



DR. GODKNOWS ERIC KOFI DORVLO

1953 - 2022

Always in our thoughts, forever in our hearts



A SUN HAS SET

CLERGY

Rev. Christopher Mawunyo-Nyonyo, The
District Pastor, E.P.C.G, Ho Fiave (R.T.C)

Rev. Kafui Owusu

Rev. Bless Mensah, Parish Pastor, E.P.C.G,
Anyako

Catechist: Francis Angba

ORDER OF SERVICE

Part I - At the Church

- 1. Arrival of the corpse*
- 2. Procession - Clergy / Church Choir*
- 3. Introit - Church Choir*
- 4. Call to Worship - Rev. Kafui Owusu*
- 5. Opening Hymn - EPH 53:1-3*
- 6. Prayer & Creed*
- 7. Selection - Church Choir / Bible Class*
- 8. Praises & Ministry of Kidness - Praises and Ministry Team*
- 9. Biography - Family Member*
- 10. Selections - G.H.C*
- 11. Tributes*
- 12. Hymns - EPH 266: 1-3*
- 13. Scripture Reading*
- 14. Sermon - Rev. Christopher Mawunyo Nyonyo*
- 15. Offering - Mass Choir*
- 16. Presentation of Wreath - Presbyter*
- 17. Dedication of Offertory - Catechist*
- 18. Announcements - Catechist / Pastor*
- 19. Vote of Thanks - A Family Member*
- 20. Hymn - EPH 264: 1-3*
- 21. Last Commendation - Rev. Minister*
- 22. Closing Prayer / Benediction - Rev. Minister*
- 23. Closing Hymn - EPH 290: 1-3*

Part II - At the Graveyard

- 1. Invocation*
- 2. Hymn 248: 1-2*
- 3. Committal*
- 4. The Lord's Prayer & Benediction*
- 5. Closing Hymn*





BIOGRAPHY

A short story of an accomplished story-teller

Dr. Godknows Eric Kofi Dorvlo, affectionately called “Teacher”, was born on 10th April, 1953 at Keta. His parents were the late Abraham Kodzo Dadega Dorvlo of the Togbiga Agamatsu Dynasty of Anyako and the late Madam Dugbaga Anador of Anloga.

Kofi spent his formative years with his elder brother Mr. Emmanuel Mawuli Kofi Dorvlo; starting with Kindergarten class in 1959 when his brother was teaching at the Evangelical Presbyterian Schools, Anloga. The following year 1960, his brother was transferred to Dabala and Kofi had to move with him to continue in Class One. They later moved from Dabala to Sogakope and finally to Peki where he completed his Middle Form IV in 1969. Kofi then entered the Keta Secondary School for his Secondary Education and completed in June 1974. Kofi did one year pupil teaching before proceeding to Jasikan Teacher Training College to be trained as a Teacher and he completed as a fully trained Teacher in June 1976.

His professional teaching career began at the Nogokpo L.A. Primary before he was transferred to Ohawu L.A. Middle School in 1977. While at the Ohawu School, he met then Miss Anna Worla Ami Dagba who became his wife with whom he had four children. After Ohawu, he pursued further education at the Winneba Advanced Teacher Training College which he completed in 1984, the same year his first son, Gameli was born. From Ohawu he was transferred to Bishop Herman College, Kpando, to teach English Language at “O” and “A” levels. After two years he was transferred to Ho Technical Institute, which later became Ho Polytechnic and is now Ho Technical University. He spent six years there teaching Business English and Technical English. During this time he and the wife had fully settled in Ho and had their second son and first daughter. Before his transfer to OLA Secondary School, he enrolled at the University of Ghana, Legon for a Bachelor of Arts degree with specialization in English and Linguistics. It was at this time that his last son, also called Kofi, was born.

Kofi's dedication and desire to acquire more knowledge and improve his teaching saw him back in the University of Ghana, Legon for an MPhil in Linguistics. His Master's thesis which was on Translation was highly ranked by his assessors and because of his love for research, Kofi stayed on at Legon as a Research Assistant. During his time as research assistant, he worked with the team that developed the first Ewe Encyclopedia Dictionary of Health, a skill he later used to mentor the development of an Ewe-English Dictionary. In 2002 he was scouted to be part of the Togo-mountain language documentation project led by Prof Ameka to do his PhD on documenting the Logba language. He wrote the first grammar of the Logba language. His love for research and the documentation of oral literature as well as endangered languages saw him work on the Verba Africana project between 2006 and 2011. This project documented story telling as well as festivals in Ghana and Morocco. In 2011, as part of the project, they documented the Hogbetsotso festival.

Kofi worked at the University of Ghana, Legon at the Language Centre and the Linguistics Department till his retirement in 2013. Kofi was a very industrious, determined, tenacious person whose love for research and problem solving has become a trade mark he left wherever he worked. He is very calm and methodical but stern and decisive. These traits led him to achieve many heights some of which include being an African Humanities Program (AHP-ACLS) Fellow. He won many grants.



During his retirement, he worked at the University of Health and Allied Sciences (UHAS), where he was the founding Head of the Basic Sciences Department. He was pivotal in the recruitment of new staff, developing the courses and setting the future agenda for the Department by mentoring his younger colleagues in research project development and how they can plan their academic career.

Kofi always gave his family the best. In fact he spent his last Saturday with his wife and kids. Till his final days, he was always working on something new. A few weeks to his demise his team had published a new book on local oral literature materials.

Kofi became ill and had to undergo surgery at the Korle Bu Teaching Hospital. This led to his sad demise on the 1st of February 2022.

“Egbe, xe denyuie.”





TRIBUTE BY WIFE

We are pressed on every side, yet not crushed, we are perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken, struck down but not destroyed. 2 Corinthians 4:8 & 9 NKJV.

I am still in shock. I can't believe that you are gone forever. I prayed to God on my knees, to grant us long life in good health. I know God heard my prayers each day, but he knows why he took you away at this time, and this way. I know this day will definitely come in everyone's life, but "Daddy" as I called you, yours was so soon.

Our paths crossed 40 years ago in 1982 when we met at Ohawu where you were posted as a teacher.

One year later, you came to ask for my hand in marriage. Life is full of challenges, and we have had our fair share of them but mutual respect for each other and above all, the love and grace of the almighty God have seen us through it all until your death parted us. Even through tough and difficult times, knowing you were around gave me comfort.

You have left a vacuum in the life of the children that no one can fill. Being around you with high hopes that the surgery will be successful, they hoped you would stay with us longer. The best way they can honour you, as it stands now is to emulate your life. Your passing reminds us that success is not counted by how high you can climb but by how many people you climb with. No matter your circumstances you were always an inspiration to others.

Death has dealt me a cruel blow with your passing, but life must go on. I know you have just gone ahead to prepare a place for me. The future without you will not be easy, but with Christ in the boat I shall smile at the storm. I am very grateful to you for the role played in my life and the lives of everyone around me. Each one of us will miss you in very different and special ways.

The good book says we should give thanks in all things so, I thank the Almighty God for your life on earth. I thank Him for our years together as a couple. I thank Him for the good friends and family who have genuinely been part of our journey. I thank Him for His Grace upon me during this very difficult time and I pray that this Grace should never depart from me.

It is appointed for every man to die. I fervently pray that the good Lord give you many things to smile about, and may he let you know how much you meant to me and how much you will be missed. May the Good Lord grant you eternal rest in His bosom, until we meet again and part no more.

May your good deeds follow you and may mother earth lie gently on your mortal remains.





TRIBUTE BY CHILDREN

Gameli, Selorm, Grace, Kofi

For with You is the fountain of life; In Your light we see light. Psalm 36:9 NKJV

How do you write through pain, a eulogy for the one who taught you to write?
Here goes nothing ...

Many people have come to know him as Dr. G.E.K. Dorvlo, Kofi, Godknows, Efo Kofi, Sir, Egbe, but to us he was that superman that became human before our eyes as we grew older yet maintained his charm. We call him “Dad”, “Old Boy” or behind his back, “Torgbuiwo”; affectionately we will, ask “afika torgbuiwo le?”.

Hmmmm, even though you're gone you will always remain in our hearts. A special person we can't replace, you filled a space that no one else could fill. We have all dreaded this day. It is such a bitter pill to swallow and a tough conclusion to accept that our “Dad”, father, protector, friend and teacher is no longer with us. Reality is slowly dawning on us.

In fact you were still our superman, even till the day you died. When Selorm was told the news it took several hours before he could gather himself to inform Gameli who was calling to check on how you were doing. The sigh on the phone was one of surprise and disbelief. I remember when we called Kofi, and he expressed such optimism before we told him the news. As for Grace, we will never forget what she said “nu kae dzor”, in a very surprised tone. Our Uncle Vincent, who we know as our elder brother, burst into tears and had to recollect himself before calling us back. We know you will never want us to be hurt like this by you and we are holding strong just like you will want us to.

There are countless moments, which are now memories we would cherish forever, which we could recount how amazing a father you are. You always made sure you gave us the very best. I remember the story of how your students won a football match at another school in a nearby town, and the headmaster of the hosting school decided to hand out the trophy late into the night to prevent your town from celebrating the school's victory. A simple story but how you recount it each time made us always laugh. That warm laughter is something we will always remember and miss.



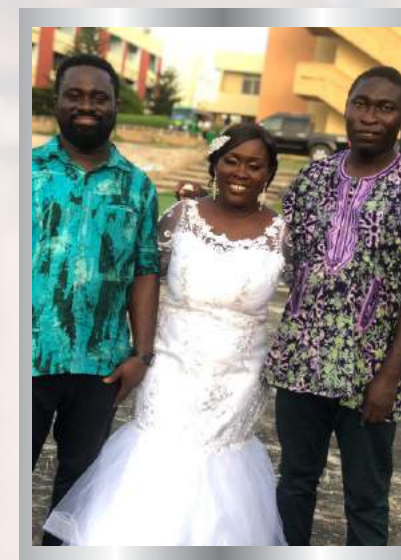
Your loss is a great blow to us but you always made it a point to admonish us about how much you value our safety and dedication to work more than anything. It is this conviction, that when we do our best you will always be there to guide us, which is helping us brave through this GREAT loss. We know once we do our best, you will support us with your best wherever you are now.

You were a family man and gave up a lot just for us. You always made time to lend a helping hand and offered a listening ear to us. You were always very particular about our education. We all have stories about the countless essays we had to write, the many trips to our school to engage with our teachers. You even taught English language at our school voluntarily just because we were there. You have really left some great steps to follow in.

Dad, we were hopeful everything will be fine but the news at the ICU after the second surgery was hard; harder still is the fact that we would not have the opportunity to see that warm smile or hear your wonderful words of counsel. We will surely miss your great sense of humor, your generous heart and sense of protection.

In all things, we give thanks to God because through you, we have certainly had better foundations and have become better people. Need we say, we have no excuse to disappoint you? So yes, today we are full of sorrow, but we will smile a little more with each passing day. So please, Dad, go be at rest and know that to us, you will always be the best. If we had to come back into this world, we will give anything to be Egbé's children once again.

A good man is gone!
Our Hero is gone!
Rest in perfect Peace Dad!
We love you!
Dzudzor le nutifafa me, Egbé!





BROTHER IN-LAW VINCENT AHUMAH

The souls of the just are in the hand of God, and no torment shall touch them. They seemed, in the view of the foolish, to be dead: and their passing away was thought an affliction and their going forth from us, utter destruction. But they are in peace. For if before men, indeed, they be punished, yet is their hope full of immortality; Chastised a little, they shall be greatly blessed, because God tried them and found them worthy of himself. As gold in the furnace, he proved them, and as sacrificial offerings he took them to himself. Those who trust in him shall understand truth, and the faithful shall abide with him in love: Because grace and mercy are with his holy ones and his care is with his elect. Wisdom 3:1-6, 9 – Short Version

Writing this tribute is the last thing I thought I would be doing this soon. “Daddy”, as I always called him was the corner stone of the foundation of my life. I have stayed with him and my sister since I was ten years old.

After his marriage to my sister and the birth of their first son, I usually will go and help fetch water for my sister since they were living not far from our house. As such when they relocated to Ho and I came for holidays, “Daddy” saw how happy I was and asked me if I would stay and I accepted. “Daddy” treated me like his son and till today I and his four children relate like siblings.

Throughout my stay with “Daddy”, his discipline and selflessness has been a trait I really admired. I remember how after high school when I was supposed to be sent to learn carpentry and he went with me to identify a place to learn the trade. One afternoon he came back from school and brought me Ho Polytechnic forms to fill, I didn't know he had plans for me to pursue further education. This single act has changed my life tremendously. That is who “Daddy” is, always looking for the best in people and helping them achieve it.

Daddy was a good man, a strict disciplinarian and a very cheerful giver. I will always remember the great support and influence you had on my life. I remember how much I wept when I heard the news of your demise but I am strengthened by the good memories you have left behind. We will forever remember you and the lessons you have thought us.

Rest in perfect Peace Daddy!



In-Law, Uncle Vincent

THE EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH GHANA HO FIAVE (INNER CITY MISSION FIELD)

*“For if we live, we live for the Lord and if we die, we die for the Lord therefore whether we live or die,
we are for the Lord” (Rom. 14:8)*

The late Dr. Godknows Eric Kofi Dorvlo enrolled into the Evangelical Presbyterian Church Ghana, Ho Fiave (Inner City Mission Field) in the year 1995. He was amongst the evangelism souls won during the re-building of the mother Church that suffered devastation leading to a constitutional crisis and the split of the Church in the year 1990.

Indeed, our compatriot Dr. Godknows Eric Kofi Dorvlo sacrificed himself to live, serve, work and die for the Lord to his best ability despite his academic engagements throughout his life.

We acknowledge this fact that, even though your heavy schedules could not permit your physical presence as you would have wished, you committed yourself by timely and regular payment of your pledge and other religious levies.

You were until your demise a standing member of the Church Welfare Union as well as the Men's Fellowship.

Dr. Godknows Eric Dorvlo, amongst the Congregants, we have warm memories of you being the most calm and reserved type who hardly spoke. However, when you did speak, it was full of humility, respect, crowned with wisdom and a huge smiling charismatic face. Few years ago, you informed the Church Leadership of your program to travel outside the country in pursuit of higher academic laurels. On your return, we fondly remember the exposition you gave to the Church's enterprising youths about English Literature, with the encouragement that one can always achieve high status through perseverance and determination. Dr. Godknows Eric Dorvlo, even though we mourn you today, we are consoled as we continue to hold in trust your legacy of humility, your wise counsel and your soft spoken disposition.

You are gone but we will forever miss you, we hope the Almighty God will grant you the eternal peace and rest in the arms of the Lord till we meet one day.

Fare Thee Well, Amen.



*BELOVED FATHER IN-LAW
Dr. GODKNOWS ERIC KOFI DORVLO
BY SON-IN-LAW*

It is with the greatest pain I write these few words from the depth of my heart to bid you farewell, as you commence your journey to eternal life, till we meet again. How I wish this time was delayed a little longer! But who am I in matters of life and death?

You fell sick and recovered after medical intervention and this renewed my hope that you will regain your health fully. However, you later had to undergo a surgical operation at the Korle-Bu Teaching Hospital, Accra where the sad event of his death occurred on the 1st of February 2022.

With your departure, how will the coming days be without a loving and generous father like you? Who will be my advisor, companion, friend, and my hope?

I am overwhelmed with grief, pained, and confused. I will however trust in the Good Lord to hear my predicament and to see you home to a peaceful eternal rest, till we meet again.

Farewell daddy.

Nyi Lanyerane.



*Tribute by Prof Felix K. Ameka,
Leiden University Centre for Linguistics*

Your absence will be noticed because your place will be empty(1 Samuel 20:18)

We are grieving the loss of a graceful, kind, charming, caring, compassionate, admirable, highly respected, respectful person; a father, a husband, a brother, an uncle, a friend, a teacher and more. We are asking Efo Kofi, why have you left us so so soon. We yearn for your smile and infectious laughter. We are comforted by your name Godknows. Indeed God knows best. Mawu nya nyate fea. We take consolation in these words that it is your time that has come.

¹There is a season for everything, a time for every occupation under heaven:² A time for giving birth, a time for dying; a time for planting, a time for uprooting what has been planted... ⁴ A time for tears, a time for laughter; a time for mourning, a time for dancing. (Ecclesiastes 3:1-2,4 NJB).

I first saw Efo Kofi in the Linguistics Department at Legon in 2001. An Administrator came to look for someone there to be a guide to accompany visiting international students to the Volta Region. Prof. Osam sent for Kofi Dorvlo as the best person to undertake this task. When asked, Efo Kofi without hesitation readily accepted the responsibility. That is how Kofi is; ready to be of service to others. A year or so later I was scouting for PhD students to undertake language and culture documentation among the Logba (the Akpanawo). He was recommended and so began our acquaintanceship developing into us becoming a part of each other's families.

Efo Kofi was an industrious determined and persevering person. He wrote the first reference grammar of Logba (Ikpana), the first Ikpana-Ewe-English dictionary and the first modern text collection of the Ikpana language. This work is foundational and seminal. Moreover, he continued to facilitate other researchers' work on the language. A group of researchers from various US universities who



came in 2018 to explore further the way in which the Akpanawo ask questions acknowledge profusely their indebtedness to Kofi for logistical and intellectual support.

Efo Kofi is someone who believed in evidence-based policy making. As an African Humanities Program (AHP-ACLS) Fellow, he investigated and compared the degree to which children in Anyako, Sokode and Logba Tota understood (Standard) Ewe as used in the schools. He found that the comprehension decreased from Anyako to Sokode to Logba. He made recommendations for dealing with language use in the classrooms especially in Sokode and Logba. He left us with a big lesson for language in education policies.

Efo Kofi loved research, solving problems and above all was passionate about the products of the human mind. He was engaged at the Department of African Studies at UHAS, during his retirement as Senior Research Fellow from Legon, where he expanded his research on Hogbetsotso to festivals in Ghana, a topic for which he won a competitive Visiting Fellowship to the African Studies Centre, Leiden, in 2019. During this time, he rekindled his friendships and acquaintances from his PhD days. Little did I know he had hatched further plans with his dear friend Louise Muller to collect folktales from Ghana in both Ewe and Twi and translated into English and Dutch. He kept this from me, as Louisa tells me, because he wanted to surprise me. Now, Ku Salagatsi has robbed me of the chance to be surprised with a broad smile and a hearty laughter. Death, where is thy victory? Death, where is thy sting?

Efo Kofi was a very humble, unassuming, respectful person, ready to serve people. In our interactions, even though he was my senior in age, he always deferred to me against the cultural grain even in the most mundane things such as cooking. I think back to the last time in 2019 when he was in Leiden. This was the last time we were together in the same physical space. We had rendez-vous on Saturdays. He followed a routine. He would go to the Leiden open market in the morning, get some good fresh fish—He was friends with the fishermen and in his characteristic charming way he would get the choicest parts of his favourite fish. When he got back to his residence, he would call me to come over. He would prepare akple with lã mumu detsi which we would gulp down with something to aid digestion.

Efo Kofi, the fishermen in the market are asking “Where is my friend? Where is my friend? I have got some nice fish for him.”



Your friends in Leiden: Maggy, Anneke, Caroline, ... your colleagues at LUCL and the African Languages and Cultures Department are wondering "What happened?"

Your friends at the African Studies Centre Leiden are musing: "How?"

Your fellow documenters of the Ghana-Togo Mountain languages: James, Mercy, Mark, Ines, Saskia ... are shocked, full of disbelief and are short of words.

The members of the English church and the Men's Fellowship where you used to worship have fond memories of you.

You remember your friends at the Reception in Lipsius, Patrick and the other one who helped you put on your tie for your defence ceremony? They are all saying we are shocked. . Kofi was a unique person with a special laugh. What should I tell them? I am speechless.

Efo Kofi! Efo Kofi Godknows Eric, you will be dearly remembered and sorely missed. You will be remembered forever. Someone so special as you, can never be forgotten. A good heart has stopped beating, a heart that has touched many lives with his warmth, infectious laughter and caring and supportive attitude. We all wish we could reanimate him! But no ...

Efo Kofi, Hede nyuie! Ne Mawu lɔ ko miagakpe! Nadzudzɔ le ɣutifafa me!

Requiem aeternam dona ei, Domine, et lux perpetua luceat ei.

Eternal rest grant unto him O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon him





*Professor Daniela Merolla,
INALCO Paris*

I learnt of dear Kofi's passing with great sadness. I can still not believe or come to terms with it. Kofi Dorvlo and I met at the University of Leiden when he was doing his PhD research in the Netherlands and I was a university researcher in African literatures. Later, we worked together for the Verba Africana Series project during various periods of research between 2006 and 2011. Kofi's calm and attentive presence was his strength during the interviews we conducted during the fieldwork, as were his insights and warm laughs when we later watched and analysed the interviews together. The last fieldwork during the Hogbetsotso in Anloga in 2011 was memorable. Thanks to Kofi, we could attend the preparation of the rituals and we were able to participate and to film a very large part of the Hogbestotso. We kept in touch in the following years, to finalize several publications when he was in the Netherlands for his research. When I started to work in Paris, we adapted to the times and continued to exchange news and greetings by WhatsApp. Dear Kofi, thank you for your friendship and collegiality. It was great for me to have the opportunity to work together with you. I offer Kofi's family my deepest condolences for this too early departure. Kofi, you have gone too early, how are we going to accomplish our plans for Verba Africana? Fare thee well, rest in peace! Lbaraka deg ixf-nnek, Repose en paix, Riposa in pace.





*James and Joscelyn Essegbey,
Alachua, Florida, USA.*

Although I had seen Kofi in Legon a few times before 2003, we didn't really have any connection. Everything changed in May 2003 when he arrived in the Netherlands to start his PhD in the Southern Ghana-Togo Mountain languages project. I was the one who went to the airport to pick him up. I got to the airport a bit late and found a tired Kofi sitting in a corner looking a bit lost and cold in the early Dutch spring morning. I welcomed him and we headed back to Leiden. Since Kofi didn't have accommodation as yet, he was supposed to spend a few days with us until he got his place. He got some breakfast and retired to nap. At the time, our daughter Sika was almost two years old and her brother, Senanu, was due in a month. Because of that, my mother had come to spend some time with us in order to help us. When Kofi woke up refreshed from his rest, he found me feeding Sika from a baby food in a bottle. He took one look at us and exclaimed, *tsoo nukae ma wɔm miele? Mido akple na ɖɛvia!* ('what are you doing, feed the child akple!'). With that he burst out laughing and the ice was broken. Out emerged the Kofi we were to know from then on. While I describe him as the devoted but no-nonsense big brother, Joscelyn describes him as the generous person who would go to all lengths to make you happy. She remembers Sika's fourth birthday when they happened to be in Accra with Bianca and decided to visit him at the Ford Foundation apartment where he stayed. Although it was at a super-short notice, Kofi ordered a lavish birthday meal for them, and they ended up having a memorable birthday celebration. I can't help but recall the day Kofi dressed in a spotless white political suit to accompany us as we took my mother to visit Madurodam in The Hague. Kofi appears in many pictures we took that day with a matching set of perfectly white teeth gleaming in his signature laughter. When I called my mother to break the news of Kofi's passing to her, she exclaimed *oo Kofi kɔ efe nukokoa dzoe a* (has Kofi taken away his laughter)? We have lost a dear Efo but the world has lost a bright warm sunny smile.





*Louise Müller, Joke Koppius and Heidi Muijen
on behalf of the Quest for Wisdom Foundation
Kofi Dorvlo: oral storyteller in heart and soul*

Kofi, a wonderful man, was dearly loved by his friends and relatives and never met a stranger. He easily connected to everyone he met, made people laugh, and feel welcome wherever he was. Kofi was gifted in understanding people emotionally. His memory will be kept alive in our hearts and our souls. But we will also remember him by his literary legacy, by reading or listening to the stories that he collected in Ghana and left for us to enjoy.

Louise, your dear friend, says:

I will always remember your smile, your infectious laughter, and your warm-heartedness. I miss your optimism and strong conviction that by creating and writing down stories as artists we are making an important contribution to the world, we live in. As you put it: 'This is the inner joy that the artist feels! No one can take this from the artist and it leads the artist to make greater contributions.'

My good friend Kofi, I dearly miss you and I will never forget you. By all the good memories you left behind in my and other people's mind, I am sure you will rest in peace.

Your Quest for Wisdom Foundation (QFWF) team members will also miss you. Joke, who regularly communicated with you via email says:

I was struck and touched by the sad news of your passing on. I never saw you in person but our interaction via email transmitted your warmth and gentle character which will stay with me. Rest in peace.

We will make sure that the QFWF e-book with your Ghanaian folk tales will be distributed widely and will continue to deeply value your scholarly and artistic contributions. We will remember you as a wise man that has joined the ancestors and will honour you accordingly Kofi's literary legacy, the quadrilingual e-book 'Caught in the Cosmic Web – Ghanaian Folk Tales in the Twenty-First Century' is available (in Ewe, Twi, Dutch and English) at: animal-wisdom.org/en/shop.



*Dr. Azeb Amha,
African Studies Centre Leiden*

With distress I received the sad news about the untimely death of Dr. Kofi Dorvlo, a dear colleague and a wonderful, positive, cheerful friend. It is almost 20 years since we got acquainted, when he first came to the Netherlands as a PhD student of Professor Felix K. Ameka and Professor Maarten Mous in 2003. Since then, we stayed friends. In August 2011 Dr. Dorvlo and I were participants at a conference in Ho, Ghana. During my stay in Ho and Accra, Dr. Dorvlo and his son Dr. Selorm Dorvlo were extremely kind and enabled me to visit the University of Ghana, Legon, and many other places in Ho and Accra. In 2019, Dr. Kofi Dorvlo was in Leiden for three months on a visiting fellowship at the African Studies Centre at Leiden University in the Netherlands. We were planning further cooperation, but this unfortunate news came. Death has shattered our dreams and plans. Rest in peace my dear friend Kofi! My family and I will remember you always! እግዚአብሔር ነፍስህን በአዳደ ገነት ያኑራት!!!



KETASCO - 69/74 YEAR GROUP

“To die is gain” (Phil 1:21) To die in Christ is not to die;
“Tis but to live the more, To enter through an open door
Where life enlarged cloth lie. To die in Christ is but to go
To happy realms above; To go where all is blissful love
Where joys eternal flow
From: Gems of Gold by R. E. Neighbour

The late Dr. Godknows Eric Kofi Dorvlo was among the batch of 120 students who were fortunate to gain admission into Keta Secondary school in September 1969. That was the time when the school had three streams for the first-year admissions. Kofi was placed in Form 1c which happened to be the class of the bigger boys and girls. He looked quite hefty, very jovial and friendly. Luck was on the side of Kofi as he was placed in the most famous house in the school by then: The famous Kotoka House. Although Kofi was a day student, he was very regular in all extra-curricular activities in the school. These include sports and games, cultural activities, clubs and society group meetings, house general cleaning activities etc. Roll calls were very regular and punishments administered to deserving culprits. That was the regime of discipline our late colleague and all others went through.

Right from the onset, Kofi demonstrated much flair for languages. He loved speaking proverbially as an elderly statesman, well-versed in a few quotes in French and Latin. With his rich sense of humour, he was always found making a lot of fun in Ewe classes to the amusement of the entire class and the teacher as well.

On the whole Kofi was a very promising student. He was very studious and had very high hopes. No wonder he wrote his name on all his books, school exercise books, jotters and note books as: Rev. Dr. G. E. K. Dorvlo. He was once queried for this by the late Mr. Agbavor, then his form-master. He persevered to earn a doctorate from the University of Leiden, and so our Rev. Dr. G. E. K. became the real Dr. G. E. K.



After the birth of the Ketasco 69/74 Year Group, our late colleague was approached and willingly, he agreed to be part of this great fraternity. He expressed his interest fully to be a member and expressed to the group his challenges of travelling very often on official duties which may mean missing out on some activities. Payment of his annual dues and response to other financial obligations were positive.

It was only around the close of last year that we had report of Kofi's ill-health and a request for our prayers. Little did we know that the journey ahead of him wasn't far. We were all shocked to hear the news of the sudden home-call of our colleague by his Maker. A call that no one has the power to resist. It was a sudden call for rest from the labour and toils of this world. "Efo Kofi Godknows, Eric Dorvlo", we wish you a peaceful rest in the bosom of your Maker. Fare thee well, dear colleague.

"Xede nyuie"





THE STAFF OF THE LANGUAGE CENTRE, UNIVERSITY OF GHANA

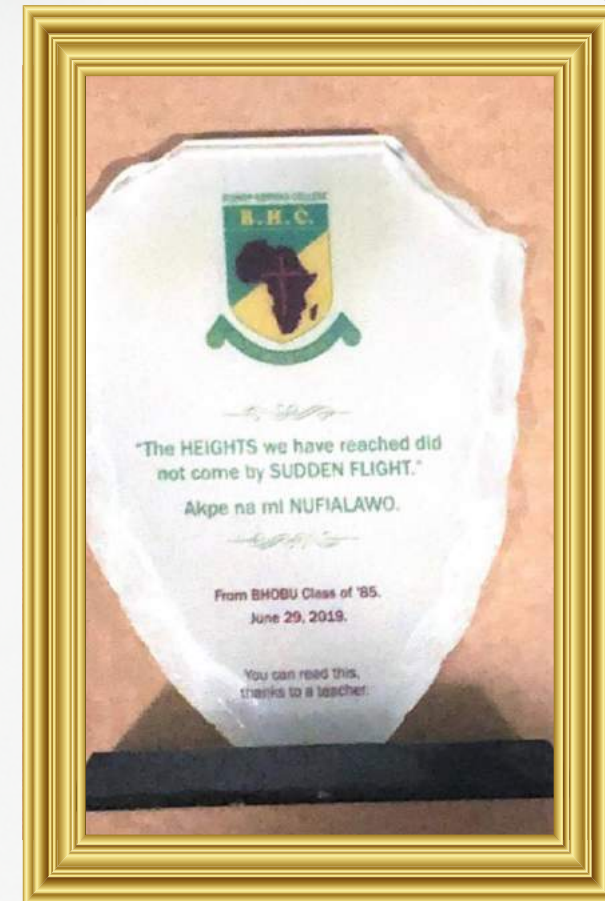
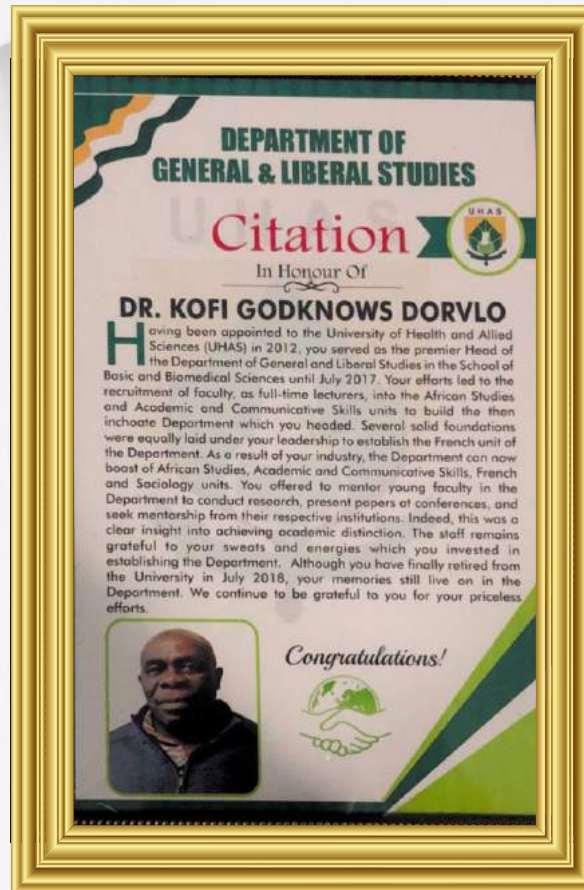
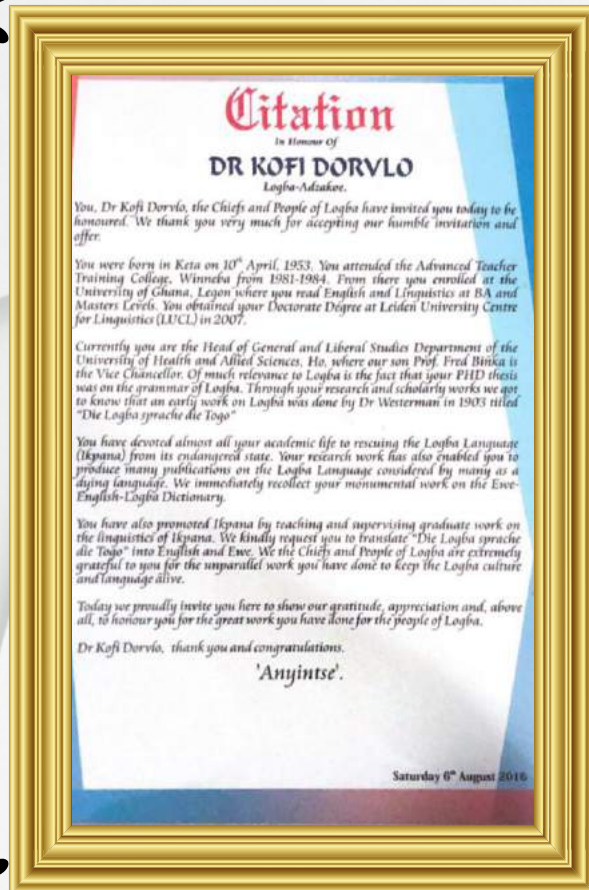
It is with a heavy heart that we pay tribute to one of the affable souls that there can ever be.

Dr Dorvlo joined the Language Centre in December 2001 on a temporary appointment as a Senior Research Assistant and was upgraded to Principal Research Assistant when he obtained MPhil degree in Linguistics in 2002. In January 2003, he was offered a permanent appointment as a Research Fellow. Not long after this, he won a scholarship to study PhD in Linguistics at Leiden University in the Netherlands. Upon completion of his doctoral studies, he returned in 2007. In recognition of his immense contribution to teaching and research at the Centre (and elsewhere in the university, e.g., Department of Linguistics), he was promoted to the rank of Senior Research Fellow in December 2011. He retired from active service in July 2013.

Dr Dorvlo specialized in Endangered Languages and researched extensively on the Logba language. He therefore has to his credit many publications on the Logba language in local and international journals. Today, because of his trailblazing research on this language and the mentoring he offered to some of his colleagues and students on how to conduct fieldwork on endangered languages, many of them are on projects related to such languages, especially those that have come to be called Ghana-Togo Mountain languages. Besides Logba, he worked on other languages, notably Ewe, his mother tongue.

At the Language Centre, Dr Dorvlo is fondly remembered because he was a huge team player. He took keen interest in the activities of the Centre and participated in Seminars and Workshops where he always contributed immensely to the deliberations. He was approachable by all. A familiar characteristic of his sociability is the spontaneous jokes he shares with just about everyone. For example, if one sees him and says "Before, before", he would respond "Literature was Literature". He responded to many other salutations. He was a member of the 'night train': a group of lecturers who often stayed late to work on their research: Professor Gordon Adika, Dr Vera Arhin and Dr. David Odoi. In this group, the earliest time to leave was 8pm and the last bus moved at 11pm!! There was so much love shared and often there was a pause for a chat over a drink. Today a dear friend goes home to the ancestors: *Xede nyuie, Efo Dorvlo, le nutifafa me!!*

CITATIONS



GALLERY



At his PHD Party



At Work, UHAS



At Language Centre



In Class



With One of His Supervisors



*With Colleague and Family
At Party*



With his First Born



With Wife and Children



Selorm and Kofi



Wife and Daughter



His Mother and the Children



With Wife and Children



Dancing Agbadza



*With Form Four Students
at OHAWU*



With his Elder Brothers and Family



Picture With Staff of Ola Girls, Ho



With Son and Daughter at Logba



With OHAWU 1979/1980 Year Group



Ahiabie Francis
Hogah Hayford
Hadzah Gracious
Dorvlo Godknows.

At Jasikan Training College



Nogokpo LA Primary School



Ketasco Sunday Service



HYMNS

(Evangelical Presbyterian Hymnal: EPH)



53: 1-3

1. O Mawu, sitsofe mawo
Na dzidzimewo ken,
Mia 'kpoxonu l'a-homwo me,
Miafe afe mavo.
2. Le wo fiazikpui ga la ngo
Miekpaa dedienono.
Woa-bo sese la dede ko
Laxo na mi xoxo
3. Hafi ne towo nava dzo
'Ye newo anygba,
Tso mawo me yi mavo me,
Wo ko enye Mawu.

248: 1-2

1. Mawu, Fofu, mo ta mele,
Afe la le adzoge vii;
Fiam magblo tso nye dzi me be:
Wo gbe mase!
I: Wo gbe mase! :I Fiam ...
2. Ne mexa nu nublanoite,
Be xo lolowo dzo ha la,
Magblo dokuibabote be:
Wo gbe mase!
I: Wo gbe mase! :I Magblo...

HYMNS

(Evangelical Presbyterian Hymnal: EPH)

266: 1-3

1. Agbemavɔ yome mati,
'Fi si dzidzɔ le!

Mauli vevie age de me,
Aɔakpɛ blibo!

Mɔ xaxa, ke mazo 'dzi;
Megbɔdzɔ, ke Yesu be:
Mɛgavɔ o, nɔdo dzi ko
Se de nuwuwu!

2. Woyɔm bena, mava ɔano
Yesu fiazi gbɔ,
Matso kple dzo; fomewɔla
Makpɔ fetu o,
Du gbegblɛ sila labu
Efe dziɖuɖufetu.
Megbenuwo nayi faa ko!
Deke mehiã o!

3. Yesu, na ne nye didi keɖ
Nanɔ dzifo ɲu!
Nɔfia mɔ lam; de dzi fo nam,
Ne megbɔdzɔ la!
Ne woblem, nɔgbɔe afiam!
Ne wodzum, nɔfa 'kɔ nam!
Wo lɔɔei nakplɔm dedie,
Tso mɔ tatra dzi!

652: 1-2

1. Mawu nanɔ kpli mi, miagakpe!
Eya ɲ'ɔ nalɛ mi d'a-si,
Akplɔ mi dedie gbe sia gbe
Mawu nanɔ kpli mi, miagakpe!
Miagakpe, miagakpe,
Miagakpe le Yesu gbɔ.
Miagakpe, miagakpe,
Mawu nanɔ kpli mi, miagakpe!

2. Mawu nanɔ kpli mi, miagakpe!
Aɣla mi le ef'a-si me,
Ana mana mi gbe sia gbe!
Mawu nanɔ kpli mi, miagakpe!
Miagakpe,...

HYMNS

(Evangelical Presbyterian Hymnal: EPH)

290: 1-3

1. Afi ka luu akpɔ fafafe le?
Xexe sia me enye fukpefe na mi.
De miate ɲu akpɔ nufe adeke,
Afi si nu vɔ made funami oa?
I: O, o, o, o, mel'a-fii o;
Fafɛfe na luu le keke dzifo! :I
2. Migbe xexe sia me kple eme nuwo,
Ne miadi fafɛfe n amia luuwo!
Dzifo Salem du, si wotu kple sika,
De luu akpɔ fafɛfe l'a-fi ma?
I: Ė, ě, ě, ě, afi ma ko
Enye fafɛfe na miafe luuwo. :I
3. Kpɔ mɔ na Afetɔ le fukpekpe me,
Do dzi, O luu, le avawɔwɔ me!
Ekema ākpɔ xe, si adze na wō;
Akplɔ wō tso zā me yi kekeli me.
I: Do dzi, do dzi le fu me ko!
Wō nuxaxa katā latrɔ zu dzidzɔ! :I

264: 1-3

1. Kekeli vana le zā megbe,
Videɖe gā nɔa bubu megbe;
Fiakuku anɔ ava megbe,
Miade afe le zɔzɔ megbe.
2. Bli bablawo kplɔa nufafa ɖo,
Nukpɔkpɔ ɖa li kple nuɣayla.
Ɔutifafa gā dzea hiā yome,
Agbagbadzedze yome dzudzɔe!
3. Tsidzadza megbe xe gaklɛna,
Vivisese dzea veve yome.
Dzidzɔkpɔkpɔ nɔa avi megbe,
Gbɔdeme vivi le mia lalam!



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The entire family of Kofi Dorvlo would like to thank the Good Lord for bringing us this far.

To those who knew him

To those who interacted with him

To those who worked with him

To those who loved him

To all of you who in diverse ways have helped us through this difficult time, we are perpetually grateful. May the good Lord bless you all abundantly.

