

TRIBUTE BY FATHER (MR. JOHN KIERAN TAWIAH)

PAA KWESI - MY SPECIAL PROJECT

"All go to the same place; all come from the dust; and to dust all return" (Ecclesiastes 3:20)

It was never in my mind's eye that I would ever put pen to paper to pay tribute to any of my children. It is inconceivable that today I must bid farewell to one of them in this tribute. I have no option but to shoulder this burden of responsibility because God is supreme, and his ways are just and has absolute power over our lives.

I called my beloved son Paa Kwesi throughout his life because of my preference for family and traditional names. Paa Kwesi was christened Amos because of my admiration for the Prophet Amos during my Advanced Level Religious Studies. The Prophet Amos was a champion of social justice, though he was often referred to as the prophet of doom.

When Paa Kwesi was about three years old, his late mother rushed him from our hometown, Mumford, to Akosombo because he had refused to take in anything. When his mother was taking him to the Akosombo hospital the following day, I told him that I would follow up. Paa Kwesi looked at my face and closed his eyes. I bent down my head, wiped a tear and left for school to teach.

I was teaching Geography in Form 4 of the traditional secondary school when the hospital sent an SOS message that I should proceed to the hospital without delay.

When I arrived at the hospital, I was told that Paa Kwesi urgently needed blood and had only about four hours to live. I have never seen such urgency as when the blood analysis was conducted to determine whether Paa Kwesi and I shared the same blood group — Sister Lamptey virtually running to the laboratory and Mr. Kumi running to the OPD. When they were about to carry out the blood transfusion, Paa Kwesi's veins were flat.

They had to rush to Dr. Siaw's consulting room for help. When Dr. Siaw saw his haemoglobin level (about 4) he asked whether the child was alive. He had to quickly make an incision on Paa Kwesi's hand for the transfusion to be carried out. I was told that during the blood transfusion, he was heard speaking in "tongues."

When I returned to school, I rushed to Form 1 to teach Geography. It was in the classroom that I started feeling dizzy and sweating profusely as I had not taken in anything after the blood donation. I pulled a chair, sat on it, and put my head on the desk in front of me.

Back at the hospital I was informed that Paa Kwesi had had been diagnosed with the sickle-cell disease (SS). The family had to marshal all available resources to support Paa Kwesi to maintain good health and enjoy quality life. He successfully completed the basic school expecting to enter the senior secondary school (SSS) at Akosombo International School due to his condition and the proximity of the school. When he wrote the Entrance Examination into Akosombo International School in 2001, he was offered the General Arts program while St. Augustine's College, Cape Coast, also offered him General Arts though he had aggregate 6 in the Basic Education Certificate Examination (BECE).

When I managed to change his program from General Arts to General Science at St. Augustine's College, I called Paa Kwesi and told him that he would continue his education at St. Augustine's College, Cape Coast. He smiled broadly but that quickly disappeared when I added that he had been offered General Science. I definitely knew that his interest was in fine arts.

I emphatically told him that God's divine power and protection would take him to Cape Coast and bring him back, and that my spirit would always be with him. Oblivious of my discussion with Paa Kwesi, his mother secretly called him to ascertain if he could do General Science. Paa Kwesi gave her a positive response.

I received a lot of backlashes for my decision to send Paa Kwesi to Cape Coast because, as a Senior Housemaster and Headmaster at Akosombo International School, I had strongly advised parents with sickle-cell anaemia students to withdraw them and send them to schools in their vicinity.

Though there were intermittent breaks in his academic work, Paa Kwesi worked very hard, won a prize at a Speech and Prize-Giving Ceremony and was awarded Ghana Government Bursary with effect from 2002/2003 academic year to enable him complete the senior secondary education.

At St. Augustine's College, we were fortunate to have a very understanding and co-operative Senior Housemaster, Mr. Amankwah, who regularly briefed me about Paa Kwesi's health condition.

Paa Kwesi kept telling me that doctors had been assuring him that his crisis would reduce when he attained eighteen (18) years and above. This truly happened and, he was able to pursue his academic work and working life with minimal stress.

When Covid-19 struck, Paa Kwesi was injured and got a scar on his right leg which necessitated commuting between Afienya and Tema General Hospital for dressing. I endeavoured to pick him from his house to the hospital every Wednesday and spent some time with him.

With the approval of Dr. Arhinful, Paa Kwesi relocated to Akosombo in August 2020 to continue with treatment. We became very close collaborators and confidants discussing vital issues in the living room, my bedroom and his bedroom and getting our hair cut on the same day and in the same salon. When his sore was almost completely healed, I drove him to and from the GRIDCo Area Office, Akosombo, every Monday and sometimes on Fridays. When I had health concerns with my right leg since July 2023, it was Paa Kwesi who accompanied me to the 37 Military

Hospital, University of Ghana Medical Centre (UGMC), Sweden Ghana Medical Centre (SGMC) at Mai Djor and Abotare Clinic at Tabora and Afiencya to give me support and encouragement.

Paa Kwesi was a very generous person and he loved to put happiness in the lives of others. He placed the interests of others above his personal needs. He was always ready to lend a helping hand. He never wanted his name to be associated with his generous giving or donation to charity. The testimonies the family has received since his demise have been marvelous and baffle us.

Paa Kwesi was kind-hearted and had a gentle character. He was a gentleman per excellence in his demeanor, dressing and interaction with people. He was neat and paid particular attention to details. He easily got agitated when things were not done in an orderly manner.

Paa Kwesi has left us in great pain. With the enormous investment in his health by his siblings and others, I would have loved to see him live much longer to join his siblings to give me a decent and befitting burial. But God's thoughts and ways are not my thoughts and ways (Isaiah 55:8). God knows best. We thank God for the gift of you to us. May our Heavenly Father welcome your soul into His Kingdom. I know you have found peace in the bosom of the Lord and the loving arms of your mother.

I sincerely thank you for the years we spent together and for what you did for me. You were indeed an incredible blessing to me and the family.

Our hearts are broken but the Good Lord will continue to comfort our hearts.

Fare thee well Paa Kwesi, da yie.

**TRIBUTE
TO OUR BROTHER
PAA KWASI AKWANDOH**

Amos, known by many as Paa Kwesi was Nana Banyin Akwandoh to our family. We have known him growing up with him to be the loving and caring brother.

RELATIONSHIPS

Paa Kwesi was his mother's favorite and took most of her attention. She was very protective of him and rightfully so, because of her love for him and his health condition. Those two were inseparable and we are certain they are happy together once again.

He was also the favorite son of his father. He would always seek for advice from his father and would most often act on them even though he was not in agreement to the advice given.

Paa Kwesi highly cherished his older sister Aba. She was like his second mother right from when he was born, and she was often by his bedside either at home or at the hospital when he was going through his health challenges. He checked up on her often and had discussions with her about her ambitions and how he could support her.

He always looked up to his big brother Jimmy as his role model. They played games and watched movies together. They had similar interests in politics, technology, business, etc.

Kwesi would go to him whenever he needed advice or a second opinion on a decision he intended to make. Of all his siblings, Baaba was his favorite. Even though they fought a lot growing up, and our mother will most often ask Jimmy to intervene, they declared a truce in their late teens. This happened when they were in UCC together during his last year.

They took care of and protected each other to the extent that Baaba even stayed with him beyond the second semester caring for him till he finished his final project work. They have been very close since then: going to church and sitting together, discussing relationships, business ideas, school, building projects etc., and praying together.

DEMEANOUR/CHARACTER

Paa was quick to point out his disagreement regardless of age. If he was convinced you were wrong, he would let you know. He was also the one who took his time to do things in his own way. You could not force him to do anything.

He had a good rapport with those who were not even his age mates. In order not to let the girls (his cousins and nieces at home) feel as though he was preventing them from watching their favorite TV series, he watched with them instead of changing the channel and would watch what he wanted at another time. You would be amazed if you meet him with the girls watching and discussing various Indian series. The girls already miss him dearly. Paa Kwesi pampered them well. He would get them pizza and other things on their birthdays. He also supported them financially in school. He would take the family to the Maritime Club, Akosombo, during Christmas, Father's Day and the likes.

As a family, we decided to help the less privileged. Therefore, on occasion, each of us will bring in a contribution to help widows and orphans. Paa Kwesi will hold back till everyone has given and then make the highest contribution. He always did that because he had a giving heart. And on some occasions, we have had to hold him back from giving too much. He always kept our WhatsApp group active by checking up on us regularly, updating us on current events, sending prayers, motivational and bible quotes, and sending wishes on various occasions. The page has been quiet ever since his demise. In as much as he liked to give, he also liked to spend on himself.

Whenever you tell him

"Ere twa w'anomu paa oo." he will say, "Life is short oo..."

HEALTH

Even though he was born with the sickle - cell disease, he did not allow that to be a stumbling block. He was resilient through many hard times.

He would say, "If you think you are always sick then you will always be sick but once you start thinking positively, your body starts to also respond positively," And that is how he lived most of his life. He took part in activities as he was able and had fun at it. Despite his health restrictions, he even took part in the church's communal labour activities including the ones done for this church building in which his final service is being held.

We remember one-time, Paa Kwesi even drove to a hospital in Tema all by himself in the middle of the night while he was experiencing a crisis. The nurse on duty was shocked and told him he was crazy for doing that.

A few years ago, while driving from Afienya to Akosombo, a Metro Bus rammed him off the road but did not stop. Even though he was injured, he managed to get back on the road and drove the rest of the way from around Akuse junction to Akosombo.

Whenever he was sick, the family will pull together to make sure that he was catered for, that is why his death came as a shock to all of us because we believe he had been through worse and was actually recovering.

CONCLUSION

Kwesi, even though your life has been short and we hoped to grow old with you;

Even though the plans we have for the coming years will have to proceed without you;

Even though we will not hear your voice or laughter or see your smile in your life anymore;

Even though we are heartbroken beyond what words can describe...

We are thankful to God for giving you to us as a brother. The years spent with you were precious;

You were and continue to be a blessing to us and to many;

Your love for God really grew and you pulled us along;

We are comforted that you are no longer in pain;

You will not be forgotten and we hope to be united with you in Christ one day.

Yenyim d3 Awuradze dzi wo kra asie yie, k) do ara na gye w'ahom. Kyea Mama ma y3n.

TRIBUTE
FROM THE GHANA
GRIDCO COMPANY LIMITED

"Most assuredly, I say to you, the hour is coming and now is, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God; and those who hear will live." (John 5:25)

Mr. Amos Kieran Tawiah was not just our colleague but a cherished friend, a mentor, and an integral part of our professional family. It is with heavy hearts, yet hearts filled with deep gratitude for having had the privilege of working with Amos, that we remember him this day.

Kieran / Fante / Tee / Sup-Sup / Capo / Machine gun Kely, as he was affectionately called, joined the GRIDCo family in 2009 as a national service person, and from the very first day, he brought a unique dynamism to GRIDCo and in particular to his colleagues in MIS. His enthusiasm for work was contagious, and his passion for excellence was evident in everything he achieved. He was not only skilled in his profession; he was a person who mentored those who came after him and helped his colleagues whenever they needed it.

Amos was officially employed as a staff of GRIDCo on October 3rd, 2011, as an Assistant Computer Programmer and was posted to the Tema Area. With hard work and dedication to duty, he rose through the ranks to become a Principal Computer Programmer in 2023.

Professionally, Amos was exemplary. One of the most remarkable qualities of Amos was his meticulousness. He was very principled, and he budgeted everything down to a pesewa. He was never economical with the truth even if it would make him unpopular with his peers or higher-ups. Another of his best assets was his literary skills. He was often the one to proof-read documents before they were submitted. Amos led a team to redevelop all IT policies for the MIS section. His writing style and edge of perfection was unmistakable. His presence made our workplace not just a place to work, but a place where we could grow, learn, and feel supported. He had a very peculiar laughter and smile that was hard to miss. His contribution to GRIDCo, especially the MIS team, went far beyond his job description; he helped shape the careers and lives of many of us.

GRIDCo's tagline; "There is no emergency that is so great that we cannot take our time to do our work safely," resonates strongly with Amos' approach to work. He holds the opinion that you never know where your work could take you, therefore it was essential to give it your all and take your time to do it right.

For such a young professional life with us, Amos achieved great things in various areas spanning technology, processes and systems. Beyond his professional contributions, Amos engaged in various aspects of our workplace community. When a staff member, especially from the MIS section, had an event, you were sure to find him there, supporting, cheering them on, or commiserating with them. He started the MIS Welfare, became its first Chair, and undoubtedly drafted its constitution.

Amos' life outside the office was just as interesting. He loved animations, computer graphics, cars, gadgets, and technology in general. He had a saying: "8 to 4 oh", which often meant he had been scolded by one of the higher-ups, but he was not going to let that put a damper on his day. This underscored the importance of balancing work with personal passions and the value of pursuing what brings us happiness.

At the latter part of 2019, he fell ill, and in 2020, we all had to go home due to the Covid-19 pandemic. He continued to work from home and from the Akosombo Area Office, mostly because of his ill health, making every use of GRIDCO's IT resources.

In his last days, despite his condition, Amos showed immense strength, tenacity, leadership, and courage. His concern for how we were all coping, even as he faced his own challenges, was a testament to his selfless nature. He faced adversity with dignity and grace, and in doing so, he taught us one final, invaluable lesson - the power of resilience and hope.

As we bid farewell to Amos, we honour his memory by ensuring to embody the qualities that he exemplified. Let us strive to be compassionate, dedicated, and meticulous. His legacy will continue to inspire and guide us.

Fare thee well, dear colleague!

Fare thee well, dear brother!

TRIBUTE
FROM HIS JHS & GRADE SCHOOL MATES

With the following words, we who are part of the AIS 2001 JSS year group remember with fondness our dear and loving friend Amos Tawiah. The Greek philosopher and historian, Herodotus, once wrote in the 5th century BC that 'history is written as an effort to preserve from decay, a memory of what men have once been.'

This statement rings ever true for us as we pen this tribute to preserve from decay, a memory for future generations, of what our brother has been. The memories we have of Amos over the years we spent together as students of Akosombo International School are as clear as they are profound. All through the time we had the pleasure of being with him, Amos was always a gentleman who wished nothing less than to bring joy and the love of God to those around him.

He thrived in the camaraderie of his peers and the pursuit of a higher purpose with a clear understanding that there was always more to life than the materiality associated with it. He was always eager to provide support to us when we needed him and he never hesitated to put his arms around the vulnerable and deprived with love and compassion.

As we reflect on our time together, it is not just the significant moments that we remember, but also the subtle memories-the quiet conversations, the jokes that sent us bursting with laughter, the shared interests, and the random acts of kindness which often meant so much for so many of us.

Amos left an indelible mark on our lives, teaching us the value of compassion and that the true strength of a man is in his ability to see himself in others. As a man of many gifts and talents, Amos' academic accomplishments were as notable as his gentle character and kind-hearted nature. We recall with fondness and pride, his work at GIMPA where he completed a thesis titled 'Assessing the Challenges in the Operationalization of the Ghana Wholesale Electricity Market – A Case of GRIDCo.'

At a time when Ghana again faces a crisis in the electricity market, one can see how Amos' passing is as much a loss for the country and our generation as it is for us his mates. Amos' continued foresight and dedication to his field could have offered valuable insights into our nation's current energy predicament.

His research was not only a scholarly achievement but also a blueprint for practical solutions which prioritize resilience and sustainability within Ghana's national energy policies and practices.

Through this highly important work, as through his loving nature, Amos leaves an enduring legacy which has the potential to inspire future generations and fill them with the hope that through continued determination and effort we can always renew our individual sense of mission. Amos, we are devastated at your passing. It has left a gaping hole in our midst that no other person can fill. Nevertheless, we recall the faith you taught us and constantly reminded us of.

We therefore do not mourn as those who are without hope, as the scriptures say. We know that this is not the end of our friendship nor the beginning of the end of it but rather it is merely the end of the beginning. For we shall one day be united together again for an eternity when the days the Lord our God has apportioned for this world are fulfilled.

So, until the trumpets sound, until the skies split, and until our Lord Jesus appears in the clouds to assemble us his children to the new Jerusalem, we your dear friends leave these words here to remind the world, to remind future generations, and to preserve from decay, the memory of what you have been.

Rest in the bosom of the Lord brother.

TRIBUTE
FROM THE ST. AUGUSTINE'S COLLEGE
2004 YEAR GROUP

With heavy hearts, we bid farewell to our dear brother, Amos Tawiah, a shining star from our Science Three class and St. Patrick's House. Amos' passing leaves an unfillable void in our lives, but his memory will continue to inspire us with his intelligence, creativity, and easy-going nature.

We fondly remember Amos's passion for art and design, always seen with his trusty sketchbook, bringing his ideas to life as AMTAKI designs. His talent and entrepreneurial spirit led him to turn these sketches into the iconic AMTAKI T-Shirts, which became a staple during our university days at the University of Cape Coast.

Amos was more than just a classmate; he was a friend, a confidant, and a brother. His infectious laughter, kind heart, and warm smile made him a beloved member of our community.

We will deeply miss his presence, but his legacy will live on through the countless lives he touched.

As we say goodbye to our dear Amos, we take comfort in the memories we shared, the laughter we enjoyed, and the impact he had on our lives. May his soul rest in peace and may his family and loved ones find strength in the days ahead.

Farewell, dear Amos.

Your memory will forever be etched in our hearts.

**TRIBUTE -
BELOVED BOARD CHAIRMAN OF LADIES NETWORK FOR ECONOMIC FREEDOM.**

It is with a profound sense of loss and deep respect that we remember and honor Mr. Amos Tawiah our cherished board chairman, who touched our lives and hearts in countless ways. Amos was not only a guiding light for Ladies Network for Economic Freedom but also a beloved friend, mentor, and inspiration to all who had the privilege of knowing him.

He dedicated his life to the service of others, embodying the very essence of compassion, integrity, and leadership. As the chairman of our board, Amos led with a vision that transformed our organization, steering us toward greater heights with unwavering commitment and an indomitable spirit. His wisdom and guidance were instrumental in shaping the path we walk today.

Beyond his professional achievements, Amos was a person of immense kindness and warmth. His ability to connect with others, to listen with genuine interest, and to offer support and encouragement was a testament to his extraordinary character. He had a unique gift for bringing out the best in people, fostering a sense of community and shared purpose that will continue to inspire us.

In moments of challenge, Amos calm and thoughtful demeanour provided solace and clarity. He taught us the power of perseverance and the importance of staying true to our values, no matter the circumstances. His legacy is one of unselfish dedication, a beacon of light that will continue to guide us as we move forward.

We are eternally grateful for the time we shared with Amos, and we will carry your memory in our hearts always. He leaves behind a legacy that transcends the bounds of time, a legacy of love, dedication, and unwavering commitment to the betterment of others.

Rest in peace, dear Amos. Your spirit will forever be a part of LANEF, and your legacy will continue to inspire and uplift us.

TRIBUTE
FROM THE UCC COMPUTER SCIENCE 2009 YEAR GROUP

"To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven: A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted; A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance..." - Ecclesiastes 3:1-2,4

We received with sadness the news of the demise of Amos on 8th April 2024. His last message to us on the group was a call to prayer at 12 Midnight, a daily routine that showcased his dedication and faith. Amtaki, as we affectionately called him, was one of the kindest and most generous souls we met during our four-year stay at the University of Cape Coast.

We used to have 6-hour lectures on Saturdays. A lady in class remembers having a very bad cough that disturbed the class a lot. When the class got a break, some of the members of the class came with water, ahomka ginger, and other mint candies. Amtaki brought her the most delicious ginger cake to soothe her throat. She admits to still craving this cake and has shared this story countless times with her family and friends. He had a good and generous heart.

He was Intelligent, Creative, Easy-going, and his legacy will live on through the countless lives he touched. AMTAKI T-Shirts will forever be a reminder of his impact on our lives. Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him.

You will forever be in our hearts.

Rest well, Amos! Rest in peace.

