

# Burial Service

of the late

**MR. MICHAEL KWASI  
AYI-BONTEY**

1957-2023

25th NOVEMBER, 2023







RIP MICHAEL AYI BONTEY



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## **CLERGY**

Very Rev. Fr. Felix Sesenyo Quarshie  
Rev. Fr. Joy Ofori-Kumeni  
Rev. Fr. Christian Ahiawodzi  
Rev. Emmanuel Doh  
Rev. Senyo Ayi

## **IN ATTENDANCE**

Corpus Christi Church Choir  
Sanctified Voices

## PART I: RECEPTION OF BODY

**Entrance:** Abide with me; fast falls the even tide – CH 349

**Filing Past and Singing:**

1. Silently the shades of evening – CH 365
2. When the day of toil is done – CH 363
3. Through all the changing scenes of life – CH 374
4. In heavenly love abiding – CH 412
5. Guide me, O you great Redeemer – CH 350
6. Just as I am, without one plea – CH 166
7. Jerusalem the golden, with milk and honey blest – CH 210
8. Now praise we great and famous men – MHB 896
9. Sent from his father's throne on high – CH 170

## PART II: HOLY MASS

**Processional Hymn:** Yes, Heaven is the price – CH 212

**Introit:** Okura me mu

**Kyrie:** Mass of St. Martha by M. K. Amisah

**First Reading:** Revelations 14:13

**Responsorial Psalm:** My soul is longing for your peace – CH 34

**Gospel Acclamation:** Hallelujah me wo fahodie o

**Gospel Reading:** John 5:24-29

**Homily**

**Bidding Prayers:** Hear our prayers

**First Collection:** Medley of gospel highlife - *Sanctified Voices*

**Incensation:** The solemn sacrifice begins – CH 61

**Sanctus:** Mass of St. Martha by M. K. Amisah

**Acclamation:** Save us, Saviour of the world

**Great Amen:** 3-Fold Amen

**Pater Noster:** The lord's Prayer

**Agnus Dei:** Mass of St. Martha by M. K. Amisah

**Communion:**

**RIP MICHAEL AYI BONTEY**

1. My God loves me – CH 111
2. O Lord, I am not worthy – CH 104
3. O Bread of heaven, beneath this veil – CH 103

**Post Communion:** Yesu ka wo ho

**Second Collection:** Medley of gospel highlife

**Concluding Rites:**

Acknowledgement & Announcement

Final Commendation

**Recessional Hymn:** Hark! Hark, my soul! Angelic Songs are swelling – CH 305

## **PART III: AT THE GRAVE SIDE**

**Processional Hymn:** All you who seek a comfort sure – CH 171

Blessing of the tomb

**Prayers**

**Song:** CH311, CH 190?

Prayer and laying of wreaths

Closing Prayer



## **THE BIOGRAPHY OF THE LATE MR. MICHAEL KWASI ADDAE BOYI AYI-BONTEY**

*“At Sunset Do you know the hour when the sun goes down  
Is a beautiful time of day when your work is done and the shadows fall  
and your worries are laid away? Well, it’s just as true that the close of life  
can a beautiful sunset be every task well done let the shadows fall,  
there is no fear of eternity! “*  
-G. Gilbert

### **EARLY LIFE**

Michael Ayi-Bontey, affectionately called Fo Boyi was born at Gbefi-Tornu, a sub-district in the Kpandu Municipal Assembly (KMA) in the Volta Region of Ghana in the deep night of Sunday 11th August 1957. His parents were Fabian Ayi (deceased) and Justine Nyemjuku (deceased) all from Gbefi-Tornu. He was the only child of the father, nonetheless the eldest of eight siblings who later followed. Baptized at Gbefi-Tornu Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church, three years after birth, young Michael was noticed as very brilliant, so the grand-parents, the Ayis' and BoyiMama made him start school early at age 5. With determination, Mike completed the Gbefi Middle School in July 1969 two years after he had lost his dear companion and father in 1967. His uncle, Teacher Aloysuis Ayi found young Kwesi-Addae promising, very brilliant and enterprising and so obtained admission for him at the New Drobo Day Secondary School (now in Bono Region). As a result of transfer to Gbefi L.A Middle School, his guardian and uncle, Teacher Aloysuis Ayi sort transfer for him from Drobo Secondary School to Awudome Secondary School (AWUSCO) where he obtained the GCE O' Level certificate in 1975. Later in the same year, he gained admission to Bishop Herman College, Kpandu and obtain GCE A'Level certificate in 1977. After one-year compulsory National Service at Bishop Herman College, he gained admission into the Kumasi Kwame Nkrumah University of Science & Technology in 1978 where he pursued and obtained a Bsc in Mathematics in 1982.



## **WORKING LIFE**

Ayi-Bontey nick-named Ayi-Bee by his peers and his students did a one-year compulsory National Service at Bishop Herman Secondary School (BIHECO) in 1983/84 academic year. His dedication to work at BIHECO won the heart of the headmaster and students; he was therefore retained as the substantive tutor and head of the Mathematics Department of the School after his National Service in 1984. Ayi-Bee was a businessman whilst teaching and plied trade in (essenco) otherwise known as essential commodities purchased from Nigeria and supplied to Ghanaian merchant shops in Kumasi, Nkawkaw, Koforidua, Hohoe and Kpandu. At the time when many Ghanaian teachers sought greener pasture outside Ghana especially Nigeria, Ayi-Bee decided to settle at home and taught at Bishop Herman College for the period 1985-1988. In pursuit of professional excellence and career, he got excited to be recruited into the Ghana Survey Department to and obtained skills as a trained Land Surveyor in 1988.

At Survey Department Head Office in Accra, he served as the Head of the Mapping and Survey Department of the Greater Accra Region. By dint of hard work, Ayi-Bontey M.K earned the trust and confidence of the Director General of the Survey Department of Ghana and was awarded scholarship in 1989 to pursue a two-year post graduate degree in geodetic engineering. Two years later, he was awarded a government scholarship in 1991 to pursue Master of Science in Geodetic Engineering (Msc.) in the University of London, U.K. On completion of the programme in 1992, he resumed work at the Survey Department Office, in Accra and was appointed the Regional Director of Survey, Greater Accra. He was tasked with additional responsibility as the Head of Ghana Survey School near the 37 Military Hospital.

In 2002, during a reshuffle of regional directors, he was posted to the Volta Regional Survey Department as the Regional Director. He was recognized as the Regional Director of Survey who made several appearances on the radio, TV and other media platforms, to create the awareness for the use and promote the use for services of licensed qualified Land Surveyors to ensure land disputes are settled harmoniously. We can proudly say that, many qualified surveyors gathered here to mourn his demise once benefited from his services or were once under his tutelage and professional guidance in years past.

## **MARRIAGE AND CHRISTIAN LIFE**

A search for a God fearing, loving, respectable, virtuous and a good wife made him settled on Hannah Ayi-Bontey (Mrs) who remained his life partner till this day. Their marriage was blessed in August 1992. The product of the marriage is Stanley, Raphael, Alice and Stephen. Brought up, trained and groomed as a Catholic, Mike until his death has never ceased to instill in his children and others to live a faithful and true life.

## **FAMILY LIFE**

At the family level, Ayi Bontey demonstrated a true nature of a typical African who understood the extended family system. He contributed his quota to family issues without reservation. He related well with everyone. Indeed, he was a father, brother, uncle and grandfather. During family meetings, he was frank and will not hesitate to speak his mind on issues of concern to the family. He made generous financial contributions any time the family was raising funds to address and participated in almost every family programme.

Ayi Bontey fell ill for several years. The children and family gave him the needed medical attention to get him back on his feet. However, on 24th August, 2023 he responded to eternal call by transiting peacefully to join his maker. Fo Boyi you have played your part on this stage of life and now your Creator has called you home. May his grace and mercy keep you until the return of our Lord Jesus Christ to take all of us back to Himself.

He is survived by a widow, four (4) children and five (6) grandchildren. Fo Boyi, the entire family loves you, but God loves you most. You will be sorely missed. Babaa, Babaa, Babaa, hede nyuie; Agbadzevi na zor blewu blewu blewu dweanoma damirifa!

Dzudzor le ntifafa me Amen

## **TRIBUTE FROM WIDOW**

*“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.”-Matthew 5:4*

Today, we gather not in sorrow but in celebration of a life that was marked by resilience, love, and unwavering strength. I stand before you to pay tribute to the remarkable man who was not just my husband but my truest companion, my confidant, and my greatest source of inspiration.

I remember the first day we met at Kpando, I was captivated by your charming looks and immediately I knew we were meant for each other. Our journey of about 40 years has been nothing but love, joy and affection. You made me the envy amongst my friends because of how well you took care of me and our children. I remember when you went to the United Kingdom (UK), you did everything within your power to get me to join you there.

You have indeed been an amazing husband and father to our children. There is no doubt, that I would choose you again as my husband if there was marriage in heaven.

Despite the many challenges that life threw at us, he never allowed his spirit to be broken. He taught me the true meaning of courage, fortitude, and the enduring power.

Mike, as I affectionately call you, today I stand here to reminisce of all the good times we shared. Anyone who knew you, can attest to the fact that you took your walk and Christian journey very seriously. I remember when you had to scold the children because they didn't take the Holy communion when they attended Mass. I admired your great commitment to the works of God and the Catholic Church.

Mike, as you embark on your final journey today, I want you to know that I would forever cherish and hold you in my heart. Your love and your memory will continue to guide us, and your spirit will live on in the countless lives you touch.

Rest in peace, my love, for you have earned your eternal rest. Until we meet again, goodbye Ayi-Bee

Baba na wo.

## TRIBUTE FROM CHILDREN

*"If we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord." - Roman 14:8*

Daddy today we your children, Stanley, Raphael, Alice and Stephen are here to pay a glorious tribute to you because you indeed deserve it. Daddy as we all call you; we are who we are today because of the good upbringing coupled with the Godly training you gave us.

You were a disciplinary and you never failed to discipline us whenever we misbehaved. We remember days when you didn't give us our lunch money because we didn't take Holy communion during mass. Today we say thank you for instilling the fear of God in our lives and teaching us to take our christian faith serious.

You were the best daddy and we saw you as a super hero because you provided everything for us, we never lacked. You made life very comfortable for us and we say thank you. You never missed our birthdays, and always celebrated each time we achieved a great feat.

Daddy, we also remember how you wake us up early each day to have morning devotion and also pray at night before retiring to bed. Every Saturday night, you made sure we gathered around the alter to go through Sunday mass reading before we go for mass. You also ensured we joined every society and group in the church. Thank you, daddy, for bringing us up in the Lord.

Daddy, here lies your mortal remains, and as we stand here to say our final goodbyes, our hearts are heavy with grief, but they are also filled with the love and memories we shared.

As you journey to your eternal rest, know that you will always be with us in our hearts. Your love and your memory will continue to guide us, and your spirit will live on in our lives. Daddy, we will miss you.

Daddy, till we meet again, rest in perfect peace

## **TRIBUTE FROM AYITOGBUIYORVIWO GROUP**

*“There are special people in our lives who never leaves us,  
even after they are gone”*

Oh death! Couldn't you have waited a little longer? You are at your best again. But you know what? Christ conquered you and with that knowledge we are strengthened.

Papa, your demise has left us in a state of confusion. We don't know whether to be happy or sad. To be sad, because we'll never see you again. To be happy, because we know God has prepared a better place for you. Tracing back old memories, as torgbuiyoviwo, we just want to say thank you for all the unseen sacrifices, love, support and care you gave to see each of us at where we are today. Your good heart, pieces of advice has kept us in a better race today. We'll miss all the times we shared us family. You're indeed a nature to emulate. You're one person whose heart can't be compared to any other.

It saddens our hearts to know that you're gone in sight and we'll miss you dearly Papa. Although it's difficult today to see beyond the sorrow, may looking back bring us memories that will comfort us to know that, we once had an Angel in the form of a human in our family.

Fare thee well Torgbui Ayi

Rest in the bosom of the Lord. You'll forever have that special place in our hearts. We wish you the best transition of life.

## TRIBUTE FROM TOGBE KWAKU DUA VIII DUFIA OF GBEFI TORNU

On behalf of the Chiefs, Queen mothers, Elders, the youth and the entire Gbefi community, I do hereby present this tribute as record of honour for you Michael Ayi Bontey.

You became the acting Director of Ghana School of Surveyors in early 2005.

Very good number of post -secondary school youth of Gbefi gained admission into this noble institution through your assistance. Accept our profound gratitude.

Through your position, Gbefi Goodwill association changed its meeting venue from Accra Workers College to survey School ground for convenience's sake. Our gratitude is yours.

Goodwill association and Anobi Youth association jointly hosted successful meetings with our Traditional Leaders and discussed very relevant developmental issues of Gbefi on Survey School ground. Accept our gratitude.

I most recount your profession at competence which enabled you to become Volta Regional surveyor after leaving the Survey School. You and your colleagues assisted Gbefi a lot in our Land Boundary challenges during the period.

Dear citizen, you deserve our commendation. God's bosom is your place of eternal peaceful rest. Farewell!

## **TRIBUTE FROM THE KNIGHTS AND LADIES OF MARSHAL**

In loving memory of Bro Michael Kwesi Ayi-Bontey, a noble Knight of Marshal. Today, we gather here to pay tribute to a remarkable man who dedicated his life to service, leadership, and brotherhood.

Bro Michael's journey as a Knight of Marshal began with Council 6, where he became the Grand Knight, leading with unwavering passion and unwavering commitment. Under his guidance, Council 6 flourished, growing in numbers and becoming a beacon of strength within the community.

Despite the adversity he faced, he never let it dampen his spirit or deter him from his values. Bro Michael showed immense resilience, courage, and determination throughout his thirteen-year battle, never losing sight of his convictions.

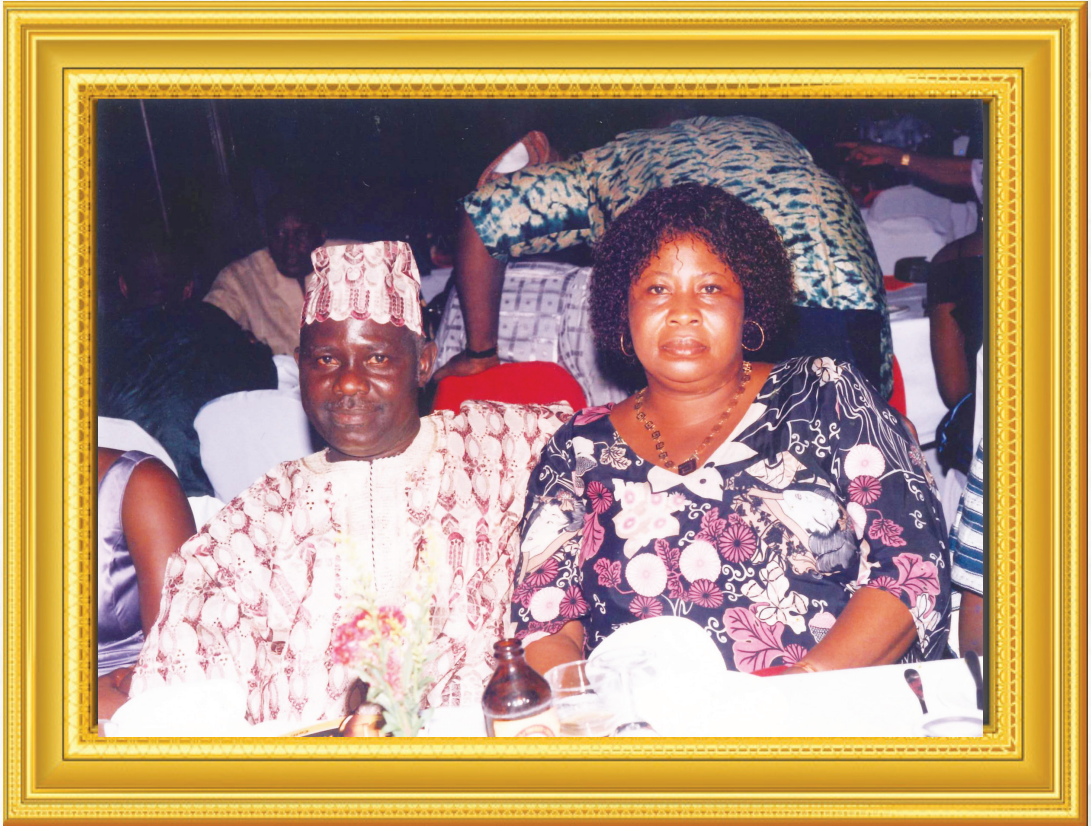
Bro Michael's dedication to his fellow Knights remained resolute, even during his difficult times. He continued to inspire and uplift his brothers, reminding them of the importance of unity, brotherhood, and service. His unwavering faith and perseverance were a shining example to all who had the privilege of knowing him.

Beyond his role as a Knight, Bro Michael was a true pillar of strength for his family and friends. He possessed a warm and loving heart, always willing to lend a helping hand and offer words of encouragement. His kind and gentle nature leaves an indelible mark on all those whose lives he touched.

As we bid farewell to our dear Brother, let us celebrate the impact he had on our lives. Let us remember his unwavering dedication, selflessness, and passion for serving others. Let us carry his legacy forward by embodying the same virtues that he so exemplified.

Bro Michael Kwesi Ayi-Bontey, you will forever be etched in our hearts as a true Knight of Marshal, a beacon of strength, and an inspiration to us all. May you rest in peace, knowing that your legacy lives on in the hearts of those who have been touched by your remarkable spirit. Farewell, our dear Brother.

# GALLERY



**Mr. Ayi-Bontey and Wife**

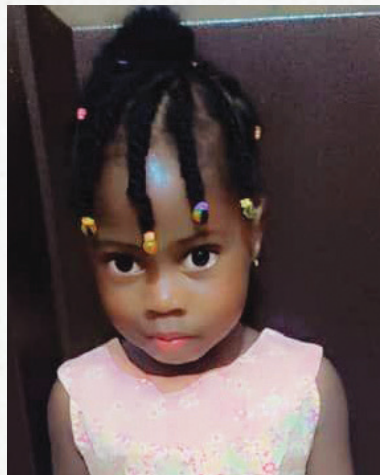


**CHILDREN**



# GALLERY

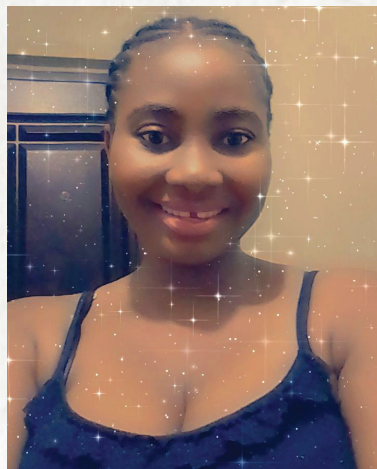
## GRANDCHILDREN



RIP MICHAEL AYI BONTEY

# GALLERY

## IN-LAWS



*Rest in Eternal Peace*



### Yes, Heaven is the prize – CH 212

Yes heaven is the prize,  
My soul shall strive to gain  
One glimpse of Paradise,  
Repays a life of pain.

Chorus: 't Is Heaven; yes  
heaven;  
Yes Heaven is the prize;  
't Is Heaven; 't is heaven;  
Yes Heaven is the prize.

Yes, Heaven is the prize!  
My soul, Oh think of this;  
All earthly goods despise,  
For such a crown of bliss.  
't Is Heaven, etc.

Yes, Heaven is the prize!  
When sorrows press around,  
Look up beyond the skies,  
Where hope and strength are  
found.  
't Is Heaven, etc.

Yes, Heaven is the prize!  
Oh, it's not hard to gain;  
He surely wins who tries,  
For hope can conquer pain.  
't Is Heaven, etc.

Yes, Heaven is the prize!  
The strife will soon be past,  
Faint not, but raise your eyes,  
And struggle to the last.  
't Is Heaven, etc.

### My God loves me – CH 111

My God loves me.  
His love will never end.  
He rests within my heart  
For my God loves me.

His gentle hand  
He stretches over me.  
Though storm-clouds threaten  
the day  
He will set me free.

He comes to me  
In sharing bread and wine,

**RIP MICHAEL AYI BONTEY**

He brings me life that will reach  
past the end of time.

My God loves me,  
His faithful love endures.  
And I will live like a child  
Held in love secure.

The joys of love  
As offerings now we bring,  
The pains of love will be lost  
In the praise we sing.

**O Lord, I am not worthy – CH 104**

O Lord, I am not worthy  
That you should come to me,  
But speak the word all powerful  
My soul then heard shall be.

I'm longing to receive you,  
The Bridegroom of my soul;  
No more from you I'll wander;  
Nor flee your sweet control.

In awe, O Lord, all holy,  
The angels you adore;  
How then ought I most deeply,  
My lowness deplore.

But when you soon will enter,  
O Lord, my sinful heart,  
Then heal me, be my shelter,  
For you my Saviour art.

**O Bread of heaven, beneath this  
veil – CH 103**

O bread of heaven, beneath this  
veil  
that has my very God concealed;  
my Jesus, dearest treasure, hail;  
I love you and adoring kneel;  
each loving soul by you is fed  
with your own self in form of  
bread.

O food of life, that you do give  
the pledge of immortality;  
I live; no, 'tis not I that live;  
God gives me life, God lives in  
me:  
he feeds my soul, he guides my  
ways,  
and every grief with joy repays.

O bond of love, which does unite  
the servant to his living Lord;  
could I dare live, and not requite,  
such love then death were meet  
reward:

I cannot live unless to prove  
some love for such unmeasur'd  
love.

Belovèd Lord in heaven above,  
there, Jesus, is awaiting me;  
to look on you with changeless  
love,  
yes, thus I hope, thus shall it be:  
for how can he deny me heaven  
who here on earth himself has  
given?

# Appreciation

The family of the late  
*Mr. Michael Kwasi Ayi-Bontey*  
wish to express their sincere  
gratitude for your prayers and support.

God Richly Bless You.

[www.michaelayibontey.com](http://www.michaelayibontey.com)