

FUNERAL PROGRAM

RECEPTION OF THE BODY

Presider: The grace and peace of our God who raised Jesus from the dead be always with you.

All: And also with you.

SPRINKLING WITH HOLY WATER

Presider: In the water of baptism Kwesi Essel-Koomson, died with Christ and rose with him to new life. May he now share with Christ eternal glory.

ENTRANCE PROCESSION - HYMN

Yes, I shall arise and return to my Father.

Ant: Yes I shall arise and return to my Father!

1. To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul;
In you, O my God, I place all my trust.
2. Look down on me, have mercy, O Lord;
Forgive me my sins, behold all my grief.
3. My heart and soul shall yearn for your face;
Be gracious to me and answer my plea.
4. Do not withhold your goodness from me;
O Lord, may your love be deep in my soul;
5. To you I pray; have pity on me;
My God, I have sinned against your great love.
6. Mercy, I cry, O Lord, wash me clean;
And wither than snow my spirit shall be.
7. Give me again the joy of your help;
Now open my lips, your praise I will sing.
8. Happy is he, forgiven by God;
His sins blotted out, his guilt is no more.

OPENING PRAYER

Presider: O God, in whom sinners find mercy and the saints find joy, we pray to you for our brother Kwesi Essel-Koomson that he may be delivered from the bonds of death. Admit him to the joyful company of your saints and raise him on the last day to rejoice in your presence for ever.

We ask this through Lord Jesus Christ, your Son who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

All: Amen.

BURIAL MASS PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Now Praise we Great and Famous Men

1. Now praise we great and famous men,
The fathers, named in story
And praise the Lord who now as then
Reveals in man his Glory.
2. Praise we the wise and brave and strong,
Who graced their generation,
Who help the right, and fought the wrong,
And made our folk a nation.
3. Praise we the great of heart and mind,
The singers sweetly gifted,
Whose music like mighty wind
The soul of men uplifted.
4. Praise we the peaceful men of skill,
Who builded homes of beauty,



OFFICIATING CLERGY

REV. FRs:

- Anthony Blankson Yorke
- Francis Acquah Sagoe
- Joseph Mensah
- Augustine Koomson
- Mark Kwenim

CATECHIST

- Stephen K. Adawu
- Gifty Amenuvor

CHOIR DIRECTORS

- Rudolf Abbiw Jackson
- Comfort Abbiw

ORGANIST

- Benedict Sam
- Abraham Anderson

And, rich in art, made richer still
The brotherhood of duty.

5. Praise we the glorious names we know,
And they whose names have perished,
Lost in the haze of long ago
In silent love be cherished.
6. In peace their sacred ashes rest,
Fulfilled their days endeavour
They blest the earth, and they are blest
Of God and man, forever.
7. So praise we great and famous men,
(DESCANT)
The fathers named in story,
And praise the Lord who now as then
Reveals in man his Glory.

OPENING SONG

Gye me Tataa

Gye me taataa, Kyere me kwan kodu fie daa
(dwodwoo)
Na minni oboafu bia obema me asomdwee;
Wo ne me kwan, wo ne me han, wo ne me
wankwagye
Ne made nyina. Me mboa fir wo nkotoo (D. C.)
Asem bi to me a, wo beka ama me o, se ohaw bi to
mea wo be twitwa agye me nti me nnsuro koraa.
M'ahocden nyinaa fir awurade.
Gye me taataa, kyere me kwan kodu fie, mahocden
Nyina fir Awurade, Gye me taataa, kyere me kwan
kodu fie, me mboa fir wo nkoto

INTRODUCTORY RITES

- Welcome Address
- Call to Penance/ Penitential Rite
- Stepping into God's Presence and Celebrating God's Forgiveness
- Kyrie: *Mass of St. Jude*
- Gloria: *Mass of St. Jude*
- Opening Prayer

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Welcoming the word of God: *Song: Nyame Sumsum*

First Reading: From the book of Wisdom 4:7-15

Untarnished life, this is ripe old age.

The virtuous man, though he die before his time, will find rest. Length of days is not what makes age honorable, nor number of years the true measure of life; understanding, this is man's grey hairs, untarnished life, this is ripe old age.

He has sought to please God, so God has loved him; as he was living among sinners, he has been taken up. He has been carried off so that evil may not warp his understanding or treachery seduce his soul; for the fascination of evil throws good things into the shade, and the whirlwind of desire corrupts a simple heart.

Coming to perfection is so short a while, he achieved long life; his soul being pleasing to the Lord, he has taken him quickly from the wickedness around him.

Yet people look on, uncomprehending; it does not enter their heads that grace and mercy await the chosen of the Lord, and protection, his holy ones.

The word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God.



RESPONSORIAL PSALM

The Lord is my Shepherd

1. The Lord is my shepherd, I'll not want. He makes me down to lie in pastures green. He leadeth me The quiet waters by.
2. My soul he doth restore again, And me to walk doth make. Within the paths of righteousness, e'en for his own name's sake.
3. Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale, yet will I fear none ill. For thou art with me, and thy rod And staff me comfort still.
4. My table thou hast furnished, In presence of my foes, My head thou dost with oil anoint, And my cup overflows.
5. Goodness and mercy all my life shall surely follow me. And in God's house forever more my dwelling place shall be.

- **Seconding Reading:** Philippians 1:20-23
- **Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia
- **Gospel:** John 17:24-26
- **Homily**
- **Prayers of the Faithful:** *O Lord hear us we pray / Thou Knowest Lord*

Presider: God, the Almighty Father raised Christ his son From the dead; with confidence we ask him to save all his people, living or dead.

1. For Kwesi Essel-Koomson who in baptism was given the pledge of Eternal life, that he now be admitted to the company of the saints.
2. For our brother who ate the body of Christ, the bread of life, that he may be raised up on the last day

3. For the family and friends of our brother Kwesi Essel-Koomson, that they may be consoled in their grief by the Lord who wept at the death of his friend Lazarus.
4. For our deceased relatives and friends and for all who have helped us, that they may have the reward of their goodness.
5. For all of us assembled here to worship in faith; that we may be gathered together in God's Kingdom.
6. For those who have fallen asleep in the hope of rising again, that they may see God face to face.

Presider: God, our shelter and our strength, you listen in love to cry of your people: hear the prayers we offer for our departed brother Kwesi Essel-Koomson and all who have gone before us in the hope of the resurrection. Cleanse them of their sins and grant them the fullness of redemption. May your Holy Spirit also console and strengthen the family and the friends of our brother Kwesi Essel-Koomson.

Heal their pain and dispel the darkness and doubt that comes from grief.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Collection: Choir present

Offertory: Me kra dzi dew



INCENSATION

Enye mena a mansuro hwεε

Enye me nam a, monnsuro hwee (2x)
Se obra ye dzen den a, owo nye hen gyaefo.
Mowo ahokyer mu mpo a, mowo nsohwe mu mpo a,
me nam ohaw mu mpo a, me nam owu mu mpo a,
mo wura nye me nam o
se nye me nam a, monnsuro hwee o (D.C.)
odomankoma, ahokyer mu, mpo, nsohwe mu mpo a,
odomankoma, se nye me nam a, monnsuro hwee o.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

Preface of Christian Death I

Presider: The Lord be with you.
All: And also with you
Presider: Lift up your hearts.
All: We lift them up to the Lord
Presider: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God
All: It is right to give him thanks and praise
Presider: It is truly right and just, Our duty and our salvation, Always and everywhere to give you thanks, holy Father, almighty and eternal God, through Jesus Christ Our Lord. In him who rose from the dead, our hope for resurrection dawned. The sadness of certain death gives way to the bright promise of immortality. Lord, for your faithful people life is changed, not ended. When the body of our earthly body is laid aside we gain an everlasting dwelling place in heaven And so with arch angels and angels, with all the

heavenly host, we proclaim your glory and join their unending chorus of praise:

Sanctus: Mass of Jude

EUCCHARIST PRAYER III

Presider: Father, you are holy indeed, and all creation rightly gives you praise. All life, all holiness comes from you through your son Jesus Christ our Lord, by the working of the Holy Spirit. From age to age you gather a people to yourself, so that from the rising of the sun to his setting a perfect offering may be made to the glory of your name.

Presider with concelebrants: And so, Father, We bring you these gifts. We ask you to make them holy by the power of the Holy Spirit, that they may become the body and blood of your son, our Lord Jesus Christ, at whose command we celebrate this eucharist.

On the night he was betrayed, He took bread and gave you thanks and praise. He took the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: **Take this all of you and eat it: This is my body which will be given up for you.**

When supper was ended, he took the cup. Again he gave you thanks and praise, gave the cup to his disciples, and said: **Take this, all of you, and drink from it: This is the cup of my blood, The blood of the new everlasting Covenant. It will be shed for you and for all So that sins may be forgiven. Do this in memory of me.**



MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

Keep in mind

Keep in mind that Jesus Christ
Has died for us
And is risen from the dead.
He is our saving Lord, he is the joy of all ages.

One concelebrants: Father, calling to mind the death
Your Son endured for our salvation, His
glorious resurrection and ascension into
heaven, and ready to greet him when he
comes again, we offer you in thanksgiving
this holy and living sacrifice.

Look with favour of your church's offering,
And see the Victim whose death has
reconciled us to yourself.

Grant that we, who are nourished by his
body and blood, may be filled with his Holy
Spirit, and become one body, one spirit in
Christ.

May he make us an everlasting gift to you
and enable us to share in the inheritance of
your saints, with Mary, the virgin-mother of
God; with the apostles, the martyrs, and all
your saints, on whose constant intercessions
we rely for help.

One Concelebrant: Lord, may this sacrifice, which has
made our peace with you, advance the peace
and salvation of the world. Strengthen in
faith and love your pilgrim church on earth:
your servant, Pope Benedict, our Archbishop
Mathias Nketsiah, and all the bishops, with

the clergy and the entire people your Son has
gained for you. Father, hear the prayers of the
family you have gathered here before you.
In mercy and in love unite all your children
wherever they may be.

One Concelebrant: Remember your servant Kwesi Essel-
Koomson, In baptism he died with Christ:
May he also share his resurrection, When
Christ will raise our mortal bodies. And
make them his own in glory. Welcome into
your kingdom our heart departed. Brothers
and sisters, And all who have left this world
in your friendship. There we hope to share in
your glory. When every tear will be wiped
away. On that day we shall see you, our God,
as you are. We shall become like you. And
praise you forever through Christ our Lord,
From whom all good things come.

Presider with Concelebrants:

Through him, With him, In him, In the
unity of the Holy Spirit, All glory and
honour is yours, Almighty father, Forever
and ever.

THE GREAT AMEN

Amen amen blessings and glory
Wisdom thanksgiving and honour
Power and might belongs to our God
Forever and ever.



COMMUNION RITE

Pater Noster (to be sung)

Kiss of Peace: When peace like a river/ Dofu hom ma yen do

Angus Dei: Mass of St Jude

COMMUNION HYMNS:

A. CHB 374

1. Through all the changing scenes of life,
In trouble and in joy,
The praises of my God shall still,
My heart and tongue employ.
2. Of His deliverance I will boast
Till all that are distressed,
From my example comfort take,
And charm their griefs to rest.
3. O magnify the Lord with me
With me exalt His name;
When in distress to Him I called,
He to my rescue came
4. The host of God encamp around,
The dwelling of the just;
Deliverance He affords to all,
Who is His succor trust.
5. O make but trials of His love;
Experience will decide,
How blest they are, and only they,
Who in His truth confide.
6. Fear Him, you saints and you will then,
Have nothing else to fear;
Make you His service your delight,
He'll make your wants His care.

B. CHB 245

1. How sweet the name of Jesus sounds
In a believer's ear!
It soothes his sorrows, heal his wounds,
And drives away his fear.
2. It makes the wounded spirit whole,
And calms the troubled breast;
Its manner to the hungry soul,
And to the weary rest
3. Dear name! the rock on which I build,
My shield and hiding place,
My never failing treasure filled,
With boundless stores of grace.
4. Jesus! My shepherd, brother, friend,
My prophet priest and king,
My Lord, my life, my way, my end
Accept the praise I bring
5. Weak is the effort of my heart,
And cold my warmest thought;
But when I see you as you are,
I'll praise you as I ought.
6. Till then, I would your love proclaim,
With every fleeting breath;
And may the music of your name,
Refresh my soul in death

C. CBH 350

1. Guide me, O you great redeemer,
Pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak, but you are mighty;
Hold me with your powerful hand:
Bread of heaven,
Feed me now and evermore.



2. Open now the crystal fountain,
Whence the healing stream does flow,
Let the fire and cloudy pillar,
Lead me all my journey through:
Strong deliverer
You are still my strength and shield
3. When I tread the verge of Jordon,
Bid my anxious fears subside;
Death of death, and hell's destruction,
Land me safe on Canaan's side:
Songs and praises,
I will ever give to you.

D. CHB 95

1. Jesus, Jesus, come to me.
How I long and sign for Thee:
You, my true and only friend,
Come and stay unto the end.
2. Thou, a thousand times I call,
Jesus thou, my God and all.
Ever signs my soul for thee,
Jesus, Jesus, come to me.
3. Come, then, Jesus, come to me.
Let me ever live in thee
Come and never more depart,
Come and live within my heart.

E. CHB 111

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

2. His gentle hands he stretches over me.
Though storm-clouds threaten the day,
He will set me free.
3. He comes to me,
In sharing bread and wine.
He brings me life that will reach
Past the end of time.
4. My God loves me,
His faithful love endures.
And I will live like a child
Held in love secure.
5. The joys of love,
As offering now we bring.
The pains of love will be lost
In the praise we sing.

Post Communion: And I saw a new heaven

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Presider: Let us pray. Lord give your mercy and love to Kwesi Essel-Komson your servant. He hoped in Christ and preached Christ. By this sacrifice may he share with Christ the joy of eternal life. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

FINAL COMMENDATION AND FAREWELL

Song: Fa wo nyira ma yen.

Reading of Biography



SONG

Give me the wings

1. Give me the wings of faith to rise
Within the veil, and see
The saints above, how great their joys
How bright their glories be.
2. Once they were mourners here below
And poured out cries and tears;
They wrestled hard, as we do now
With sins, and doubts, and fears.
3. I ask them whence their victories came;
They with united breath
Ascribe their conquest to the lamb
Their triumph to His death.
4. They marked the footsteps that He trod.
His zeal inspired their breast
And, following their incarnate God.
Possess the promised rest.
5. Our glorious Leader claims our praise
For His own pattern given!
While the long cloud of witnesses
Show the same path to heaven.

Presider: Trusting in God, we have prayed together for Kwesi Essel-Koomson, and now we come to the last farewell. There is sadness in parting, but we take comfort in the hope that one day we will see Kwesi Essel Koomson again and enjoy his friendship. Although we will disperse in sorrow, the mercy of God will gather us together again the joy of the kingdom. Therefore, let us

console one another in the faith of Jesus Christ.

Silence: All pray in silence

INCENSATION AND ASPERGES

Yesu ka wo ho

1. Yesu ka wo ho odi w' anim odi w' kyi
Yesu ka wo ho, w' amanehum' w' abebresem'
S' asaase ani dani butu, Mmepo tu tu kogu po
bun mu a
Ensure (menua) ensure, n'oka wo ho daa
Se wo do w' Awurade, w' koma ne w' adwen
nyinara
Na se wo do wo yonko, wo do wo nua se wo
ho a
S' asaase ani dani butu, Mmepo tu tu kogu po
bun mu a
Ensure (menua) ensure, n'oka wo ho daa
2. Yesu hwe wo so, w' adidi ne wo fib a mu
Yesu hwe wo so, oka wo ho abre nyinaamu
S' asaase ani dani butu, Mmepo tu tu kogu po
bun mu a
Ensure (menua) ensure, n'oka wo ho daa
Se wotu gyidianamon O kristo ni w' anidaso
o-a
Na se wo ben, Awurade, w' abrabo kronkron
mu a
S' asaase ani dani butu, Mmepo tu tu kogu po
bun mu a
Ensure (menua) ensure, n'oka wo ho daa

Presider: Saints of God, come to his aid
Hasten to meet him, angels of the Lord



All: Receive his soul and present him to God the Most High.

Presider: May Christ, who called you, take you to himself, May angels lead you to the bosom of Abraham.

All: Receive his soul and present him to God the Most High.

Presider: Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord,
And let perpetual light shine upon him.

All: Receive his soul and present him to God the Most High.

PRAYER OF COMMENDATION

Presider: Into your hands, Lord of mercies, we commend your servant Kwesi Essel-Koomson, in the sure and certain hope that together with all who have died in Christ, he will rise with him on the last day.

We give you thanks for the blessings which you bestowed upon Kwesi Essel-Koomson, in this life: they are signs to us of your goodness famed of our fellowship with the saints in Christ. Merciful Lord, turn towards us and listen to our prayers: open the gates of paradise to your servant and help us who remain to comfort one another with assurances of faith, until we meet in Christ and are with you and with our brothers forever. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen

Song: Dead March in Soul (*All stand*)

Last Post (*All stand*)

Presider: May the angels lead you in paradise; may the martyr's come to welcome you and take you to the holy city, the new and eternal Jerusalem. May the choirs of angels welcome you. Where Lazarus is poor no longer, may you have eternal rest.

RITE OF COMMITTAL

Song: Where is our God

Presider: We gather here to commend our brother Kwesi Essel-Koomson, to God and to commit his body to the earth. In the Spirit of faith in the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, let us raise our voices in song and offer our prayers for our brother.

SONG

Ahomgye Pa/ Da yie dofo tona fo

1. Dayie, dofo fonafo,
W'edwuma abo adze
Ahomgyepa, siar mbordo,
Na dew mapa nye wodze.
2. Nyinsuwa bonsa m' kwantunyi,
Hom fi yaw na suro nsa
Hom mbre sun a mbusu nnyi
W'akwantu ber ano asa.

Dayie, dayie! Nyame mfabw' nsie,
Adzesaa ahye sum,
Dayie
3. Twer Jesu n'abaw mu komm,
Nyame dc nkata wo do,



Sun w' Agyenkwa no bom' sonn,
Mbre bon biara nnke haw wo.

4. Kwantunyi berefo dofo.
W'akwantu abo adze,
Atsew esian nyina mu,
Efi awarehow wiadze.

Scripture Verse: Mathew 25:34

Come, you who are blessed by my Father, says the Lord, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.

PRAYER OVER THE PLACE OF COMMITTAL

Presider: Lord Jesus Christ, by your own three days in the tomb, you hallowed the graves of all who believe in you and so made the grave a sign of hope that promises resurrection even as it claims our mortal bodies.

Grant that our brother may sleep here in peace until you awaken him to glory for you are the resurrection and the life. Then he will see you face to face and in your light will see light and know the splendor of God, for you live and reign forever and ever.

All: Amen

COMMITTAL

Presider: Because God has chosen to call our brother Kwesi Essel-Komson from this life to himself, we commit his body to the earth for we are dust and unto dust we shall return.

But the Lord Jesus Christ will change our

mortal bodies to be like his in glory. For he is risen, the first born from the dead. So let us commend our brother to the lord, that the Lord may embrace him in peace and raise up his body on the last day.

All: Amen

INTERCESSIONS:

Presider: For our brother Kwesi Essel-Komson, let us pray to our Lord Jesus Christ, who said, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me shall live even in death and whoever lives and believes in me shall never die

Reader: Lord, you consoled Martha and Mary in their distress: draw near to us who mourn for our brother Kwesi Essel-Koomson, and dry the tears of those who weep. We pray to the Lord:

All: Lord hear our prayer

Reader: You wept at the grave of Lazarus, your friend; comfort us in our sorrow. We pray to the Lord.

All: Lord hear our prayer

Reader: You raised the dead to life; give to our brother eternal life. We pray to the Lord

All: Lord hear our prayer

Reader: You promised paradise to the repentant thief; bring our brother Kwesi Essel-Koomson to the joys of heaven: We pray to the Lord.

All: Lord hear our prayer

Reader: Our brother was washed in baptism and anointed with the Holy spirit; give him



union with all your saints. We pray to the Lord.

All: Lord hear our prayer

Reader: Our brother was nourished with your body and blood; grant him a place at the table in your heavenly kingdom. We pray to the Lord.

All: Lord hear our prayer

Reader: Comfort us in our sorrow at the death of Kwesi Essel-Koomson, let our faith be our consolation, and eternal life our hope. We pray to the Lord.

All: Lord hear our prayer

The Lord's Prayer

CONCLUDING PRAYER

Presider: God of holiness and power, accept our prayer on behalf of your servant Kwesi Essel-Koomson do not count his deeds against him, for in his heart he desired to do your will. As his faith united him to your people on earth, so may your mercy join him to the angels and saints in heaven. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen

PRAYER OVER THE PEOPLE

Reader: Bow your heads and pray for God's blessing.

Presider: Merciful God, you know the anguish of the sorrowful you are attentive to the prayers of the humble. Hear your people, who cry out to you in their need, and strengthen their hope in your lasting goodness. We ask this through Christ our Lord

All: Amen

Presider: Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord.

All: And let perpetual light shine on him

Presider: May he rest in peace.

All: Amen

Presider: May his soul and the souls of all the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace.

All: Amen

Presider: May the peace of God, which is beyond all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God and of his Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

All: Amen

HYMN

In heavenly love abiding.

1. In heavenly love abiding,
No change my heart shall fear;
And safe is such confiding,
For nothing changes here:
The storm may roar without me,
My heart may low be laid;
But God is round about me,
And can I be dismayed?
2. Wherever He may guide me,
No want shall turn me back;
My shepherd is beside me,
And nothing can I lack;
His wisdom acts like leaven,
It moves up from within,
He knows the way to heaven,
Which only love can win.



3. Green pastures are before me,
Which yet I have not seen;
Bright skies will soon be o'er me,
Where the dark clouds have been;
My hope I cannot measure,
My path to life is free;
My savior has my treasure,
And He will walk with me.

Symbol of committal: Earth and laying of Wreath

Announcement

Concluding Song: Alleluia

Dismissal

Presider: Go in the peace of Christ

All: Thanks be to God

MEMORIES OF KEK



OBITUARY

The man we mourn today, Kwesi Essel Koomson, better known to all as KEK, was born on April 11, 1952 to Madam Ekua Esiakuma and the late Kwesi Kum of the Asona clan in Senya Beraku in the Central Region of Ghana.

He was a most welcome and cherished child because the couple had lost two earlier sons before a daughter survived and were to lose another two that were born after him. The trauma of the multiple deaths of the infants led to the collapse of the marriage as his father sought refuge in another relationship and took another wife.



Madam Ekua Esiakuma

His mother escaped with the young Kwesi to Nyanoa, a small town near Mankrong in the Central Region to live with an Aunt of hers. There, Madam Ekuba started some petty trading in addition to the fishmongering she had grown up with. A passionate bond developed between Mother and son which was to fascinate all those who got to know him as he grew up and was only broken on April 29 this year when KEK passed way.

It was at Nyanoa that Madam Ekua Esiakuma met her second husband, Kojo Asekye Nyamekye, popularly known and called Agooji who became a father to KEK.

The late Agooji, also came from Senya Bereku and was a skilled carpenter who specialized in roofing.



KEK with Agooji his step father

In the pursuit of his profession in 1957, Agooji followed a friend to his village of Mmonwura in the Northern region and settled to work. He later brought his wife and children to join him. Kwesi started school in the local Catholic Schools in Kpandai and Madam Ekuba embarked upon her trading activities.

Conditions were harsh and KEK never tired of recounting the sacrifices her mother made to be able to keep him and other siblings and relations that made up the household. In later life, he would talk about carrying his mother's sewing machine on his shoulders to walk around mending people's torn clothes to earn some money. He narrated almost as a badge of honour that the first time he put his feet in a pair of shoes was

KEK with his mother





In Canada during his early days



With colleagues in Canada

when he entered Saint Charles Seminary for his secondary education.

This marked the start of another lifelong passion for KEK, his attachment and commitment to the Roman Catholic Church. He credited the Church with opening his mind and giving him the opportunities that education provided him and above all, for giving him the firm anchor that led him through life.

After Saint Charles and having acquired many lifelong friends in the North, and according to him, having been toughened up for all that life would later throw at him, he came down south for his sixth form at Winneba Secondary School.

Then he went to the University of Ghana and to Commonwealth Hall and the start of another lifelong passion. He enjoyed Commonwealth Hall and the University of Ghana and claimed he used to pinch his arm to assure himself that he was the same poor boy who used to run around barefoot.

In that hallowed atmosphere he made a pledge to himself that he would make sure that no poor child of his acquaintance would ever be denied an education for lack of funds. After graduating he got a Commonwealth scholarship and went to Canada to pursue a post graduate course at the Mohawk College of Applied Arts and Technology, in Hamilton Ontario, Canada.

After the course he worked as a Management Trainee with two Insurance companies in Ontario where he got a firm grasp and love of

the Insurance business and came away enchanted with Canada and its many opportunities.

He started his formal working life in Liberia as an Underwriting Manager with the Alliance Assurance company. He then moved to Nigeria and worked with Femi Johnson & Co, at the time the largest indigenous broking firm in the country. He quickly established a reputation as a go-getter and a young man who was going places. Before long he became well known in the Insurance industry not only in Liberia but also in Nigeria and in Sierra Leone where his work often took him.



In his inaugural office in the AA building

He lectured in the West African Insurance Institute in Monrovia from 1979 to 1988 and this ensured that he got to know almost everybody in the industry in the sub-region. He made lifelong friends along the West African coast.

From 1988 he began turning his attention to his home and started establishing a base for his eventual return

and became a part time lecturer at the School of Administration in Legon. The war in Liberia hastened these plans and in 1990 he established KEK Insurance Brokers Ltd.

the establishment of the Union Rural Bank in Senya Beraku and as Chairman pushed for the granting of loans to the poorest people to help lift them from poverty.

... he made a pledge to himself that he would make sure that no poor child of his acquaintance would ever be denied an education for lack of funds.

The company's growth has been phenomenal and it is no exaggeration to state that today it is Ghana's leading Insurance Broking & Consultancy firm. He established country firms of KEK in Sierra Leone and Liberia and they are doing well. In 2006 he established KEK Reinsurance Brokers (Africa) Ltd, the first and only Reinsurance Consultancy in Ghana with Reinsurance Broking clients in the Gambia, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Ghana and Nigeria.

He put his heart and soul into the enterprise and from the very humble beginnings of three people in a room in Kaneshie, he has transformed the business into the thriving international operation it is today. He built and moved the business into an imposing office complex in the Airport area in 2006.

Throughout this hectic pace of growing a business into a world-class enterprise, he remained true to the pledge that he made as a young boy that no child is denied an education due to lack of funds.

He grew even more firmly attached to his home town of Senya Beraku and took a keen interest in the affairs and the welfare of the people. He was instrumental in



The KEK edifice



In his early 20's





Students of Mother Theresa school

He established the Mother Teresa School for girls in Senya Beraku to deal with girl trafficking and the problem of girls in the area not going to school due to poverty. The school currently has over 400 pupils. He campaigned endlessly for the school and at every opportunity tried to get all his many contacts to help; but the bottom line remains that KEK had sole responsibility for the school, the pupils and the salaries of the teachers.

His philanthropy extended far and wide especially in the education sector and he was a regular Chairman at fund raising ceremonies and at Speech and Prize giving Days in schools around the country. His old schools, St Charles and Winneba Secondary school in particular were his favourites. After his death it was discovered that there are about two hundred students in various schools around Ghana that he was looking after.



KEK during the sod cutting ceremony of Mother Theresa School

The University of Ghana and his beloved Commonwealth Hall remained great passions and he was a member of the University of Ghana Alumni Council and a Fellow of Commonwealth Hall and President of the Old Vandals Association.

The KEK story goes far beyond his many visible achievements. At the core of the story is the sheer number of young people that he identified, inspired and made into successful people. Many of them were from Senya but the majority were not his relations nor came from anywhere near his hometown. They will tell the KEK story long after today with their successes in the future.

His eight children, the six biological ones, Kwame Kum, Ekuia Esiakuma, Esi Ampaba, Kofi Okyere, Kobby Arhin, Efiba Esseaba, and the two his former wife brought into the family, Nuerthey Odzeyem, Nuerkie Afi Odzeyem, on whom he lavished such love and affection will not easily recover from the shock of his passing, but we are glad that he gave them the best education and set them on the path to success in life.

KEK was in a hurry all his life and even though he has fallen far short of the three score and ten years we humans expect to spend on this earth, it can be said that he has achieved far more than many people do in two lifetimes. On top of the unfinished business list that KEK has left, is surely that he has predeceased his mother and the family ask for your prayers that we are able to discharge the responsibility of caring for her as he has done.

KEK was an avid golfer and brought his characteristic enthusiasm to it. In the past five years in particular he had taken it even more seriously as he began to talk

about plans to retire. He had always enjoyed good health and tried to convince everybody to take up golf at least for the exercise. Paradoxically it was at the golf field that he suffered a massive stroke just before Christmas. Everything that modern medicine could do was employed to restore him to health but it was to no avail and on April 29, 2010, four days after he was flown back home from hospital in London, KEK passed away.

We will not easily get over the calamity that has befallen us but we take comfort in the sure knowledge that the KEK story will live on in the many seeds he has planted. Sleep well, KEK, we shall miss you.



TRIBUTES TO KEK

BY MOTHER

'Naked I came out of my mother's womb and naked shall I return. The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord.' - Job 1:21.

Kwesi Essel-Koomson my beloved son, whose mortal remains lie before us this day, once stood before the family and announced that he would want to hold my funeral on these grounds. How could I imagine I would be at his funeral on this very field. My son was one in a million, a son every mother would dream of having. I brought him up into the Methodist Church until the age of twelve when we moved to Kpandai and he went to school and decided to become a Catholic. I was in the market selling my wares one day when he came and informed me that he wanted to be a Roman Father. I objected but before I knew what was happening he joined the seminary at St. Charles in Tamale.

Despite the strong passion that drove him into the seminary, my son always listened to my advice. The religious fathers also added to my advice that he would serve his family and humanity better in the secular world. That is how came he pursued academic work and his life took the path it did. We shared a great bond and I was extremely proud of him. I will always remember the great care he took of me and the happy days we shared laughing. I recall in particular my seventieth birthday when he bought me a cow to celebrate.

My beloved son always treated me as though I was the centre of the universe. I remember all those times he came to the village to insist he would pick me up for my medical check-ups as a matter of priority. He bought cloth for me when I didn't even need it. He went to great lengths to cheer me up and make me laugh. My world crashed the day he came to visit, bade me farewell to go and play golf and never returned the same. I know he will rest in peace with the Almighty Father. And I know that we shall meet again one day.

BY CHILDREN - THE GREATEST MAN THAT EVER LIVED

On April 29th, the day our world was turned upside down. We could not bring ourselves to accept the disaster that had overtaken us; we told ourselves Daddy was still alive and we told our friends he was still in hospital. We had awaited this day with the utmost dread because of what it would represent to our fragile hearts. These hearts beat today only for the greatest man that ever lived: Kwesi Essel-Koomson.

'I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness. . .' - 2 Timothy 4:7-8

Today the sun will not shine bright for the clouds will come out in homage to the great light we are burying. It is with heavy hearts that we stand here today but also with appreciation for the amazing life that our father lived. We are grateful for the privilege of being his children and are proud to have been able to call such a wonderful and extraordinary man our father.

We have shared so many fond memories with daddy; he was always there when we needed him and even when we did not. His favourite word was "yes" never once did we hear the word "no" from his lips. Whenever he



With the girls



did not want to indulge us, he would simply say “go and ask your mother” and we all knew what that meant. We will always remember him and his famous Jeremiah 4:4 “Yen bre ye, ya bre kakraa” and how we went through the Bible looking for the quote and when we told him we could not find it, he said we were looking through the wrong Bible. Once Kofi said he wanted to be an actor so Daddy said he would test his acting skills and asked him to act as an Indian stuck on a tree in the Himalayas and trying to get down! We all burst out laughing at the look of confusion on Kofi’s face and needless to say he was unable to carry out that task. Daddy knew everything. His mind was a pool of unbelievable knowledge it never ceased to amaze us. On our numerous trips we bombard him with questions about things we hoped he would not know and he always got the answer right. We once asked him if he knew of a tribe in a country other than Nigeria who spoke Yoruba and yes, he was able to tell us the tribe and the country and when they spoke the language.

Daddy was immensely funny. One of the girls once asked for an obscene amount of money to purchase a bag and tried to blackmail him by saying that if he was not forthcoming with the money she would take an overdose. Daddy responded by saying he could afford the pills. We are comforted by the knowledge that his passing is only in the physical. Daddy will live forever because his immortality is guaranteed not only in us his children but also in the lives he has touched. His good deeds will forever be praised. His love of education which he freely bestowed on us his children as well as any person who was in need of it will always be remembered

The world will not forget his smile for it will be seen on the faces of us his children and his laughter will be heard from the lips of our own children. His legacy will live on because in us he has left his strength and love for this world. We will follow in his footsteps and continue to carry on his good work. Daddy, you will forever be missed. You will not be there to walk us down the aisle, neither will you be there to carry our children but we know we are forever protected because you will continue to watch over us. Today although there are tears in our eyes and a constant ache in our chests, we look forward to the day the sun will come out again.

We look to our youngest sibling Efiba, for our final words and inspiration for she has lost so much. She spent the least amount of time with this most amazing man and yet she has shown immeasurable strength throughout our painful ordeal and the eventual passing of our very beloved father. She says: “Daddy was one of my closest friends. We fought a lot but we laughed even more. He was always up front with me, and I with him. I don’t know how things will be now that he’s gone but I do know that in my heart we will continue to be like we always were. As long as I remember you, you will always be alive and let’s look on the bright side of things, you’ve got the best seat, you can now see exactly what everyone’s been getting up to. I love you daddy •.”

BY SIBLINGS

We accept as the well-known saying goes that the world is a stage and we all play our individual parts as actors and actresses. Those who play their part well are remembered and honored; those who do not are forgotten”.

Kwesi’s departure has taken us totally by surprise and he has left us in the dark. We were expecting to meet at Christmas as usual for the party he normally held when the news of his sudden ill health hit us like a thunderbolt. Okyeahene was born a leader, unifier, and financier, educator to this Apaa Donkor Anona Ebusua, Senya and the



At his 50th birthday party



At his one week



With Ernest Bai Karoma, President of Sierra Leone

state Ghana. You have played your part as a leader. We are short of words, but we accept that death will come when it will come, whether we are prepared or not. But for you we turn to II Timothy 4:7 and say “You’ve fought the good fight, you have finished the course and kept the faith to which you committed yourself and love has crowned you.

BY NEPHEWS AND NIECES

We called him Daddy because that is what he was to us, his nephews and nieces, and he was a good friend as well. We cannot believe that his name will now be linked to memories only. Even though Psalm 90:3 says, “At the command of God we die and turn back to dust” we think God hasn’t been fair to us. Now we can only cling to the hope that as Elijah resurrected the son of the widow and Jesus resurrected Lazarus, Daddy will be resurrected one day and Jesus will keep his soul till we meet.

Nothing prepared us for this tragedy; he was as strong as a thirty-year old. He provided all our needs and whenever he came to Senya it felt like Christmas. He was a friend to us and to all others, old and young. He kept us laughing but was a strict disciplinarian as well and insisted we did not go wayward. He was as generous with praise as he was with material things. We are in utmost despair. The vacuum created by Daddy’s departure will only be filled by God (the giver). We know however that those who die in the Lord, only sleep to wake up on the resurrection day. This is our hope and therefore with a heavy heart we bid farewell and adieu. *Essel Okyeahene da frebi.*

BY SENYA BERAKU CITIZENS ASSOCIATION

Indeed, it is true that when death strikes nothing can stop it, hence the Fante adage “owu kita adze a nkwa nntum nngye”. Otherwise we in Senya Beraku would have protected Kwesi Essel-Koomson from death, at least for a while. He was the strong pillar behind the Senya Beraku Citizens Association, he was a visionary, a mentor, and the inspiration behind all the programmes we carried out. As one of our major sponsors, KEK supported the Inter-school quiz competitions we organized for basic schools, our version of “Best Teacher Awards” in Senya Beraku Educational circuit, efforts made in brokering peace and unity among the two Asafo Companies in Senya Beraku and the sensitization of our illiterate folks to send their children, especially the girl child, to school among others. KEK sponsored many brilliant but needy students to various institutions of learning and was always our first point of call in times of trouble.

Nenyi Essel Okyeaahen! Your sudden departure has created a vacuum, which will be extremely difficult to fill. You are irreplaceable. Now that your task has ended, we can only thank the Lord for your life. We promise to maintain the fighting spirit you have applied in dealing with situations and we shall keep your light burning forever. We take consolation in the knowledge that our Maker holds the key of life and death and that on the Resurrection Day we shall meet again in His presence where there will be no more sorrow and no more pain. Kwesi Essel-Koomson. Due na amandzehm. Dei firebi, Nyompo so wo to kuse kuse. Ebo nten

BY MANAGEMENT AND STAFF OF KEK - ‘SO CHIEF IS GONE?’

With immeasurable grief we mourn our boss, our father and an inspirational leader who gave all of us at KEK a profession and a livelihood. He developed an international reputation across all continents to the extent

that he was a referral point for most business delegations visiting Ghana and at times the sub-region. An astute businessman and professional he used the incredibly wide network he had developed both locally and internationally to transform challenges into opportunities and opportunities into core competencies.

Our Boss was constantly setting new standards and rolling new products into the industry at a dizzying pace. His expertise and in-depth knowledge of insurance acquired through teaching and practice thrust and kept the company into its market leadership. His charm and marketing philosophy brought many businesses who were under-insuring or insurance-shy to embrace insurance without regrets.

We who work in the company called him CHIEF. It was a term of endearment that all who join the company adopted. He was adept at identifying talent and developing individuals into a winning team. He created the requisite environment and challenged us to prove ourselves. His work culture was founded on hard work, integrity, continuous improvement, loyalty and discipline. His philosophy of work was that great achievers recognize no working hours or days. And this culture was extended into our homes and it meant late evenings and weekends were not recognized, sometimes to the anger of our spouses and family members. But his unique sense of humour soon won over our spouses and family members.

This culture and work ethics became second nature to us all. It is not surprising and not accidental that the majority of the people at the helm of affairs in the company today at one time or the other served as his personal assistants. Yes, he has created many of his likes; who God willing will champion the course of the industry for years to come. Chief's vision and legacy will live on. We are looking upon what remains of a great and true son of Africa of international standing. We pray for wisdom and strength to lift high the fortunes of the company from where our Boss left off. We entrust the future of our dear company into the hands of the Almighty God. Chief, may the Good LORD receive your spirit! Fare well! Da yie!



BY URB BY KOMBIAN PAUL KOJO ON BEHALF OF MANAGEMENT AND STAFF

In 1999 Mr. Kwesi Essel-Koomson, decided to establish a rural bank in his native community of Senya Beraku from the ashes of the then defunct Senya Rural Bank. He named the Bank the Union Rural Bank to reflect the unbreakable bond and brotherhood of the three Guan communities of Senya, Winneba and Awutu and this bond was further reflected in his choice of a logo of three rings inextricably hooked together. He has since then been the Chairman of the Board of Directors and more than a father to the management and staff of URB, until his sudden and painful departure on April 29 this year.

He wholeheartedly put his financial resources, intellectual prowess and business acumen to the benefit and growth of the bank, which became the very first rural bank to computerize and fully network (WAN) out of the more than 130 rural banks in Ghana. His untiring efforts and visionary leadership translated into the opening 6 branches in Senya, Winneba, North Campus, Kasoa, Swedru and Weija in Accra, and there is a 7th branch now under construction at Kasoa New Market.



At a KEK sponsored golf tournament



Receiving an award from EIC

The management and staff of URB today celebrate the life of this exceptional man as a great blessing not just to us as staff and the three forenamed Guan Communities but to all humanity. We assure you, as you take your rest in the embracing arms of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, that we shall continue the good work you started in Union Rural Bank. We are also convinced that your brothers and sisters in the 3 Guan Communities whose unity you sought to portray in Union, the BOG, and Apex Bank shall continue to rally behind URB to make the Bank even stronger than you left it. May your kind soul rest in perfect peace.

BY MOTHER TERESA SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

Mr. Kwesi Essel- Koomson, some 12 years ago, had a dream of establishing a school which would raise educated females to break the cycle of poverty in his hometown Senya Beraku and beyond. Mother Teresa School for Girls was founded. He championed the rescue of many of the girls from child trafficking and put them in school, and protected them from becoming teen age parents and other injustices.

Our father, as we called him, was very humble. He was as serious a professional as he was jovial. All these qualities he possessed in high proportions. He was always raising funds for the school and seeking suggestions from the teachers on how to gather more coins and notes for the advancement of Mother Teresa School. Mr. Koomson was instrumental in attracting highly qualified professionals to accept positions in the school despite the myriad of challenges in both the community and the education sector. He shared with us very exciting anecdotes just to make the many tasks we all had to carry a lot easier. Though a busy man, KEK made the institution his baby. It was an integral part of his life. On one occasion, he phoned the then Headmistress of the school and said, “Madam, I am about ten minutes away from the school, and I am coming to celebrate my birthday with my children”. True to his word, and everybody’s surprise, he did arrive and we had a party and a wonderful time. His birthday has since become a part of the school’s calendar.

Mr. Essel-Koomson had a magnificent plan for the school. Before his untimely departure, he was planning for a new and higher phase for Mother Teresa School. There exists a draft of which we know this much: the establishment of an ultra-modern facility to provide educational support services. We prayed, and hoped, and believed he would recover and join us to pursue this noble plan. Alas! This was not to be! He has gone the way of all men! A great umbrella under which Mother Teresa School took shelter has folded up! We have lost a pillar, yet we have not lost hope. For beside every withering flower is always a bud waiting to bloom. Also, your memory and spirit will give us the courage to carry on the missions you championed. Daddy, ye ma wo mbo na edwuma! Daddy, dei frebi. Da yie. God keep your soul till we meet again.

BY THE GHANA INSURANCE BROKERS ASSOCIATION (GIBA)

The Ghana Insurance Brokers Association (GIBA) joins a host of mourners to pay this tribute to the memory of Mr Kwesi Essel-Koomson. The Association has on record his immense contribution towards the growth of GIBA with which he shared his rich experiences in insurance broking. He was after all, the Founder and Managing Director of KEK Insurance Brokers Ltd which he led to become the leading Insurance Broking firm in Ghana. The company entered the international arena with the establishment of KEK Reinsurance Brokers (Africa)

and the opening of a branch office in Sierra Leone. KEK Insurance Brokers was among the first insurance brokers to be admitted into the membership of the African Insurance Organization.

Despite his other numerous commitments, Mr Essel-Koomson always found the time to attend to urgent GIBA issues and was generous to colleagues with his rich experience. We were all rightly impressed with the construction of the permanent office building now housing KEK Insurance Brokers and KEK Reinsurance Brokers (Africa). GIBA appreciates this exceptional member of the Association and may his unfulfilled legacy continue to grow from strength to strength. The membership of the Ghana Insurance Brokers Association (GIBA) wishes him a peaceful rest from his labours.

BY THE AFRICAN INSURANCE BROKERS ASSOCIATION (AIBA)

A significant chapter in the history of the insurance industry in Ghana has been closed with the demise of one of the patriarchs of the insurance broking profession in Ghana, Mr. Kwesi Essel Koomson. The vacuum he left behind in the industry would be mostly felt by the Ghanaian Insurance Industry, and the African Insurance Brokers Association (AIBA) where he served as an Executive Member until his demise.

The Vice Chairman of AIBA, Prince Feyisayo Soyewo has described the death of Mr. Kwesi Essel-Koomson as a crude shock to the business world and the insurance industry in particular. In the words of Soyewo, "KEK was a giant and a repository of insurance history and practice." The General Secretary of the African Insurance Brokers Association, Mr. Jide Aminu was equally shocked as he said, "I adored him both as a professional and as a personal friend. His boundless enthusiasm and selfless service in AIBA will never be forgotten"

BY THE WEST AFRICAN INSURANCE COMPANIES ASSOCIATION (WAICA)

KEK was truly a son of West African Insurance. Here is a man who had the vision to have his insurance presence in countries around the sub-region. When WAICA was to set up its Human Resource Development arm in the form of the West African Insurance Institute, the institution's management without hesitation turned to KEK to lecture on the subject of Fire Insurance. This duty KEK accepted and carried out very effectively and efficiently.

When I told his students across the sub region of his passing on and that I was to give a tribute at his funeral they all would recall the story about a prominent businessman KEK used to illustrate his lectures to get us to understand the principles being taught. KEK's lectures were down to earth and memorable. Our thoughts and memories of KEK will forever be that of a bubbly, vibrant person who loved his profession and would do all to progress the industry. We pray for the eternal rest of his soul and the comfort and sustenance of his family. Amen.

BY THE BOARD, MANAGEMENT AND STAFF OF GHANA REINSURANCE COMPANY LTD

It is with a deep sense of loss that we say goodbye to a former member of our corporate family whose treasured association with our Company was very longstanding. Most significantly, Mr Essel-Koomson served as a member of the Board of Directors from May 2004 to December, 2008. KEK, brought to his role as director his characteristic zeal, passion and commitment as well as undoubted business acumen. A visionary and man-of-



With volunteers at St. Mother Theresa School for Girls.

50th Birthday celebration





action, no one who encountered him could fail to be affected by his boundless enthusiasm and desire for people not be unduly constrained by conventional thinking.

Never one to sit on the fence or settle for half measures, he would readily let you know where he stood on any issue. But he made his arguments with such humour as to not generate offence. Most endearingly, he was approachable and ever ready to lend a listening ear to workers and project their cause without sacrificing the fortunes of the Company. The “big picture” and “bottom-line” were always the appropriate consideration in his view. We of Ghana Re have lost a man who in his time served our Company with singular dedication and distinction. We can therefore feel the pain of all his associates and the beneficiaries of the many good causes he pursued. But, above all, we share the loss of his family. We only take solace in the conviction that his soul has found eternal rest. May he rest in perfect peace!

BY MANAGEMENT & STAFF OF AON ENERGY – LONDON/AON SUB SAHARA AFRICA

It was with deep sadness that we learned of the death of our colleague and friend Kwesi Essel-Koomson. Kwesi was the leading light of KEK Insurance Brokers, and was recognized by his customers, markets and peers alike as one of the pre-eminent practitioners in our insurance sector. He always represented his clients with passion and vigour, and there is little about the industry that he did not know or would be willing to find out for you.

He also had an instinctive ability to see things from a different angle, which many clients found invaluable to their decision making. KEK Insurance Brokers under Kwesi’s leadership has been a solid and reliable partner for AON’S global inward business into Ghana and we are proud to be associated with this organization. Kwesi, whilst he was a correspondent broker for AON, was as much a part of the AON Africa team as any of our other operations. When we came together for regional meetings, Kwesi was always full of energy and had the uncanny ability of seeing opportunities where other would not normally see them.

Kwesi had a wonderful sense of humour, and boundless enthusiasm which endeared him to us all, and for which he will be sorely missed. He was unique. Rest In Peace

BY UNIVERSITY OF GHANA ALUMNI COUNCIL

It was with a deep sense of loss and profound sorrow that we received the shocking news of the death of Mr. Kwesi Essel – Koomson, the national president of the Old Vandals Association, and a member of the University of Ghana Alumni Council (UGAC). As a member of the Council, KEK brought his rich experience as a top flight manager and administrator to bear on the deliberations of the UGAC. We recall today his contributions to the success of the recent 60th anniversary celebrations of the University of Ghana as a member of the Planning Committee. The UGAC deeply mourns his passing and we shall certainly miss his wise counsel.

Many will testify to his philanthropy and benevolence from which the university and his beloved Commonwealth Hall and many others benefited immensely. As he embarks on his final journey to eternity we also remember the agony of the family and pray pray that they find comfort in the good deeds of KEK. We say farewell to a wonderful personality, a distinguished alumnus of Legon whose love for the welfare of fellow human beings was the corner stone of his philosophy. KEK, Damirifa due !!!

BY THE OLD VANDALS ASSOCIATION

KEK was a pillar of strength among the Old Vandals and was the financial backbone of the association from the time of the historic first Homecoming in 1997. As vice-president of OVA under, Dr. Yaw Kuranchie from 1997 to 1999 he showed every commitment to the Vandal cause. It therefore came as a matter of course when he was elected the president of the association when Dr. Kuranchie stepped down in 1999.

The phenomenal growth of OVA from 1999 to date was mainly due to his efforts. He was driven by passion to uplift the image of Commonwealth Hall and to let Old Vandals believe in themselves that they are the best anywhere. KEK was always a busy man but he made sure his financial contributions never ceased to flow even when business took him away from the country. He was always in touch with his national executive wherever he was and was therefore able to carry everybody along. It is to his credit that the period of his presidency saw the strengthening and establishment of branches of OVA in Tema, Koforidua, Ho, Aflao, Bawku, Bolgatanga, Kumasi and Takoradi. His beloved Commonwealth Hall, where he was a fellow, will always remember him for his generous contributions to the improvement of amenities in the Hall especially his financing of one of the underground water reservoirs five years ago.

The biggest losers outside his family and Company will be the Old Vandals who became part and parcel of his establishment. Indeed we are eternally grateful to the wonderful opportunities you gave several Old Vandals to work at KEK. As you depart the world today we shall see you off with some of your favourite inspirational songs from the Vandal Hymn Book. Our dear president, you are one in a million. May the good Lord receive you in his bosom. Fare thee well.

BY WINNEBA SECONDARY SCHOOL

Mr Kwesi Essel-Koomson enrolled at the Winneba Secondary School as Victor Essel-Koomson in September 1971. He was an 'A' level student, but his personality was such that he established a relationship with almost all the students in the school. Kwesi Essel-Koomson was very proud of his alma mater and seized every opportunity to be involved in its progress and development. He believed in Winnesec and demonstrated it by educating many of his wards there.

His most memorable contributions included a GH¢1,600 seed money for the organization of the Golden Jubilee celebration of the school in November, 1999. In 2001 Kwesi accepted, at a rather short notice, to be chairman of the school's Anniversary celebration. His anniversary contribution was a donation of two brand new computers and accessories. His subsequent contributions were books and regular cash contribution of GH¢1,000.00 at Speech and Prize-Giving days of Winnesec. The staff and students of Winnesec were profoundly shocked to hear of the passing away of their great benefactor. May his soul find rest in the bosom of the Lord!

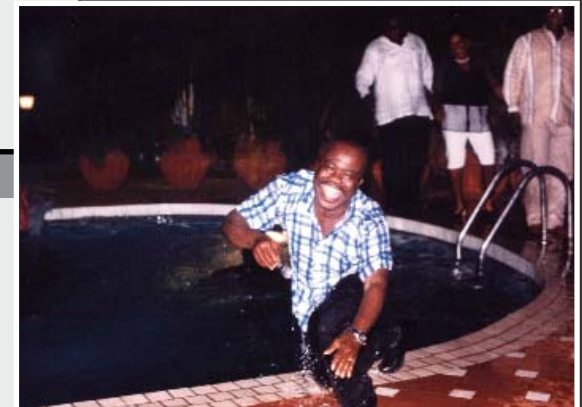
BY LIVING POWER INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES

Today we gather to mourn a man who was so full of life. But man has never been in control, God has. The late Kwesi Essel-Koomson fellowshiped with us, as and when he could. He never missed our annual celebrations where he contributed financially in support of church projects.



Diving into a pool. Once a VANDAL....

...Always a VANDAL. Getting out of pool.





With former vice president Aliu Mahama

We remember vividly his fifty-fifth birthday as he testified to God's goodness. His simplicity in appearance veiled his prominence; therefore all were able to approach him. None disputes his kindness expressed in generosity and compassion to the underprivileged. The late Kwesi Essle-Koomson will forever be remembered by the entire membership of Living Power International Ministries. Our prayer is, may the Lord receive him. Amen.

BY THE STAFF OF WELLINGTON HOSPITAL, ST JOHNS WOOD, UK

We were shocked and so deeply saddened to hear of your father's death. All of the team here at The Wellington would like to extend their heartfelt sympathy to you and your family at this very sad time. We hope that you are comforted by the fondest memories of your father. In the short time we knew him, Chief was regarded so highly by all and it was easy to understand what a special man he was, so brave and delightful and an inspiration to us all. With warm regards and our condolences.

BY REV. DCOP DAVID NENYI AMPAH BENNIN

In this casket before us this morning lies the remains of one of the greatest sons of Senya Beraku. In this tribute all can say is that Chief, as he is affectionately called, lived and served his generation and his community by the will of the Almighty God. Chief was a model of a good friend, very selfless and very committed to the success of his friends. Chief was a kind person and a serious individual who loved people, loved his God, loved his children, loved his community and had a loyalty to his family. His generosity touched everyone who came into contact with him.

I met Chief in 1983 in Lagos and when he settled in Ghana 1987 he resolutely looked for me. Our friendship started in earnest from then on. He encouraged me to further my education and with his assistance and support, I entered the School of Administration now University of Ghana Business School. He taught me also to love my family, my parents and especially my children and this he showed through the perfect example of his love for his children.

He appreciated very much my profession as a Police Officer and would celebrate each promotion I received with immense pride. When my most recent promotion was announced, he was in coma and could not openly jubilate with me but I am persuaded he heard it and was happy. Chief, you have paid your dues, you have labored and some of us are sharing in your glory. Rest in the eternal arms of the Almighty God.

BY NANA KWAME AKUOKO SARPONG, OMANHENE OF THE AGOGO TRADITIONAL AREA

If I write this tribute in memory of someone I came to regard as a true and loyal friend it is because of our common affinity to Commonwealth Hall. Despite our age differences and the fact that we belonged to different generations of the alumni of our great and illustrious Hall, our membership of the Vandal fraternity brought us closer together. The platform offered by the Old Vandals Association of which I am the Chairman of the Council of Elders and he the national president, gave us the opportunity to interact regularly and share experiences. It was thorough this relationship that I came to know KEK at close quarters. He was a magnificent life force and he had the gift of bringing people together.

However, I believe very sincerely that it is for his philanthropy that KEK will long be remembered. Knowing where he came from, he was always ready to support the needy and give hope to the downtrodden. Indeed, I was a benefactor of the large heart KEK was endowed with. When he led a group of Old Vandals to Agogo a few years back on the occasion of my 30th anniversary on the throne, he went round my palace and visited some of the development projects going on in my domain. There and then he promised to provide the Computer Center with air-conditioners, a promise he fulfilled in a matter of weeks, thanks to the follow up by our common friend, Alhaji Razak El-Alawa.

KEK also instructed his Kumasi office to erect giant billboards about the Computer Center in Agogo which was done. There are hundreds more who also benefited from the philanthropy of KEK. That is why his untimely death in not only a great loss to his immediate family but to humanity. When KEK invited me some two years ago to become the Chairman of the Board of KEK Group I had some trepidation because as a practising lawyer I had done some work for some clients on injury claims, but as a business I had no expertise in insurance, I only accepted to play that role when he convinced me that a person I respected a lot had accepted to support me.

That person, Prof George Ofosu-Amaah, had been the Board Chairman for the better part of 10 years and decided to step aside; but he had agreed to stay on for a bit longer as Vice Chairman to support me. That provided me with the confidence to accept the offer. It is this arrangement together with the co-operation of the other board members and the management that has enabled us to sustain the Company so far, with some amount of progress achieved even in the absence of KEK.

I know that the only way we can keep the memory of KEK alive is to ensure that his legacy lives on and the Company he toiled to build is sustained through the collaboration of all. So today, I mourn a great citizen of Ghana and a role model for our new generation. He was never short of advising the young and the upcoming about the virtues of hard work and personal discipline without which a strong nation can never be built and this is consistent with the old adage that “a nation can never be stronger than its people”. Indeed, a mighty tree has fallen! May his gentle soul find a peaceful rest in the bosom of the Lord! KEK, may your soul rest in perfect peace! Damirifa Due! Da Yie!

BY MICHAEL HAYFORD

I encountered the late Kwesi Essel-Koomson in September 1971 when he was admitted for the G.C.E. ‘A’ level course at Winneba Secondary School. This marked the start of a great friendship between Victor Essel – Koomson and I which spanned a period of thirty-nine long years. In May 1987, Kwesi returned to Ghana by road driving all alone after many years living outside of Ghana. His first point of call was my house at Winneba Secondary School. For hours we talked and he told me about his plans to set up his own Insurance Broking Company in Ghana. He soon set about translating his plans into action. The first office was at the South Labadi Estate in a single – room office with one table, one chair and an old typewriter.

In 1999, Kwesi decided to establish the Union Rural Bank from the ashes of the then defunct Senya Rural Bank Ltd to provide banking services and micro-finance support to the largely rural fishing and micro-business community at Senya Beraku. I was part of the expansion project of the Bank with me working behind the scenes



With the boys

After a game of golf





With Isaac Owusu Heneng - former MD of Trust Brank

to advertise and campaign for customers. In 2004, Kwesi made me a board member of the Bank and quickly promoted me as 2nd Vice – Chairman. I worked in that capacity till August, 2009.

He was very enterprising, and saw opportunities where most people saw none. He had the knack to strike water in a desert, find a passage on a sheer rock, see light in darkness and turn an ailing business round. On the 29th of November, 2009 Kwesi visited me at Winneba after the Diamond Jubilee celebration of Winnesec. Over lunch, he advised me to accept every situation I might find myself in; at my work place, in marriage and in my dealings with my fellow human beings. These were the last words I heard from him.

Today, we celebrate the life of a great son of Senya Beraku and Ghana. It is now up to his friends, associates and those who knew him to immortalize his name and his ideals by cherishing what he stood for.

BY WILLIAM O. AGBENYEGA, GHANA RE

Length of days is not what makes age honourable nor number of years the true measure of life. I never dreamt I would have to write a tribute to KEK. I first met KEK at the University of Ghana, Legon sometime in 1976 when we were both undergraduates; he a Vandal and I a Viking. Ours was an instant friendship.

After Legon, our paths were to cross again in 1980 at the West African Insurance Institute, Monrovia, Liberia, this time I was a student and he a lecturer. Our friendship was concretized when, in the mid-1980s, we came to work in the same firm, Messrs Femi Johnson and Company, in Ibadan, Nigeria and our families shared an apartment. KEK returned to Ghana in 1986 to establish his brokerage firm but we never lost touch till I also returned home. In Ghana, not a day passed without us talking to each other, at least on phone.

He was incredibly generous with both his time and his resources, He always made out to me we were brothers and not mere friends and that was the way I also saw and understood him. Talking to KEK was always a delight, because he had such great sense of humour. He was an eternal optimist and many things that would send others into fits of depression, rage or both would be used by him as fodder for a series of jokes and wisecracks. Perhaps the highest compliment one can pay to a departed friend, teacher and advisor is to say that they left the world a better place than they found it. That certainly is true in the case of KEK.

While I am saddened that I will never again benefit from KEK's generosity, good humour and wise counsel, I am comforted in knowing that I was blessed by his friendship. I also take solace in the thought that the vibrant and growing Companies that he set up through his commitment, dedication, discipline and hard-work will serve as living monuments to him for years to come. I, therefore, join his entire family and numerous friends in the insurance and golfing fraternity the world over in celebrating KEK's passing and saluting all he accomplished during his lifetime. May his soul rest in perfect peace.

BY RAZAK EL-ALAWA

I could not believe my ears when at about 7:25 in the morning of Thursday April 29, 2010, the acting national president of the Old Vandals Association of Commonwealth Hall of the University of Ghana, Mr. John Mbroh, phoned me that KEK was gone. I was left in a state of shock. This was all too sudden for me. The man had returned to Accra on Sunday April 25 from London where he had been receiving treatment since December 24 last

year. He had taken ill on Friday December 18 and had been flown to the British capital to continue with treatment. He returned home on Sunday, the 25th of April 2010 and passed away on Thursday 29th, April 2010. What then could have happened between Sunday and Thursday morning?

To try to find an answer or answers to this question is to challenge the will of the Almighty, He who gives us life and takes it when He wishes. It is sad to lose a dear friend who was so boisterous and full of life at 58. We can only take consolation in the fact that during the comparatively short period God gave him to live on this earth he rose from rags to riches and built one of the most successful indigenous companies in Ghana.

I am very proud to have been associated with this most remarkable man during the past dozen years. Even though we were contemporaries in the early 70s at Commonwealth Hall, Our paths only crossed when he became National President of the Old Vandals in 1999 and he saw me as somebody who could help him move the association forward. I will forever cherish the friendship which virtually made me an honorary citizen of Senya Bereku and part of his extended family. As he goes back to His Maker today I mourn him deeply. How I wish he had lived to see off his dear mother, Auntie Ekuia Buei. But God knows best. KEK, those who benefited from your benevolence and large heart will definitely miss you. Here was a man, gifted and talented. When comes such another? Adieu!!!

BY CHARLES F. ODURO, ACTING MANAGING DIRECTOR

I first met Mr. Kwesi Essel-Koomson in 1990 when I was a final year student at the School of Administration, University of Ghana, now known as the University of Ghana Business School. He was then a Part Time Lecturer at the School. He was very much admired by all the students for his generosity and good sense of humour. It was when I started looking for a job after my National Service (in 1992) that the real nature of Mr. Essel-Koomson was revealed to me.

After teaching at Suhum Secondary Technical School (SUTESCO) for 2 years, I decided to further my education and almost gave up on Insurance. I selected Mr. Kwesi Essel-Koomson as one of the referees I needed for the Masters Programme. Even though he gave me the reference, he told me I needed to work to gain practical experience. He spoke to the Managing Director (MD) of a leading Insurance Company at the time, who indicated his willingness to employ me. Unfortunately, he later said he needed a Lawyer for the vacancy and not a graduate in Insurance. I immediately wrote Insurance off as a possible career but Mr. Essel-Koomson assured me that he would help.

In July 1994, I received a letter from KEK offering me appointment as a Senior Broking Officer. I accepted the offer and started work on 1st August 1994 and have since remained with the company. Without him, I wouldn't have had the opportunity to practice my chosen career. Mr. Essel-Koomson took a personal interest in me and became my mentor. He gave me both financial and moral support when I was writing my professional exams. I was his Personal Assistant for several years during which period he gave me very challenging, interesting and skill-stretching assignments. Before he passed away, I was his General Manager and second in command within the organization. I know he was preparing me to take over from him one day but it was not supposed to be so soon and definitely not the way it happened. I was looking forward to a time when he would retire and become the Chairman of his Group of Companies and if I still proved capable, he would hand over the mantle of Management



at KEK to me. Here I am, being compelled to take up the mantle prematurely. But I can assure him that even though his shoes are too big for me to wear, I will still do my best and will endeavour not to let him down in death, God being my helper. May his soul rest in Perfect Peace.



With Nana Akuoko-Sarpong

BY SHAIBU ALI – KEK REINSURANCE BROKERS

April 2010 is exactly a decade that my path crossed with Chief. We first met in a crisis meeting trying to resolve a problem between the authorities of Legon and VANDALS. This was at a time when I had just completed my Master of Arts Degree and was preparing to pack out of campus. I sat by Chief during the meeting and by the close of the meeting, I had completed my job interview and was to follow up at the office to present an application letter and formalize the process. Chief picked me from the Observatory of Commonwealth Hall with a Masters Degree not in a way related to insurance and plunged me straight into the operations of KEK. This was to be the beginning of what I am today. It is therefore with a very heavy heart that I put together this piece in honour and memory of him.

Work to Chief is more than a religion and he is not just a workaholic himself but one who demands heavens of his employees. He believed in doing whatever the client demanded and taught us to do same. My association with chief has taken me to various countries in Africa and beyond and opened so many opportunities for me. When KEK Re was being set up in 2006, Chief asked me to move there as it would enhance my professional development. I have had no regrets. Chief has been a great source of inspiration to me, he was not only my boss but took a keen interest in me as a person. He is the reason I completed my CII exams in the period that I did. He was so interested in my results I could not afford to fail a paper despite the fact that the work load was heavy. He encouraged me to do so many things that I would ordinarily not have done. He has over the years been everything to his staff and would follow any staff irrespective of one's position to any part of the country for any occasion.

Chief, you have given me so much exposure and taught me so many things in my professional and personal life. We have been together in happy and difficult times and you have always shown the way. I can still remember the very last discussion you had with me at my desk before you left the office on that fateful Friday, the 18th December 2009. Little did I know it was to be our last official discourse and I can still remember watching you go down the stairs, little did I know it was to be the last time I saw you in any physical activity.

Much as I am saddened to the point of tears, I find solace in the fact that you led a good life; 58 positive years during which you touched so many lives mine inclusive. I would have wished you lived longer to see me develop to what you always wished for me. Having served under you the great teacher for a decade, I am more than convinced that I will survive in any condition and for me I will always remain a disciple. Rest in Perfect Peace, Chief.

BY HIS PRIVATE SECRETARY – MRS PATIENCE ABRAHAMS

“Patience, have you sent the birthday card together with the champagne to the MD of GT Bank? Ok, we are playing golf in his honour and thence to his residence to have fun. I will see you on Monday.” These were the last words from my boss to me that fateful Friday the 18th of December, 2009 at about 6:35 p.m.

We had plans in the month of December for several events which will then lead us into the year 2010 when we were going to celebrate 20 years of existence of KEK Insurance Brokers. Sir, I remember you once told me that at the age of sixty you would retire from active office work and be Chairman and play more of a supervisory role. Indeed, man proposes but God disposes. Truly did Moses pray in Psalm 90:12: 'So teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom'.

I have had the opportunity to work with you right from school. You were more a father to me than a boss. Sir, you were born a leader, an entrepreneur, a mentor, an outstanding businessman, a great philanthropist, a true patriot and nationalist. If the insurance industry and financial sector in Ghana could be blessed with a few more like you, Ghana would soon be the financial hub of the continent of Africa and an envy of the world.

The Company is fortunate to have a team of highly qualified and dedicated individuals who share your vision and philosophy, motivated to surmount the challenges of the next phase; assured that though you are absent with us in the body, you will forever remain in our memories, processes, systems, procedures and strategies.

Knowing you I was certain your survival instincts would pull you through and we fully expected you to come back and make a joke out of it all. We trusted God for a full recovery, however slowly. We wanted you to be alive to see through your many other dreams and projects. There were some issues and specific challenges in which we needed your wise counsel. We wanted just about one hour to confer with you. I am sure you also wanted to give a few more instructions. But the limitations of medical science and technology have failed us miserably. He who is our Creator decided it was time and He called: 'Kwesi, come home'.

Today, I am saying good bye to my boss with whom I had become so telepathic that most often I gave him names, answers and directions to places before he opens his mouth. I know I will never look upon his kind anywhere. May the good Lord give you eternal rest till we meet again.

BY JOHN BOUSTEAD

I have known Kwesi for many years, sometimes as a competitor but mostly as an important personality in the Ghanaian insurance market who relished competition and was extremely and justifiably proud of the accomplishments of the broking group he had created.

In 2006, Kwesi approached me with the proposal to establish KEK Re which became operational later that year. Working with Kwesi meant I got to know him better both as a businessman and as a family man. In business he was a formidable competitor who had enormous energy, was never lost for ideas and maintained an enviable schedule of contacts throughout Africa and the major international insurance markets around the world. As a family man he was extremely close to his children and delighted in their success, and gave great encouragement and support to them in their education and future opportunities.

One of my lasting memories of Kwesi will be his attendance at my daughter's wedding last September. Kwesi made a lot of friends that day, not only those who were taken with his vibrant and engaging personality but those who were also dazzled by his dress which was bright yellow!

For myself and my family that is how we would like to remember Kwesi, alive, exciting and the person who provided a forum for an interchange of ideas and conversation which will be always remembered.





Receiving an award from EIC

BY SAM OCRAN

A supportive brother, a caring father, and a faithful friend, he was all these to me. I remember the the happy moments and the many hours of joy he added to my life. I never thought I would be called upon this early to utter these words of tribute to a priceless friend in such a manner.

Personally, I have not come across another man with such bowels of mercy and compassion for friends, his nation and indeed for mankind. I clearly remember with great awe the time he paid the school fees of over four hundred kids at a go even though the world was experiencing a financial meltdown and also the five hundred kids wholly sponsored by him at the Mother Theresa's Home for Infant Children.

Indeed these are but the few philanthropic acts he blessed other lives with, yet many more remain done in secret, but the evidence of his labour is evident for us all to witness. Only one word in my opinion best describes him, "Phenomenal". His life was shorter than we would have wished yet his deeds live on eternally.

"You have fought the good fight, you have finished the race, and you have kept the faith. Now there is in store for you, the crown of righteousness." May you rest in the bosom of the Almighty. Amen

BY ALFRED ATO ACQUAH (WEBB)

"Great men and women tend to make their mark quickly and then move on. In less than the time an average person takes to make an impact, such great people would have achieved and done so much that they are never forgotten." Kwesi Essel Koomson definitely fits such a description.

I worked for him and I worked with him and we became close friends. Words cannot describe this friendship. It was in this relationship that I came to understand what a good friend was; one to whom you may pour out all the content of your heart – chaff and grain together. And then KEK, that friend, with his gentle hand would sift it, and with breath of kindness, love, tolerance, loyalty, blow the chaff away. He was a man of utmost simplicity. He combined impressive stature with down to earth humility He was a role model of our generation. He was a TOTAL man. I've lost a friend indeed. Okyeahen "Dei frebi"

BY MRS. COMFORT DOKOSI

Some people come our way only for a season but one who seeks the wellbeing of others is forever remembered. Today, I mourn a man who believed in prosperity and labored for it. I mourn the death of a brother and key supporter, a generous man who promoted the interest of others. Here lies a great visionary, a man of remarkable ideas who nurtured his vision to fruition. Could it be that God Almighty Who created him and numbered his days, the One perfect in His decisions, called him home in such a time so he would have the REST he never had while on earth? Nenyee, thank you for the tremendous help and exposure you gave me.