campus. His passion for a new church was evident as he generously contributed to numerous fundraising initiatives, ardently supporting the vision of a spiritual sanctuary for all.

For many years, Professor Awumbila graced our Sunday Masses with his presence, until illness confined him to his home. Yet, his dedication to our community remained unwavering.

He treated every individual with profound respect, taking time after Mass to engage in conversations on matters of mutual interest. In the corridors, we will forever remember his warm smile and the joyous exchanges that echoed through the air.

His authenticity and humility enriched the lives of all who had the privilege of knowing him.

To his beloved family, we offer our deepest condolences. We recognize that the void left by the departure of such a loving and kind husband and father is immeasurable.

We pray that you find solace in the knowledge that Professor Awumbila has found eternal peace in the embrace of our Heavenly Father.

Though our hearts ache with the loss of a cherished member of our One Great Family, we hold on to the hope of reuniting one day in the faith we profess, the communion of the saints, and the promise of resurrection. May his soul rest in eternal glory.

Farewell, dear Professor Awumbila. Your legacy will forever shine as a beacon of faith, love, and friendship within our community. May we strive to emulate the genuine spirit you embodied, as we continue to build upon the foundation you helped lay.

Your memory will remain etched in our hearts, inspiring us to live lives of unwavering devotion and unwavering service to God and one another.

In prayerful solidarity,

St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Chaplaincy

TRIBUTE BY
REV. FATHER MICHAEL OKYEREFO



Professor Bawa Awumbila, Professor G.K. Nukunya and Professor Rocco Baëta were my friends. I got to know them almost immediately after I arrived in Legon in 2002. Professor Kwame Aboagye had introduced me earlier to Professor Nukunya of the Department of Sociology, who was instrumental in getting the Department to hire me. Soon afterwards, he brought me into the circle of his friends, most especially Professors Awumbila and Baëta, with whom we spent many evenings at the Commonwealth Hall Senior Common Room. These men had a great wealth of knowledge into which I tapped and have benefited greatly as an academic. As God would have it, all three of them have left us in succession within a matter of two years.

Among them, Professor Bawa Awumbila was a great storyteller who enlivened our gatherings with many stories, apart from being such a wonderful cook who grilled the choicest portions of meat for us. He knew the best cheese that left the palate happy for a long time to savour the flavour of one's choice of drinks. Indeed, as a veterinary scientist, his knowledge was tremendous and as a human being, his generosity was beyond telling.

A few years ago, Bawa, Kwame Aboagye and I decided to take off for a weekend at Logba Tota in the Volta Region. Perched on the Akwapim Togo ranges, it is a beautiful settlement with a good road at the time and well treated water from the mountains. We booked a guest house, and got our supplies and a driver to take us there. The culinary experience provided by the cooks we engaged was unforgettable. We got up early in the morning, got ready, had breakfast and explored the area, visiting Mount Gemi at Amedzorfe, the Monkey Sanctuary at Tafi Atome, Wli Waterfalls and the Likpe mountains.

The mountain caves at Logba Tota have stalagmites and stalactites, which we decided to see. On the morning of the trip, which was to last several kilometres on foot, Bawa decided to simply see us off and remain at home. It turned out he had a great intuition of encountering some trouble because it was an arduous journey through such an unfriendly terrain that we probably would have been faced with a difficult decision regarding how to carry him home, which the guides told us happened often. They narrated the ordeal they went through one time when they had to carry a heavy Caucasian who stubbornly refused to be dissuaded not to go there in the first place. And when they brought him back to the town, he was very mean in paying the tour guides less than the agreed price; he appeared to have been a man of many means but a mean man. When we narrated the incident to Bawa upon our return, he laughed and said, "I knew you couldn't carry me, which is why I declined to go with you". We have had lots of laughter about this ever since.

Such laughter was never lacking whenever Professor Awumbila told his own many stories, particularly reminiscing about incidents surrounding his student days in the Ukraine, Russia and Germany. One such story was about the delicious meals he and some African students made of the forbidden neighbourhood birds and flushed their feathers down the toilet, only for the sewerage system to bust open one hot summer afternoon. The security guard, whose anger and insults were directed at the Arab students made the African students stay out of sight with sadistic laughter.

Oh, how could I forget Bawa's encounter with an immigration officer at the United Kingdom border control. The officer asked why Bawa he was carrying so many bottles of vodka, to which Bawa responded with the hilarious words: "I drink one bottle of vodka a day". Soon after saying that the officer sought to impound the entire consignment, whereupon Bawa said "let me drink at least the one for today, then you may seize the rest". Bawa opened a bottle and began drinking from it, pretending he would empty the entire bottle down his throat in one go. Seized with amazement, the immigration officer looked around and told Bawa to take the whole consignment home. I would ask Bawa to re-tell this story at many of our gatherings as it instilled a great deal of laughter in us.

Bawa was proud of his Catholic faith. When he left Ghana to study, he took his Latin Missal with him and offered it to the priest in that part of Eastern Europe where he went, realizing the priest's Missal was badly torn, given the communist era had shut them off from the rest of the world with difficult access to even books.

Bawa, the amazing moments you spent with us will be forever remembered. Your great stories are imprinted in my heart and mind; I learned a great deal from you. We spent many wonderful evenings together in the Commonwealth Hall Senior Common Room for several years. What I enjoyed above all was whenever I travelled in the summer and the three of you migrate to the Loggia, you returned to the Hill when I came back from my holidays, for you all called me "Father" or "The Church", while I addressed each of you with your respectable title, "Professor". I remember with heartfelt nostalgia, the camaraderie from which I have benefited so much. When you, Professor Nukunya and Professor Baëta migrated permanently to the Loggia because you could no longer go down and up the steps at the Commonwealth Hall Senior Common Room, I would visit my friends at the Loggia from time to time.

I am grateful for your friendship and will continue to pray for you and all our faithful departed. You, Professor Nukunya and Professor Baëta have left us in succession within a matter of two years. May your souls have eternal repose in the Lord.



TRIBUTE BY
THE ZUG RAAN
BAWKU NABA ASIGRI ABUGRAGO AZOKA II



The news of the demise of Prof. Bawa Awumbila on the 21st May 2023, came to me, my elders and indeed the whole of Kusaug, with great shock!

Prof. Awumbila, who hails from Zuos under my traditional area, is a retired Professor at the University of Ghana, and a proud son of Kusaug.

Prof. Awumbila, you played many important roles during your life for the progress of Ghana, Kusaug and the world at large.

As an academic, I am very much aware that you were a father to our sons and daughters who studied at the University of Ghana while you were a lecturer and even after your retirement. You offered good counselling and support to most of them who are now serving in various parts of Ghana including Kusaug.

I was also informed of the important role you played in facilitating the translation of Dr. Haaf's book about Kusaas, which was originally written in German, into English for the wider reading by our people. I am told that the book contains very rich information about Kusaas traditional medicine and other aspects of our culture and traditions which are very important for posterity.

You made Kusaug proud in the early 1980s when you were appointed Deputy Minister for Agriculture under the government of the late President of Ghana, His Excellency, Dr. Hilla Limann, even though his administration was short-lived.

During your life, you were always ready and willing to share your wisdom and rich experience for the progress of Kusaug anytime you were called upon to do so.

The Kusaug Traditional Council is grateful to you and your family who stood by you as you played important roles for Ghana, Kusaug and humanity at large!

May our ancestors and the Almighty God receive you in their Heavenly abode and protect your family for us!

Diginim sunga ka guuri ti

TRIBUTE BY PROF. AMADU AYEBO



It is a difficult task to pay tribute to a brother you have literally lived most of your entire life, from highschool to the twilight of our lives. Attempting to summarize this is rather difficult, let me just say we have been there for each other throughout our private and professional lives. Let us put aside the taunts we heaped on him as the senior arranging for our school supplies and transport to and from Bawku to Tamale. He took all that with great humor.

Fast forward to 1976 when I was at the airport to welcome him from Germany. He joined the Vet. Service and we were together till I left in 1977 for the USA to University of Nebraska. He represented me on several important family occasions.

On my return in December 1980, my brother was now the Deputy Minister of Agriculture. We had a short stint till 31st December '81. The episode needs a bit of clarification. Ministers and party functionaries were ordered to report to a safe house and promised passage home, Bawa after careful deliberation and noting that he did nothing wrong, decided to report. I drove him to Cantonments police station, we walked to the counter and He said to the officer, "I am Dr. Bawa Awumbila". The officer retorted "And so what?".

Instead of quietly turning and walking away, Bawa said, "Deputy Minister of Agriculture!". The counter entrance was quietly opened and the officer - in an excited mood, waved Him into 'counter back' to join the other Ministers and functionaries. He was released after 10 days of protective custody as insurance.

Returning to the crux of this tribute: Bawa demonstrated a very high sense of intellect, passion and above all, a gentle demeanor under difficult situations. He was soft spoken, but with complete clarity of purpose. Nothing unusual happened during my visit at UGMC after church on Sunday 21 May. The usual chit chat and plans for his discharge the next day (Monday). He was, as usual, very interactive.

I will sorely miss you, my senior brother. Rest in the Lord's arms, and I pray you will be waiting at the pearly gates, to welcome me!! Just as I was at KIA to welcome you home in 1976. There is much to share, but let me just say - Paam Sum!!



TRIBUTE BY SAMUEL BUKARI AZONKO



It is with profound sadness that Matilda and I write this tribute in contribution to a befitting send off and in celebration of the life of a much loved uncle of ours, Professor Bawa Awumbila.

Uncle Bawa has been inspirational to me in my youth and to my wife and I in adult life. As an infant, he helped to look after me. His encouragement and setting the pace for his nieces and nephews fuelled my resolve to work hard and remain focused. Uncle Bawa wanted us all to do well for ourselves. Today Matilda and I are proud to say Uncle Bawa was a great uncle.

He was a good listener and enjoyed lighthearted moments with us. He was open-minded, with a good sense of humour. He sometimes cooked Matilda 'domedo' or 'kpotolo', an endorsement of his love for culinary delights, which Auntie Mariama happily permitted.

Uncle Bawa always assumed the role of mediator within the family. He advised peace and encouraged restraint. He almost always 'held his cool', and did so admirably. We are grateful to God for his life. You are already missed and will be forever missed. Our faith teaches us to hold on to our hope of meeting again. God be with you and may His love securely hold you till we meet again.

SHORT TRIBUTES



FATI AMANDI



Doctor Bawa was a loving husband, father, and dedicated family man. I remember him for his gentleness of spirit, kindness, and friendliness. He had a unique sense of humor that tended not to suffer fools and this was done pleasantly. He was a pioneer in our community.

As an educator, he paved a way for several of our younger generation to move forward no matter how hard or challenging it may seem. He will be greatly missed. May He Rest rest in Peace.

SAFIA SALIFU



At a time like this there is confusion in the mind and you are lost for words. When I think of Daddy as I prefer to call him instead of Prof. Bawa, what comes to my mind are the words of the great poet Maya Angelou

“ People will forget what you said, people will forget what you did but people will never forget how you made them feel”

Daddy was caring and wonderful to be with. He was a disciplinarian who did not compromise when it came to learning.

Consequently he always encouraged me to study hard and to aspire to greater heights. He guided me anytime I approached him with my challenges. Daddy I am grateful that you were always there for me.

You may have passed on but your memories would always live on.

I am grateful to the Almighty God for your life and having you in the family.

You will forever be missed Daddy. Rest in Perfect Peace

CHARLES KUMI ADJEI (YOUR PERSONAL NURSE)



As we lay you to rest, Prof, my tears fall and my heart remembers all the ways you cared for me not just as your personal nurse but your grandson as well. Even in your death, I will miss your wisdom drawn from years of experience. These few months with you have been my life changing moments as a young man. Thank you very much and you will be dearly missed. REST IN PEACE PROF, TILL WE MEET AGAIN.

RUKAYA ASIBI SAKO



You were such an inspiring person, the memories shared with you will forever be remembered. Rest well grandpa.

TRIBUTE BY THE AWINDAOGO FAMILY



We pay tribute to our respected, revered and cherished Senior Uncle, Professor Bawa Awumbila (Dada Kp3m, in Kusaal, Big/Senior Uncle), a beacon of knowledge and wisdom and a cornerstone in the building of our legacy. A colossal figure not by mere virtue of his height.

Your life, a testament to the power of learning and the pursuit of knowledge. A store of knowledge like no other. Well learned in Kusasi tradition. Spinning tales of our rich cultural heritage with an eloquence and poise, captivating beyond measure. Instilling in us a deep respect and understanding of our Kusasi roots.

First to become Professor you remain torchbearer, illuminating our paths. You set the pace for us to aspire towards higher academic pursuits. You believed education not to be solely a means to personal achievement but a powerful instrument to uplift others. A passionate scholar and a dedicated educator, who consistently used knowledge as a tool to enlighten and empower, transcending beyond barriers. Your lifelong dedication to education has not just been for the sake of amassing degrees or laurels. It was a pursuit fuelled by a desire to empower the generations that would follow you. You knowingly or unknowingly fostered many dreams and aspirations.

Your remarkable achievements notwithstanding, you remained ever modest and ever humble. Your towering intellect did not overshadow your humility; rather, it was complemented by an astounding level of humanity that made you stand tall above all. Your humility, in the face of your immense wisdom and stature, is a lesson, reminding us that true greatness lies not in the wealth of knowledge one possesses but in the depth of positive influence on others.

Today, we pay homage to a life lived in service of knowledge, wisdom, and humanity. We celebrate a man who has devoted his life to the upliftment of others through education. A man who has shown us that intelligence and compassion can coexist, and that the true purpose of knowledge is to serve and empower.

To our dear Uncle, we say, your legacy will continue to inspire, educate, and empower generations to come. May your love for knowledge, your dedication to service, and your unwavering commitment to our growth forever remain etched in our hearts. You have left an indelible imprint on our lives, and for that, we are forever grateful.

You have been more than an Senior Uncle. A role model, a mentor, a guide, and a source of inspiration not only to us, to Kusaug and beyond.

Kusaug has indeed lost a mighty oak.
More significantly one that is irreplaceable.
Rest in perfect peace, our beloved Senior Uncle.

May your soul find eternal peace in the bosom of the Good Lord.

Francis K. Awindaogo (Deceased)
Rachel R. Awindaogo
Grace Awindaogo
Dr. Felix R. Awindaogo
Dr. Freeman K. Awindaogo
Fred K. Awindaogo
Dr. Joseph K. Awindaogo



TRIBUTE BY
HON. MAHAMA AYARIGA AND SIBLINGS



**For no one is abandoned by the Lord forever.
Though he brings grief, he also shows compassion
because of the greatness of his unfailing love.
For he does not enjoy hurting people or causing them sorrow.**

Lamentations 3:31-33, NLT

Dear Prof., father, uncle, friend, teacher, and counsellor. You have been a dear father to us, and your wisdom and guidance has helped us in every stage of our lives. You instilled in us a sense of family and togetherness. You were always checking on us and our Mum before her demise. It was not out of place to receive a phone call from you with the opening remarks "... I am still alive ..." by way of a reminder that we had not spoken in a while.

You were particularly interested in our wellbeing, especially our education and career choices. You were always curious to know what we were doing at any point in our lives and your involvement, support, and encouragement was immeasurable. Indeed, we have lost a great pillar of support.

Your particular interest and involvement in Mahama's education, as you personally saw to his admission to read law at the University of Ghana and his political career is worth mentioning. You were always available for consultation and to proffer advice in respect of matters affecting his constituency. You would follow every election process if it involved him, and it didn't matter the nature of the election. Like your usual self, you called him immediately after his parliamentary primaries to congratulate him. Little did he know that that would be your last conversation as we heard the news of your demise exactly a week after that conversation.

It was through you influence that Faisal spent his gap year studying physics and chemistry and passed with flying colours even though he took a 3-year course in one year. Time will not allow us to tell of your impact in Zeinab's life.

You were very involved in her choice of schools and programmes to pursue in both secondary school and the university. In your usual jovial way, you would always call to tease her about a case the Attorney-General was pursuing in court and how you also wanted to sue someone or how you wanted to cause some trouble because you had many children who were lawyers and would defend you. You would always ask after Osman and how he was doing in his student politics and career.

Our uncle wore many hats during his lifetime, he was a storehouse of knowledge and experience and was always ready to impact and touch the lives that he encountered. Yet he was comfortable in his own skin and did not cling to material things or positions nor gloat over his academic and career achievements. He was a very humble and principled man.

Thank you for your love, care, counsel, dependability, and encouragement. We are proud to have had a father and an uncle with a brilliant mind, who was a man of peace, and walked through life leaving a smile on the faces of the people he encountered and having educated many.

We know that death is inevitable. When a man has fulfilled his duty to this world, then he can rest in peace. We believe that our uncle made that effort and has earned his eternal sleep.

Ti sa'am sung ... Wina'am na benif
Fu tuum suma na dollif
Paam sunga
Diginim ne suma'asim

TRIBUTE BY
**HON. CLETUS APUL AVOKA,
MP, ZEBILLA CONSTITUENCY**



I was in Zebilla Middle Boarding School (Form 2) in 1965 when then Mr. Bawa Awumbila was posted to the school as a teacher. Mr. Bawa Awumbila was a fine tall young man, elegant and intelligent.

Not surprisingly, he was elected by the headmaster to prepare we those who were to write the Common Entrance Exam that year (1965) to enhance our chances of passing the exams. Professor Bawa Awumbila prepared us academically and intellectually for the exams.

For example, I was so naive that I thought with the objectives paper, question number 1 was answer number 'A' and question number 2, answer number 'B' and so on. It was Mr. Bawa Awumbila who exorcised this naivety from me and educated me that the question numbers have different answer numbers. Thus, with me and possibly many others, he saved a situation!

He was full of wit, technical ability and intelligence, and this motivated and propelled many of us to pass the Common Entrance Exams that year. He was so good that he prevailed and impressed upon the headmaster to allow form one pupils to participate in the exams for the first time and that was how the late honourable John Akparibo Ndebugre [a form one (1) student] wrote the exams and passed.

Zebilla Middle Boarding School set a record that year when as many as fifteen (15) of us passed the Common Entrance to go to various secondary schools in the country.

My second encounter with Professor Bawa Awumbila was in the University of Ghana when he came there as a lecturer. I was a law student and we clicked very well.

Professor Bawa Awumbila was one of the few pioneers in Kusaug to go to school and made such a huge progress and impact on his people. He rallied students from the Bawku Area together, and became the Patron of the Kusaug Students Union/Association in Legon, a position he held for several years. He was a mentor, a motivator and flamboyant leader. Professor Bawa thus contributed immensely to the realisation of Kusaug and Kusasis identity.

Professor Bawa Awumbila had a short but active political career. He was appointed a Deputy Minister responsible for Agriculture under the Hilla Liman Administration in the 3rd Republic in 1979. Even though the 3rd Republic was short-lived, Professor Bawa Awumbila served his country with distinction and without blemish.

Professor Bawa Awumbila's demise is a loss not just to his family, but also to the Kusaug State and mother Ghana.

Professor Bawa Awumbila will be remembered as a disciplinarian, mentor and statesman.

My condolences to his wife, Prof. Mariama Awumbila, the Children, the Zugraana, Asigri Abugrago Azoka II, the entire Kusaug State, and mother Ghana.

May his soul Rest in Perfect Peace!

Paam Sum, Prof!



TRIBUTE BY
**MEMBERS OF THE AKPEDONUKOFE
(LOGGIA TABLE 1)**



I give you a new commandment: love one another as I have loved you.

John 13:34

From Kofi Adansi:

Bawa had an incredible memory and recall of topical events in his own life, and historically of the country as a whole. It was always a joy to have a chat with him about any subject. I'll miss that.

From Kwame Aboagye:

It was March 22, 2023. Deep into 2023 Lent. Bawa writes on the Loggia Platform, "Steve I will not be able to meet you tomorrow but Friday as usual. Sorry for the inconveniences." Kwame reads and remarks, "That will be Friday in Lent oooh!". Bawa does not retort but comes to Loggia on Thursday March 23 and posts on the platform, "AQQ! Chief Catechist, I am at the Loggia!!!!". Kwame is also called AQQ. Kwame smiled to himself and said to himself, "My father Bawa listens. Serious Catholic as he is, he took my Friday in Lent comment seriously."

From Steve Tonah:

My good friend Bawa.... You left so suddenly and unexpectedly. If I knew that was going to be our last conversation that fateful Sunday, I would surely have chatted a bit longer with you.... Thanks for the long calls, the good food, the drinks, the discussions about "God and the world", the laughter, the stories, the sudden burst of emotions and all. You were such a good friend and I miss your company so much. Rest well, my brother.

From Ama Gaines:

Table 1 aka Akpedonukofe was very vibrant in the late 90's at the LOGGIA. We the younger ones were very privileged to be in such company with our late professors Baeta, Togbiga Nukunya, and of course Lorlortor Awumbilla listening to them while they talked about their days abroad, then about scholarly subjects, sports, history, and about his experience in politics, etc. etc. His concern for others, especially for those outside the country, was what earned him the enviable title "Lorlortor". He always called to check, gave needed encouragement, and kept us in touch with other friends. A real morale booster he was!

From Nana Amo – Tom Sawyer:

For the good times, the bad times and the ugly times we shared together, I'll always remember you! Fare thee well, Bawa!!!

From Mawuli Akoto – Makoto:

It started from those evenings in the Commonwealth Hall SCR. The Akrantie Soup from Sokode, the spiced meats you made and the other Hot Pepper Soup made by Togbega. Then we all ended up at LOGGIA TABLE ONE (AKPEDONU KOFE). My ON - OFF - FATHER, rest well in the Lord.

From George Anim:

Brother B, you always encouraged and stood by me, as a truly knowledgeable, hardworking and reliable senior colleague in our profession. May Light Perpetual shine upon you, B.

From Oboshie:

I saw Bawa on Thursday after Togbega's funeral. It was one of my usual stop overs at the Loggia before choir practice. I met Amadu sitting alone and said I almost missed Bawa so I should quickly go and see him before he leaves. I then run to his car and gave him hug. He said "Obo, it's always a joy to see you. How are you? How is business? I can see Ghana is treating you well cos you've put on a little weight. But why did you cut your hair? I didn't recognize you. I thought it was one of the students till I heard your voice. I hope you're not offended. You know I'm joking, right?" He said all that with a big smile across his face. Little did I know he was signing off. Daddy rest well in the Lord.

From Harry Akussah:

Harry, tell my daughter to send me her picture. I have missed her face. "Daddy Bawa, I recall very well the day you asked me the following question after church on a Sunday, "Harry, don't we attend the same church?" My response was yes! "Why then do you keep on calling me Alhaji?" You continued. I indicated to you that it was my way of showing you my respect and appreciation. From that day, I started calling you Daddy till the day the Almighty called you. Daddy, I regret not honouring your last call to meet you at the Loggia. May God grant you a peaceful and eternal rest.

From Walter:

Prof Bawa is such an amazing character full of vivid nostalgia encounters around the globe. Greatly missed.

From Tongona:

Fond memories of my dear brother Prof Bawa with a sharp intellect and a great sense of humor. Greatly missed.

From Larry:

Culinary expert with an extraordinary familiarity with the best of Polish and Ukrainian cuisine, added to his love for Ghanaian and German foods. An expert cook from the stories I heard from his younger days. His quick wit and humor were quite defining of the walking encyclopedia that he was. He regularly applied humor to diffuse tense situations. I remember when Charles Tay, a visiting Professor from Cameroon and a regular at Loggia Table 1 drove into the rear of my car on the motorway one evening, Charles Tay called and informed Bawa about the accident. As we were discussing the situation with the Police who were anxiously waiting to make some money off the situation, I had a call from Bawa, asking me why I reversed into the car of such an innocent Cameroonian. I informed Charles Tay about the call, and the ensuing laughter calmed the situation, we drove away, and met later at the Loggia. Thats Bawa for you, telling expense jokes with an innocent, disarming smile. He shall be greatly missed.

May his soul rest in perfect peace.

From Kwame Oppey:

Prof. my father, friend and a senior barracks colleague. He calls me Kwame Oppey and I respond "Yes Sir" before saying Yes Prof. because of our barracks training. Prof. has an extreme sense of humanity, compassion and respect for every mankind. A very passionate person about truth and frankness. I always saw him off to his car when he is leaving the Loggia. Prof. was the one who interpreted many military songs in Hausa to me and he does with joy. The last time I saw Prof. at the Loggia was when I shared agbeli kakoro and coconut with him. He thanked me and laughed. Prof. may God keep you until we meet again.

From Eric Danquah:

During the 1980/1981 Academic Year, he stood out as a distinguished lecturer. His lectures and that of another colleague of his were the main attraction to the Department of Animal Science. When I got to the campus a couple of weeks after my mates had reported, all the project topics but one on grass for animal feed was the title unmarked on the notice board.

What I said to myself in front of the board as I looked through the list the second time was "but for grass let me go to Crop Science". This is how I missed the final year lectures of the one and only Dr. Bawa Awumbilla then. His notes were concise but all a student needed and he took his time to explain Animal Health jargon. He was such an excellent teacher. He knew and understood his stuff and one could see he was also very practical even in theory. Any opportunity to interact with him was to me a privilege for I saw him as an iconic figure when I was growing up. It was from our class that he left to become Deputy Minister of Agriculture. One remarkable thing about him was his recognition of his former students. You could see happiness in his eyes and pride about the works of his former students. A true teacher always excited about the outputs and outcomes of his work. Oh death. Covid-19 stole some quality time and destroyed our table. How I wished I interacted more with this great son of our land. I pray his excellent soul rests in perfect peace. May God be with him till we meet again.

TRIBUTE BY
PROF. AARON ASIBI ABUOSI
UNIVERSITY OF GHANA BUSINESS SCHOOL



I wish to pay glowing tribute to our late father, Prof. Bawa Awumbilla, who inspired me a lot during my undergraduate and graduate student days, all in the University of Ghana. Prof Awumbilla was a father to all students from Kusaug, and he would once a while invite us all, regardless of our number, to Akoafo Hall Gardens in University of Ghana to entertain us from his own resources, and above all, admonish us to learn hard and graduate with good classes, which will serve as the stepping stone to progress in life.

He and his wife, Prof. Mariama Awumbilla, were particularly very proud of me, and they both encouraged me to become an academic. The rest is history!

Prof. Awumbilla was not the boastful type, so one only needed to draw closer to him to appreciate his great contribution to Ghana, Kusaug and humanity at large! It needs to be put on record that he was the brain behind the translation of the German version of Dr. Haaf's book: 'Die Kusase', into English. Of course, several well meaning personalities from Kusaug and beyond contributed immensely and gave impetus to the successful translation of the book. It was his prayers and dream that Dr Haaf's work must be translated in his lifetime, and God answered his prayers, when this was accomplished about two years ago.

He had spoken severally to me about the book many years earlier, and how he had visited the family of Dr Haaf to discuss the need to translate the book, while he was pursuing his PhD studies in Germany. He obtained the original copy and kept it, until the opportune time when he gave it out to be translated! A literate in the German language himself, he did proof-reading of the initial draft of the full transcript, together with other Kusaal German Scholars, before the production of the final copies.

No doubt, this tribute is only but a tip of the iceberg, as far as Prof. Bawa Awumbilla's impact is concerned! May his good legacy inspire us all to emulate his example!

May his soul rest in perfect peace!

Prof. Aaron Asibi Abuosi
University of Ghana Business School

TRIBUTE BY
THE BAWKU TIELTAAB SENIOR CITIZENS' CLUB



Death, it is said, is a sure event which shall come the way of every living being or thing, a statement or saying which has no contradiction at all.

Death once again has gripped another fellow, snatching him from life. This time, a very lively member of the Club, by name Prof. Martin Bawa Awumbila, whose silence on our platform in a single day was a worry to members..... "Could he be sick?" "Is his phone having a problem?" These are just two of the questions almost every member would be asking if he did not appear on the platform on any day.

Prof, as we affectionately addressed you, though we are devastated by your demise, we can only take consolation in the above statement, since we all know that death is an inevitable event. The state of our saddened hearts cannot be expressed in these few words, as feelings cannot be contained entirely in words.

Though we all know that you became a bit physically handicapped and could not attend our meetings since 2018, we had hoped that those of us who had never met you in person were going to meet you one day. It was therefore a great shock and disbelief when we got a call from one of our senior members, Prof Ayebo in Accra informing us about your sudden demise on that Sunday evening, a day we term Black Sunday in our parlance. We the members of the Bawku Tieltaab Senior Citizens Club have really lost a loving and caring senior brother.

Prof, we shall always remember you by your great sense of humor such that one was never miserable in your company, even those who communicated with you by phone. Your soft and low tone when discussing issues or telling your usual stories/jokes shall never be forgotten.

Your outstanding knowledge in Kusaal figures of speech and idioms are so intriguing that members who have been communicating with you on regular basis will always remember the Zoasi man. As a life-long teacher, your brain was still very sharp, even up to the day of your demise. You were very stoic in adversity, teaching and reminding some of us basic terms in Zoology and Botany, some cultural and traditional practices, and above all ethics expected of children growing up with their parents, like you in your childhood days.

We appreciate your humility and your unassuming personality despite your varied and rich experience in life globally and your political era as a Deputy Minister. We also appreciate you for providing nick names and titles to those members you were fond of; for instance "Sir Isaac", "Joe and his uncle John"(the Kaadi man), etc.

The Tieltaab Club, on this occasion, will like to particularly appreciate your family for the love they showed during the trying moments of your condition, especially your wife and the two daughters around.

Madam (Prof Mariama Awumbila) may the Almighty God bless you and receive your husband into His Bosom. After all, those we love don't go away. They walk beside us every day, unseen, unheard but always near, still loved, still missed but ever dear.

Prof, Paam Sunga! Wusu lee nyonmma! Adieu!
Rest in Perfect Peace!

TRIBUTE BY “SUNDAY GROUP” OF LEGON TENNIS CLUB



From the poem “AROUND THE CORNER” of the distinguished American author, writer and poet Charles Hanson Towne (1877-1949) we find the following memorable, brilliant and thoughtful words which point to the need to constantly give attention to our longtime friendships and forged relationships in the conduct of our daily human lives. The poem itself - part of a larger collection titled “A WORLD OF WINDOWS AND OTHER POEMS” - is quoted verbatim thus:

**“Around the corner I have a friend,
In this great city that has no end;
Yet days go by, and weeks rush on,
And before I know it, a year is gone,
And I never see my old friend’s face,
For Life is a swift and terrible race.
He knows I like him just as well
As in the days when I rang his bell
And he rang mine. We were younger then,
And now we are busy tired men:
Tired with playing a foolish game,
Tired with trying to make a name.
“Tomorrow,” I say, “will call on Jim,
Just to show that I’m thinking of him.”
But tomorrow comes – and tomorrow goes,
And the distances between us grows and grows.
Around the corner-yet miles away...
“Here’s a telegram, sir...”
“Jim died today.”
And that’s what we get, and deserve in the end:
Around the corner, a vanished friend.”**

These mesmerizing words show us how transient and fleeting life is. Here today but gone tomorrow in a flash! Planned surprise and intended visits to our dearly beloved Bawa’s Ashalley-Botwe home to check on his welfare and well-being did not happen. And now it is too late. He is gone. We got the social media posts. Bawa has died. Irreversibly and very sadly, our dear friend who literally lived just down the road from Legon campus had become a “vanished friend.”

Bawa did not need a racket or wicked backhand volley to fraternise or fellowship with us. We welcomed him and other associates into our fold and embraced him nonetheless! Likeable, affable, nice and always ready to lend a helping hand in anything and with everything.

We rejoice and are glad that he is now in Heaven. No more to travail and toil on the energy-sapping treadmill of academic work and back-breaking earthly existence.

In the many special years past during which we, as members of the Sunday Group individually and collectively were honoured to experience Bawa’s golden friendship, we found him to be a compassionate, kind hearted, generous, selfless and an utterly dependable person.

He was a giant in so many ways, and we were privileged to have him as a dear brother, mentor, trusted confidant and close friend. On May 22nd 2023 Prof Bawa Awumbilla bravely and heroically left our midst.

We shall forever, in our hearts, fondly and very warmly, cherish our profound memories of his exceptional life!

Prof Bawa, “Prof”, or simply “Bawa”, as we variously knew him, was easy-going, simple and a genuinely jolly good fellow. A truly authentic, real and honest human being. He had integrity. He was also humble, unassuming, well-mannered, conscientious, meticulous and totally reliable. If he made a commitment, he kept it. One never had to wonder if he was going to show up for a “Sunday Group warm-up post-tennis session”; he was always there. He followed through on commitments made - in fact one would never think of Bawa not following through. He was rock solid and responsible. His remarkable vigour and drive impelled him in all he did.

He was well-travelled. As an expert international scientist and researcher he possessed a remarkably keen, deep and intellectual mind. A unique asset he had was his ability to explain things and clarify subjects raised in a way that made for the listener’s joy and ease of understanding. Often, he regaled us with colourful stories of his numerous misadventures, adventures, escapades and experiences arising from his sojourn in Eastern Europe and elsewhere. He was one of the best story-and-joke-tellers we have ever known, and he loved to laugh.

In conversations he gracefully and politely said what needed to be said when it mattered because it is good for enduring relationships and for the soul. He offered insightful opinions on many topics and subjects. He was never stingy with sharing his photographic memory, impressively wide knowledge of a variety of bewilderingly complex subjects, his ideas and his unique life experiences in Bawku, Asante-Akyem, Accra, Ukraine or Berlin.

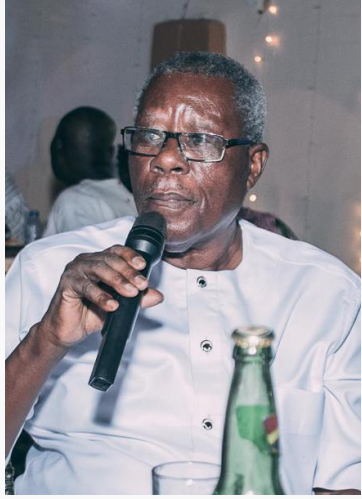
We always admired how he was ferociously loyal to all who knew him well and how he never unfairly judged others or forced his opinions on anyone but offered valuable, brutal but totally honest and truthful advice at all times. He liked good conversation. Additionally, it must be said that he had a good listening ear. All who knew him well in the Legon Tennis Club will surely miss his contagious smile and infectious laugh.

He impacted our “Sunday tennis-setting world” positively. Bawa built solid relationships across the walls of faith and ethnicity. He cared for us personally as one fellow human being to another. He was always there to support us.

The gentle footprints of kindness that he leaves behind in many mourning hearts and minds will surely and indelibly continue to make a lifetime of soft imprints in those very same hearts and minds. His warm and humble life touched many deeply and will always be remembered. Those imprints will never wash away. We will miss you.

We your grieving friends in our Sunday Group extend our condolences to your dear widow, dear children, dear grandchildren and your dear loving family circle at this sad time.

**GOOD BYE FOR NOW AND MAY BAWA’S SOUL FIND
EVERLASTING REST AND PERFECT PEACE IN HEAVEN.**





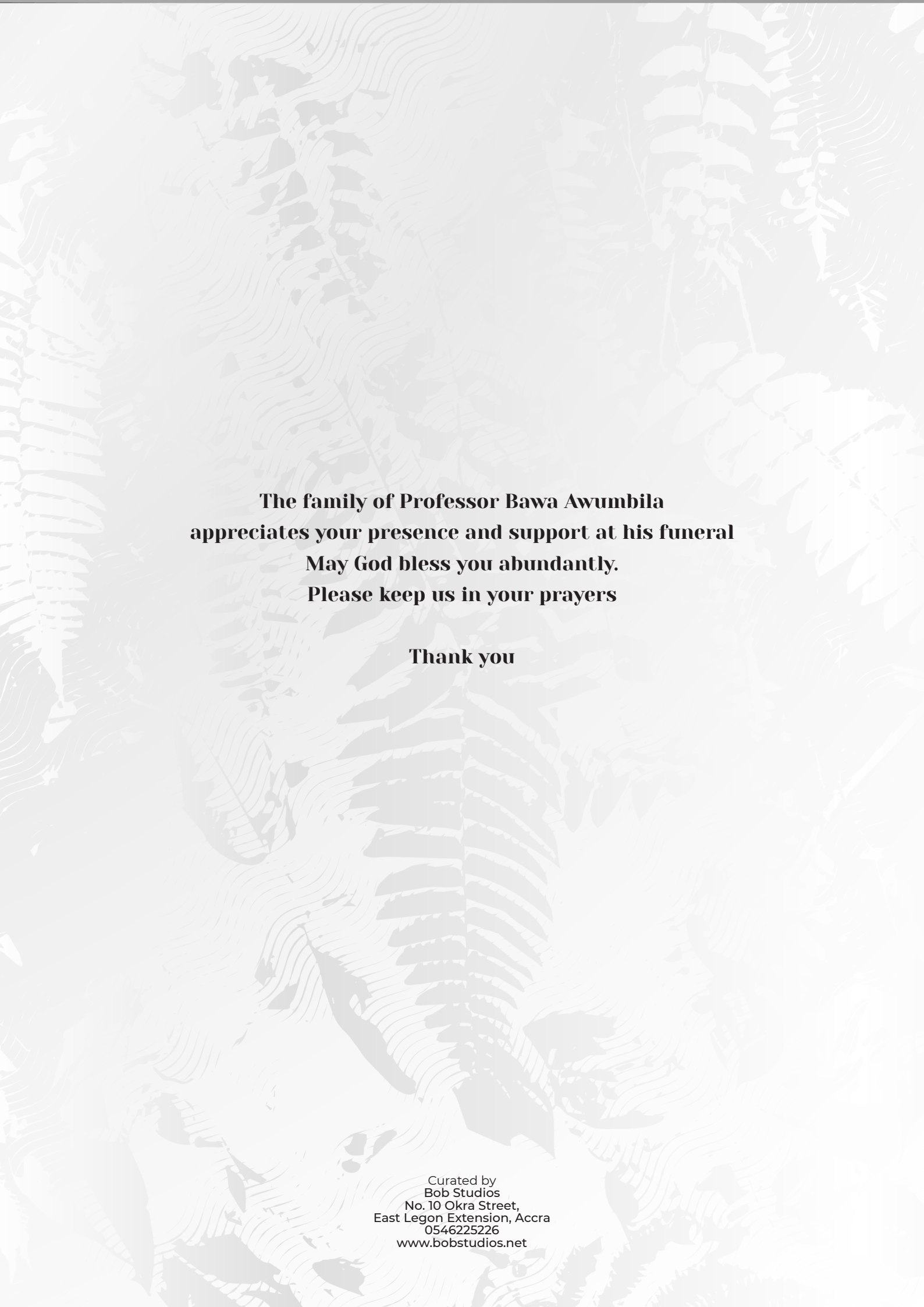


UNTILL WE MEET AGAIN



**We think about you always,
We talk about you still,
You have never been forgotten,
and You never will.**

**We hold you close within our hearts
and there You will remain,
to walk and guide us through our lives,
untill we meet again.**



**The family of Professor Bawa Awumbila
appreciates your presence and support at his funeral
May God bless you abundantly.
Please keep us in your prayers**

Thank you

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