

Celebration Of A Life Well Lived



Oheneyere Helen Jean
Opong-Kesse
18 February, 1937 - 01 April, 2024

CHRIST VISION MINISTRIES | 9701 Forte Meade Road, Laurel, MD 20707

Rev. Collinwise & Rev. Nora Osei-Aboagye — Senior & Asso. Pastors

Pastor Joseph Atta Alhassan — Assistant Pastor

Order of Service

SATURDAY, MAY 11, 2024

7 PM – 10 PM

OFFICIATING MINISTER

PST. JOSEPH ATTA ALHASSAN

ASSISTANT PASTOR, CHRIST VISION MINISTRIES

SEATING OF BEREAVED FAMILY & GUESTS

OPENING PRAYER

PRAISE & WORSHIP

WELCOME & PURPOSE

PST. JOSEPH ATTA ALHASSAN

PRESENTATION/ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF FAMILY & GUESTS

SPECIAL SELECTION | 'ONLY YOU ARE HOLY'

SIS. ENI KANDJA

1ST SCRIPTURE READING | PS. 23

DR. PAYNIN KESSE

2ND SCRIPTURE READING | PROV. 31.10-31

NANA FREMA BOATENG

HYMN #1

"IT IS WELL WITH MY SOUL"

HYMN #2

"BLESSED ASSURANCE"

HYMN #3

"GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS"

Celebrating Oheneyere Helen J. Opong-Kesse

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BIOGRAPHY OF MAMA HELEN

TRIBUTE FROM CHILDREN

TRIBUTE FROM GRANDCHILDREN

SPECIAL REFLECTIONS

HYMN #4

HYMN #5

HYMN #6

GREETING OF FAMILY

HYMN #7

INTRODUCTION OF PREACHER

EXHORTATION

PRAYER FOR FAMILY

OPENING OF DANCE FLOOR

VOTE OF THANKS

LUKE OSEI-TUTU BONSU (GRANDSON)

ELDER AMMIE AKYERE BONSU

MICHAELLA G. NYAMEAMA
BONSU (GRAND-DAUGHTER)

FAMILY & FRIENDS

"THE OLD RUGGED CROSS"

"BECAUSE HE LIVES"

"ROCK OF AGES"
GUESTS

"WHAT A FRIEND WE HAVE IN JESUS"

PST. JOSEPH ATTA ALHASSAN

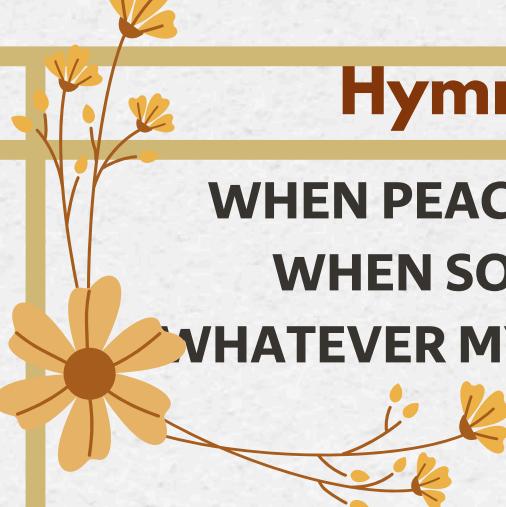
REV. COLLINWISE OSEI-ABOAGYE, SR. PASTOR, CVM

REV. COLLINWISE OSEI-ABOAGYE

FAMILY

FAMILY

CLOSING PRAYER & BENEDICTION



Hymn 1: It Is Well with My Soul

WHEN PEACE LIKE A RIVER ATTENDED MY WAY

WHEN SORROWS LIKE SEA BILLOWS ROLL

WHATEVER MY LOT, THOU HAS TAUGHT ME TO SAY

[REFRAIN]

IT IS WELL, IT IS WELL, WITH MY SOUL

IT IS WELL (IT IS WELL)

WITH MY SOUL (WITH MY SOUL)

IT IS WELL, IT IS WELL WITH MY SOUL

MY SIN, OH, THE BLISS OF THIS GLORIOUS THOUGHT

MY SIN, NOT IN PART BUT THE WHOLE

IS NAILED TO THE CROSS AND I BEAR IT NO MORE

PRAISE THE LORD, PRAISE THE LORD, OH, MY SOUL

[REFRAIN]

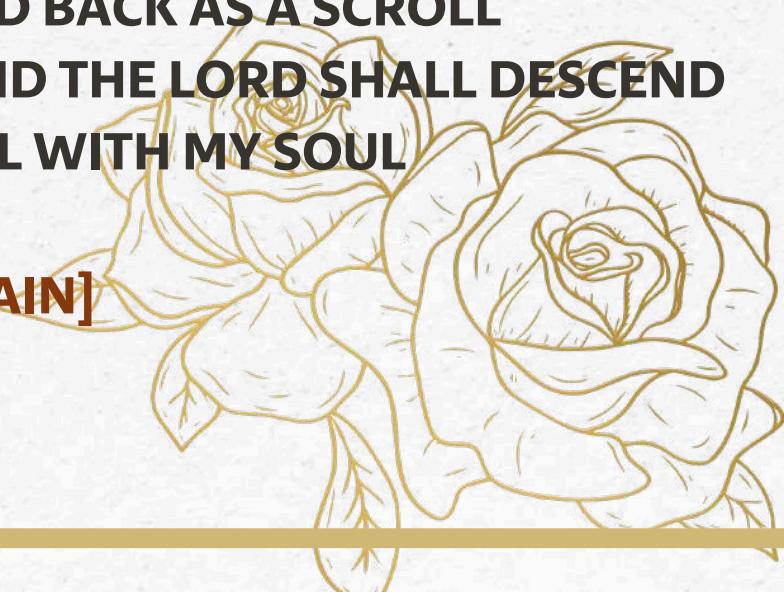
AND LORD HASTE THE DAY WHEN MY FAITH SHALL BE SIGHT

THE CLOUDS BE ROLLED BACK AS A SCROLL

THE TRUMPET SHALL SOUND AND THE LORD SHALL DESCEND

EVEN SO, IT IS WELL WITH MY SOUL

[REFRAIN]





Hymn 2: Blessed Assurance

BLESSED ASSURANCE, JESUS IS MINE;
OH, WHAT A FORETASTE OF GLORY DIVINE!
HEIR OF SALVATION, PURCHASE OF GOD,
BORN OF HIS SPIRIT, WASHED IN HIS BLOOD.

[REFRAIN]

THIS IS MY STORY, THIS IS MY SONG,
PRAISING MY SAVIOR ALL THE DAY LONG.
THIS IS MY STORY, THIS IS MY SONG,
PRAISING MY SAVIOR ALL THE DAY LONG.

2

PERFECT SUBMISSION, PERFECT DELIGHT,
VISIONS OF RAPTURE NOW BURST ON MY SIGHT;
ANGELS DESCENDING, BRING FROM ABOVE
ECHOES OF MERCY, WHISPERS OF LOVE.

[REFRAIN]

3

PERFECT SUBMISSION, ALL IS AT REST,
I IN MY SAVIOR AM HAPPY AND BLEST;
WATCHING AND WAITING, LOOKING ABOVE,
FILLED WITH HIS GOODNESS, LOST IN HIS LOVE.

[REFRAIN]



Hymn 3: Great Is Thy Faithfulness

GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS, O GOD MY FATHER

THERE IS NO SHADOW OF TURNING WITH THEE

THOU CHANGEST NOT, THY COMPASSIONS, THEY FAIL NOT

AS THOU HAST BEEN, THOU FOREVER WILL BE

GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS

GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS

MORNING BY MORNING NEW MERCIES I SEE

ALL I HAVE NEEDED THY HAND HATH PROVIDED

GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS, LORD, UNTO ME

PARDON FOR SIN AND A PEACE THAT ENDURETH

THINE OWN DEAR PRESENCE TO CHEER AND TO GUIDE

STRENGTH FOR TODAY AND BRIGHT HOPE FOR TOMORROW

BLESSINGS ALL MINE WITH 10, 000 BESIDE

GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS

GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS

MORNING BY MORNING NEW MERCIES I SEE

ALL I HAVE NEEDED THY HAND HATH PROVIDED

GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS

GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS

GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS, LORD, UNTO ME



Hymn 4: The Old Rugged Cross

ON A HILL FAR AWAY STOOD AN OLD RUGGED CROSS,
THE EMBLEM OF SUFFERING AND SHAME;
AND I LOVE THAT OLD CROSS WHERE THE DEAREST AND BEST
FOR A WORLD OF LOST SINNERS WAS SLAIN.

REFRAIN:

SO I'LL CHERISH THE OLD RUGGED CROSS,
TILL MY TROPHIES AT LAST I LAY DOWN;
I WILL CLING TO THE OLD RUGGED CROSS,
AND EXCHANGE IT SOME DAY FOR A CROWN.

2

THAT OLD RUGGED CROSS, SO DESPISED BY THE WORLD,
HAS A WONDROUS ATTRACTION FOR ME;
FOR THE DEAR LAMB OF GOD LEFT HIS GLORY ABOVE
TO BEAR IT TO DARK CALVARY.

[REFRAIN]



Hymn 5: Because He Lives

GOD SENT HIS SON THEY CALLED HIM JESUS
HE CAME TO LOVE HEAL AND FORGIVE
HE BLED AND DIED TO BUY MY PARDON
AN EMPTY GRAVE IS THERE TO PROVE
MY SAVIOR LIVES CHORUS



REFRAIN:

BECAUSE HE LIVES
I CAN FACE TOMORROW
BECAUSE HE LIVES
ALL FEAR IS GONE
BECAUSE I KNOW HE HOLDS THE FUTURE
AND LIFE IS WORTH THE LIVING
JUST BECAUSE HE LIVES VERSE

2

HOW SWEET TO HOLD OUR NEWBORN BABY
AND FEEL THE PRIDE AND JOY HE GIVES
BUT GREATER STILL THE CALM ASSURANCE
THIS CHILD CAN FACE UNCERTAIN DAYS
BECAUSE CHRIST LIVES VERSE

[REFRAIN]

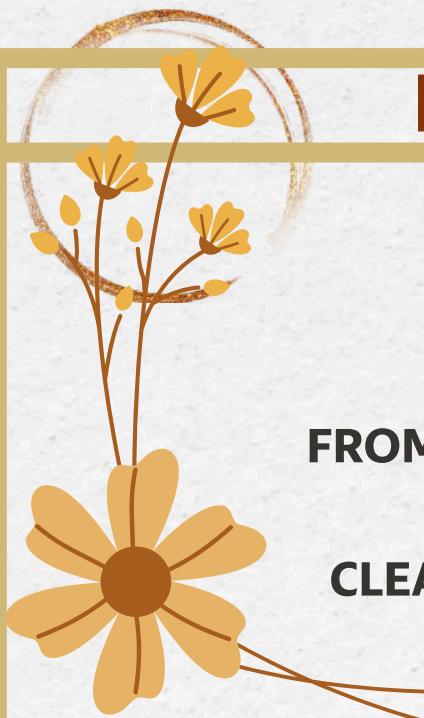
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AND THEN ONE DAY I'LL CROSS THAT RIVER
I'LL FIGHT LIFE'S FINAL WAR WITH PAIN
AND THEN AS DEATH GIVES WAY TO VICT'RY
I'LL SEE THE LIGHTS OF GLORY
AND I'LL KNOW HE REIGNS

[REFRAIN]



Hymn 6: Rock of Ages



ROCK OF AGES, CLEFT FOR ME,
LET ME HIDE MYSELF IN THEE;
LET THE WATER AND THE BLOOD,
FROM THY WOUNDED SIDE WHICH FLOWED,
BE OF SIN THE DOUBLE CURE;
CLEANSE ME FROM ITS GUILT AND POWER.

2



NOT THE LABOR OF MY HANDS
CAN FULFILL THY LAW'S DEMANDS;
COULD MY ZEAL NO RESPITE KNOW,
COULD MY TEARS FOREVER FLOW,
ALL FOR SIN COULD NOT ATONE;
THOU MUST SAVE, AND THOU ALONE.

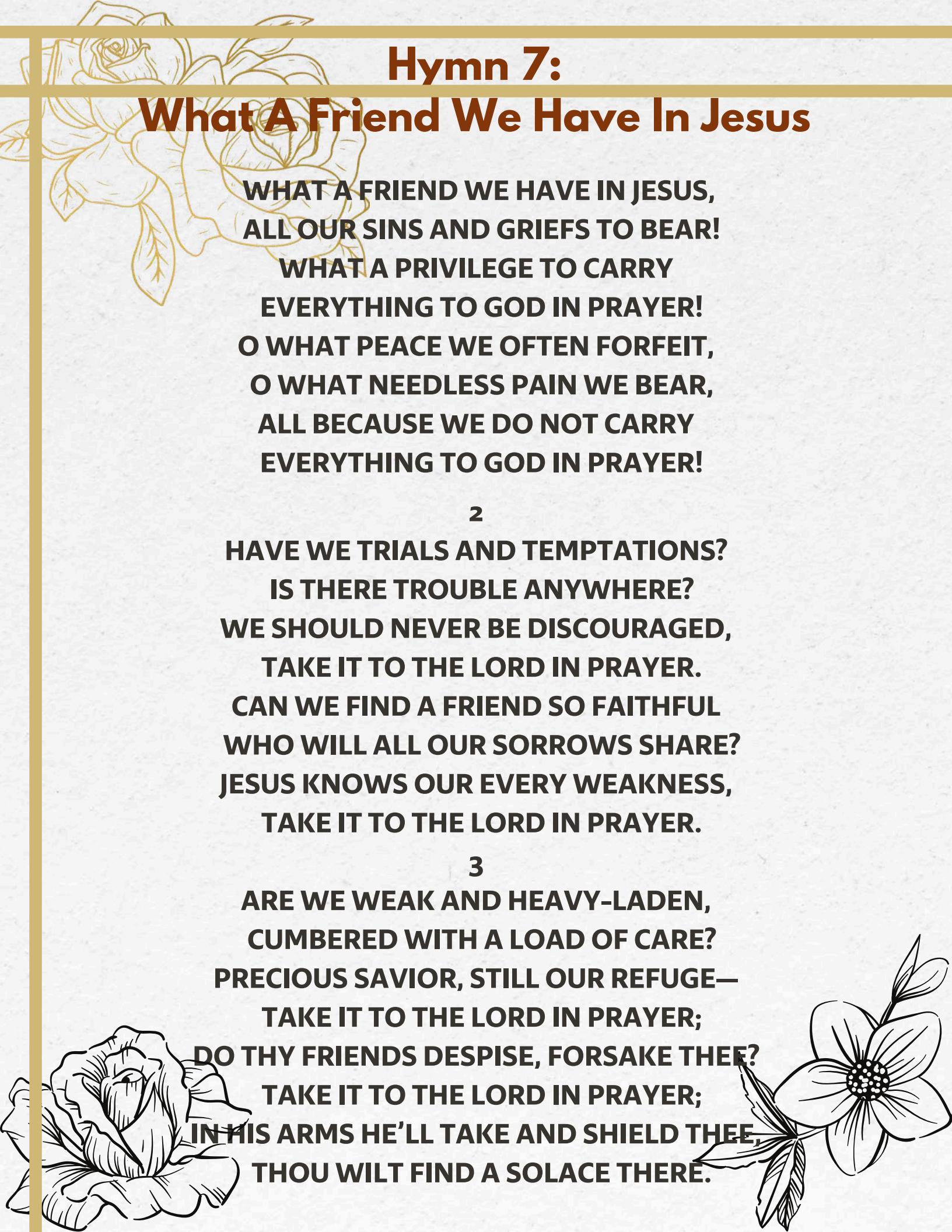
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NOTHING IN MY HAND I BRING,
SIMPLY TO THY CROSS I CLING;
NAKED, COME TO THEE FOR DRESS;
HELPLESS LOOK TO THEE FOR GRACE;
FOUL, I TO THE FOUNTAIN FLY;
WASH ME, SAVIOR, OR I DIE.

4



WHILE I DRAW THIS FLEETING BREATH,
WHEN MINE EYELIDS CLOSE IN DEATH
WHEN I SOAR TO WORLDS UNKNOWN,
SEE THEE ON THY JUDGMENT THRONE,
ROCK OF AGES, CLEFT FOR ME,
LET ME HIDE MYSELF IN THEE.



Hymn 7: **What A Friend We Have In Jesus**

**WHAT A FRIEND WE HAVE IN JESUS,
ALL OUR SINS AND GRIEFS TO BEAR!**

**WHAT A PRIVILEGE TO CARRY
EVERYTHING TO GOD IN PRAYER!**

**O WHAT PEACE WE OFTEN FORFEIT,
O WHAT NEEDLESS PAIN WE BEAR,
ALL BECAUSE WE DO NOT CARRY
EVERYTHING TO GOD IN PRAYER!**

2

**HAVE WE TRIALS AND TEMPTATIONS?
IS THERE TROUBLE ANYWHERE?
WE SHOULD NEVER BE DISCOURAGED,
TAKE IT TO THE LORD IN PRAYER.
CAN WE FIND A FRIEND SO FAITHFUL
WHO WILL ALL OUR SORROWS SHARE?
JESUS KNOWS OUR EVERY WEAKNESS,
TAKE IT TO THE LORD IN PRAYER.**

3

**ARE WE WEAK AND HEAVY-LADEN,
CUMBERED WITH A LOAD OF CARE?
PRECIOUS SAVIOR, STILL OUR REFUGE—
TAKE IT TO THE LORD IN PRAYER;
DO THY FRIENDS DESPISE, FORSAKE THEE?
TAKE IT TO THE LORD IN PRAYER;
IN HIS ARMS HE'LL TAKE AND SHIELD THEE,
THOU WILT FIND A SOLACE THERE.**



Biography OF **Oheneyere Mrs. Helen Jean Opong-Kesse**

OHENEYERE MRS. HELEN JEAN OPONG-KESSE, AFFECTIONATELY KNOWN BY HER GRANDCHILDREN AS "GRANDMA 87," WAS BORN ON FEBRUARY 18, 1937, IN WILMAR, ARKANSAS, TO THE LATE AMMIE WEBB AMOS AND HERMAN HINES.

AT THE AGE OF 8, MAMA HELEN RELOCATED TO SWEETWATER, TEXAS, WHERE SHE PROFESSED HER FAITH IN JESUS AT MOUNT ROSE BAPTIST CHURCH. HER MUSICAL TALENT EMERGED EARLY, AND BY AGE 10, SHE HAD DEVELOPED A DEEP PASSION FOR PLAYING THE PIANO, WINNING NUMEROUS PRIZES FOR HER MUSICAL ABILITIES.

MAMA HELEN WAS NOT ONLY MUSICALLY GIFTED BUT SHE WAS ALSO ATHLETICALLY INCLINED, EXCELLING IN TRACK AND BASKETBALL. DURING HER HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE YEARS IN THE MID 1950'S, SHE PLACED 1ST OR 2ND AT MANY STATE MEETINGS HELD AT PRAIRIE VIEW A&M UNIVERSITY.

MAMA HELEN PURSUED HER HIGHER EDUCATION AT WILEY COLLEGE IN MARSHALL, TEXAS, WHERE SHE MAJORED IN CLASSICAL MUSIC AND EDUCATION. AFTER COMPLETING HER STUDIES, SHE BEGAN HER TEACHING CAREER IN THE LUBBOCK PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

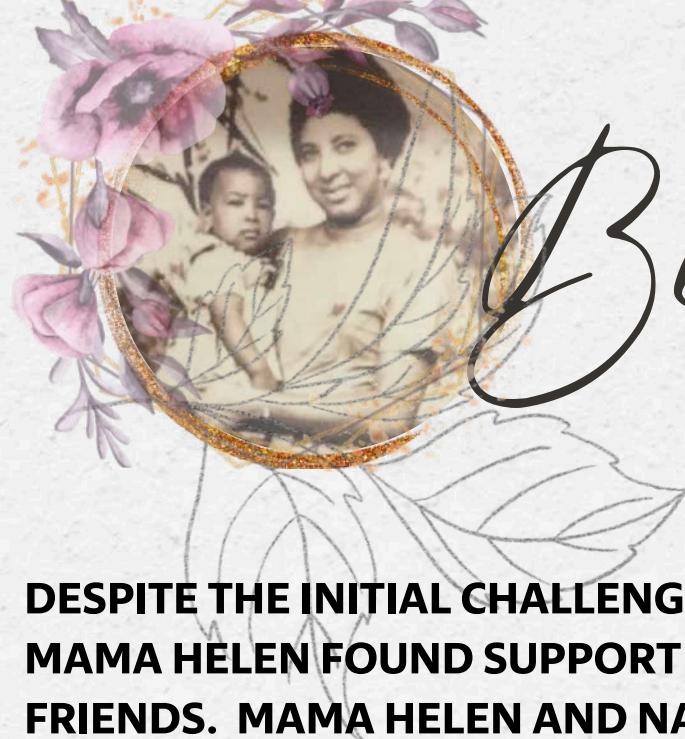


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IN PURSUIT OF FURTHERING HER EDUCATION, MAMA HELEN MOVED TO LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA TO EARN HER FIRST MASTER'S DEGREE IN SECONDARY EDUCATION FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA (USC). IT WAS DURING HER TIME AT USC THAT THE LOVE OF HER LIFE - THE LATE NANA BARIMA OPONG KYEREMATENG II (AKA: MR. GODFRIED OPONG-KESSE), FOUND HER. AT THAT TIME, HE WAS PURSUING A DEGREE IN GEOLOGY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA IN LOS ANGELES (UCLA). IT WAS LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT FOR NANA BARIMA OPONG KYEREMATENG AND MAMA HELEN'S PRAYER ANSWERED BY GOD FOR A GOOD HUSBAND. INDEED, HE HAD FOUND A GOOD WIFE AND SHE HAD BEEN GIFTED WITH A GOOD HUSBAND, KNOWN FOR HIS PATIENCE, GENEROSITY, GIFT OF WISDOM, AND EXTRAORDINARY LEADERSHIP AND WARM SENSE OF HUMOR. THEY WERE UNITED IN HOLY MATRIMONY ON SEPTEMBER 3, 1961, IN LOS ANGELES.

UPON HER SWEETHEART'S COMPLETION OF HIS MASTER'S DEGREE IN GEOLOGY FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA, NANA RETURNED TO GHANA TOWARDS THE END OF 1962, WITH HIS SWEETHEART AND LIFE PARTNER, MAMA HELEN, AND WAS POSTED IN HO, LOCATED IN THE VOLTA REGION OF GHANA, FROM 1962 TO 1966.





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Biography

DESPITE THE INITIAL CHALLENGES OF ADJUSTING TO A NEW LIFE IN GHANA, MAMA HELEN FOUND SUPPORT FROM HER HUSBAND AND NEWFOUND FRIENDS. MAMA HELEN AND NANA WERE BLESSED WITH TWO BEAUTIFUL CHILDREN AND TOWARDS THE END OF 1966, THEY MOVED TO NANA'S NEXT POSTING IN KUMASI TO SERVE AS A REGIONAL DIRECTOR OF THE GEOLOGICAL SURVEY DEPARTMENT.

WHILE IN KUMASI, MAMA HELEN SERVED AS A TEACHER AT STATE EXPERIMENTAL SCHOOL. BY 1972, THEY HAD WELCOMED TWO ADDITIONAL CHILDREN AND MOVED TO ACCRA FOR NANA TO SERVE AS THE DEP. DIRECTOR OF GHANA'S GEOLOGICAL SURVEY DEPARTMENT, AND THEREAFTER, AS THE APPOINTED DIRECTOR IN 1974.

MAMA HELEN'S DEDICATION TO EDUCATION CONTINUED THROUGHOUT HER LIFE, EVENTUALLY EARNING HER A SECOND MASTER'S DEGREE IN ELEMENTARY EDUCATION. SHE SERVED AS THE 5TH GRADE TEACHER AT LINCOLN COMMUNITY SCHOOL UNTIL HER RETIREMENT, FOLLOWED BY CO-MANAGING HER AND NANA'S HOTEL, GOKLEN HOTEL DURING RETIREMENT UNTIL ITS CLOSURE IN 2010.

DESCRIBED AS AN EXTRAORDINARY WIFE, MOTHER, AND TEACHER, MAMA HELEN'S ADVENTUROUS SPIRIT AND LOVE FOR LIFE WERE EVIDENT TO ALL WHO KNEW HER. SHE LOVED ANIMALS, DANCING EVEN WHILE IN HER 80'S, AND HAPPY'ING HERSELF.



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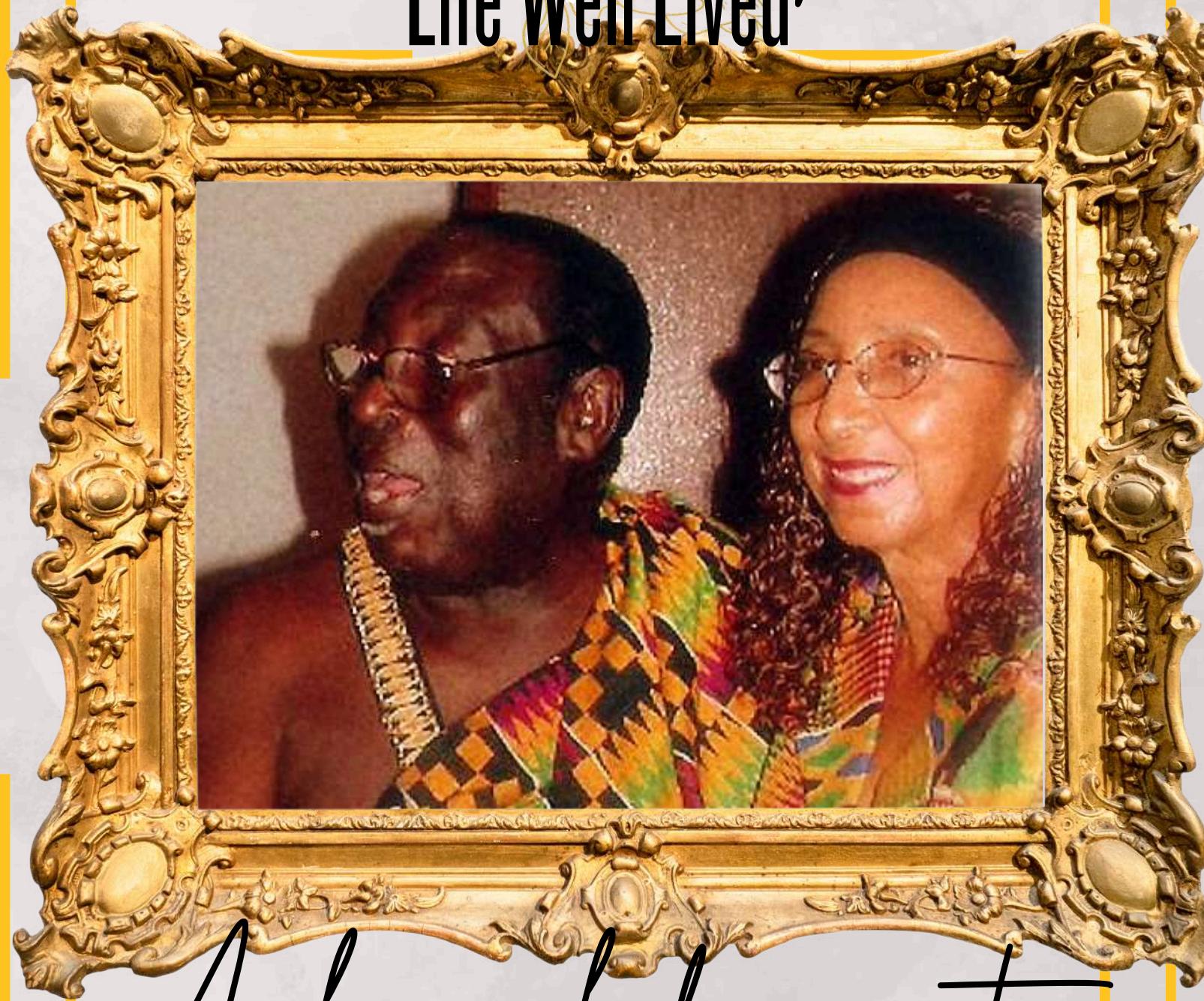
Biography

IN HER HEYDAY, MAMA HELEN WAS DEEPLY COMMITTED TO HER STUDENTS, OFTEN MAKING SURPRISE HOME VISITS TO ENSURE THEIR EDUCATIONAL NEEDS WERE MET. AS A DEVOUT CHRISTIAN, AND ACTIVE MEMBER OF THE CHURCH OF CHRIST, SHE INSTILLED STRONG VALUES IN HER CHILDREN.

MAMA HELEN AND BARIMA OPONG KYEREMATEN II WERE MARRIED NEARLY 50 YEARS. SHE WAS PRECEDED IN DEATH BY HER BELOVED HUSBAND IN 2009. ON APRIL 1, 2024, MAMA HELEN MADE HER TRANSITION TO GLORY PEACEFULLY IN HER SLEEP AT THE AGE OF 87.

SHE IS SURVIVED BY HER BELOVED SIBLINGS - MRS. EARSIE AMOS ANQUANDAH (CA), ROBERT HINES (CA), AND BUKHARI HINES (NV); HER BEAUTIFUL CHILDREN - ABENAA KESSEWAA BROWN (GH), KWADWO OWUSU KESSE (CA), GODFRIED OPONG KESSE JR (CA), AND AMMIE ADWOA AKYERE BONSU (MD); HER GRANDCHILDREN - HELEN CATHERINE AKU BROWN (TX), EASIELYN ADUKWEI BROWN (CA), AIDEN GODFRIED OPONG KESSE (CA), MICHAELLA GRACELYN NYAMEAMA BONSU (MD), NADIA KESSE (CA), LUKE OSEI-TUTU BONSU (MD), ZACHARY KYEMFE BONSU (MD); NANA FREMA BOATENG (VA), DR. PANYIN KESSE (MD), AND NUMEROUS OTHER GRANDCHILDREN WHOM SHE ADORED FROM HER AND NANA'S CLOSE RELATIVES IN GHANA; HER COUSINS - IVORY LEE TAYLOR (TX), DANNY JOHNSON (MICKEY) (TX), EARL INGRAM (CA), JERRY TRIPLETT (CA), ERMA BELL (NV); AND HER NIECE/NEPHEWS - EASALA LYNETTE DAVIS (CA), MALAKI OWUSU BENDER (CA), AND NUMEROUS NEPHEWS AND NIECES FROM HER AND NANA'S CLOSE RELATIVES.

Celebration Of A Life Well Lived



Acknowledgements

The entire Opong-Kesse family expresses our deepest and most sincere gratitude for your prayers, presence, and endless support. May our good Lord continue to bless you and grant you the desires of your heart.

Missed Beyond Measure - Loved Beyond Words



Missed Beyond Measure - Loved Beyond Words

