

A portrait of a woman with dark skin, wearing a large, voluminous red turban and a multi-strand necklace of red beads. She is resting her chin on her right hand and smiling gently. The background is a soft, out-of-focus white.

Mavis NAOMI MILLS

a.k.a Awo





*For as long as there is a memomry of them,
they live on in our hearts.*

IN LOVING MEMORY OF & SERVICE FOR THE LATE

MAVIS NAOMI MILLS

A life lived with grace, faith, and devotion

ORDER OF SERVICE

Introduction and Welcome	Service Coordinator / MC - Michael Ocansey
Opening Prayer	Rev Laud Fleischer
Worship	Royals
1st Scripture Reading	Querida Adoley Addo
Hymn 1	Rev. Esther Owusu-Appiah
Biography of the late Mavis Mills	Mr. Kojo Bonti-Amoako
Hymn 2	Ps. Nana Darko Agyei
2nd Scripture Reading	Mrs. Helena Fleischer
Song Ministration	Mr. Alfred Oddoye
Tributes from Children	Mrs. Henrietta Mannah
Hymn 3	Worship Experience
Tributes from Grandchildren	Danetta, Angelina, Evans Jr and Oscar
Tributes from In-Laws	Mr. Evans Mannah and Mrs. Augustina Kwao
Tribute from Friends	Mr Kojo Bonti-Amoako
Song Ministration	Ziona Donkor
Word of Exhortation	Rev. Edwin Donkor
Prayer for the Family	Bs. Patrick Josiah
Music Interlude / Refreshments	—
Dance	Family, Churches, Groups
Vote of Thanks	Vincent Nii Ayettey Taylor
Closing Prayer	Rev. Dr. Max Addo

OFFICIATING CLERGY

We express our deepest gratitude to the clergy leading and ministering during today's service:

Rev. Laud Fleischer

Rev. Esther Owusu-Appiah

Ps Nana Darko Agyei

Rev. Edwin Donkor

Bs. Patrick Josiah

Rev. Dr. Max Addo

SERVICE COORDINATOR/MC:

Michael Ocansey

HYMNS

HYMN 1: WHEN PEACE LIKE A RIVER

1. When peace like a river attendeth my way,
when sorrows like sea billows roll;
whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say,
"It is well, it is well with my soul."

Refrain:

It is well with my soul;
it is well, it is well with my soul.

2. Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,
let this blest assurance control:
that Christ has regarded my helpless estate,
and has shed his own blood for my soul.

3. My sin oh, the bliss of this glorious thought!
My sin, not in part, but the whole,
is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more;
praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!

HYMN 2: GUIDE ME, O MY GREAT REDEEMER

1. Guide me, O my great Redeemer,
pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak, but you are mighty;
hold me with your powerful hand.
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,
feed me now and evermore,
feed me now and evermore.
2. Open now the crystal fountain,
where the healing waters flow.
Let the fire and cloudy pillar
lead me all my journey through.
Strong Deliverer, strong Deliverer,
ever be my strength and shield,
ever be my strength and shield.
3. When I tread the verge of Jordan,
bid my anxious fears subside.
Death of death, and hell's Destruction,
land me safe on Canaan's side.
Songs of praises, songs of praises
I will ever sing to you,
I will ever sing to you.

HYMN 3: CAPTAIN OF ISRAEL'S HOST

1. Captain of Israel's host, and Guide
Of all who seek the land above,
Beneath Thy shadow we abide,
The cloud of Thy protecting love;
Our strength, Thy grace, our rule, Thy Word;
Our end, the glory of the Lord.
2. By Thine unerring Spirit led,
We shall not in the desert stray
We shall not full direction need
Nor miss our providential way;
As far from danger as from fear,
While Love, almighty Love, is near.
3. We've no abiding city here,
but seek a city out of sight;
thither our steady course we steer,
aspiring to the plains of light;

BIOGRAPHY

THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF MAVIS NAOMI MILLS



*A Woman of Strength, Faith, Love,
Courage and Laughter*

Mavis Naomi Odarkai Mills was a remarkable woman whose life was defined by strength, determination, faith, family, hard work and, perhaps most memorably, her ability to make people laugh.

Born on 5th October in Accra, Ghana, Mavis was the daughter of Jacob Lantei Lamptey and Dora Okaikor Dinsey. She grew up as one of eight children, surrounded by three sisters and four brothers. From her earliest years, she was exposed to the importance of family, community and hard work.

Her childhood was not confined to one place. Born and partially raised in Accra, Mavis also spent periods living with different family members in other parts of Ghana. These experiences shaped her into the adaptable and confident woman she would later become. As she moved from one region to another, she picked up different languages, particularly Ada and Krobo, giving her an appreciation for Ghana's diverse cultures and communities.

She spent a significant part of her early life in Somanya (where part of her mother's family originated) and participated in the Dipo puberty rite, connecting her to the traditions and cultural heritage of her people. These experiences became an important part of the woman she grew into: culturally aware, confident, resilient, and never afraid of where she came from.

One of the greatest influences in Mavis's life was her mother, Dora, a hardworking woman who was involved in various trading businesses in Accra. Watching her mother work tirelessly to provide for her family left a lasting impression on Mavis. She learned early that life does not always hand you opportunities; sometimes you must create them yourself. That lesson stayed with her throughout her life. Mavis inherited her mother's entrepreneurial spirit, determination, and refusal to sit still when there was work to be done. If there was a way to make something happen, Mavis would find it. And if there wasn't a way, she would probably create one!

Mavis spent her entire educational life in Kpone, where she lived with her uncle. Her time there helped shape her discipline and independence and laid the foundation for the life she would later build.

After completing her education, she returned to Accra in search of professional opportunities. Her determination paid off when she secured a position as a secretary at the National Archives Office in Accra. It was there that life took a beautiful turn. At the National Archives Office, Mavis met the man who would become her husband and the father of her children, Mr Charles Adjei Kwao (late). What began as a professional chapter became the beginning of a family story.



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Together, Mavis and Charles built a home and were blessed with two children, Henrietta and Henry, two children of whom she remained immensely proud. For Mavis, being a mother was never simply a title. It was a responsibility she embraced with everything she had.

Mavis was not a woman who believed in waiting for life to happen to her. She was ambitious, resourceful and entrepreneurial. Her business interests took her beyond Ghana, including journeys to Lomé, Nigeria, Paris and Austria where she travelled for trade. These journeys reflected her courage and willingness to explore opportunities wherever they could be found.

She understood something important about life: hard work opens doors, but courage gives you the confidence to walk through them. Throughout her life, Mavis demonstrated that success was not measured only by money or possessions. To her, success was being able to provide for your family, support others, remain independent, and leave people better than you found them.

Mavis travelled to the UK to seek greener pastures and was later joined by her two children.

Above everything else, Mavis was a woman of deep and unwavering faith in God. Her passion for God was undeniable and unquestionable. Christianity was not simply something she professed; it was woven into the way she lived her life. She was actively involved in church activities and became a committed member of the church usher's department, where she served with dedication.

To her children, Mavis was many things: mother, teacher, protector, adviser, disciplinarian, cheerleader and, occasionally, their toughest critic. She had high expectations of her children because she believed in their potential. She wanted them to work hard, be responsible, respect others, and make something meaningful of their lives.

Those who knew Mavis well will tell you that she was not just strong; she was funny. Mavis had a unique personality and a remarkable ability to give almost everyone she knew a nickname. If you were her friend, relative, or someone who spent enough time around her, chances were that you had been given a special name by Mavis. And once she gave you that name, there was little point arguing!

BIOGRAPHY

She was also a woman who could be both incredibly warm and incredibly direct. Her family and friends will undoubtedly remember those moments with laughter for years to come. Behind the humour was a woman who valued honesty. She was straightforward, authentic, and rarely pretended to be someone she was not.

Perhaps one of the greatest characteristics of Mavis was her resilience. She was hardly known as someone who showed weakness. Mavis was a fighter. She did not give up easily. She had an extraordinary ability to lead, whether formally or simply through the strength of her character. She relied on many things in life, but ultimately, she relied on God. Even during difficult periods and health challenges, Mavis continued to battle. She fought every minute and every day to regain some level of normality in her daily life. That determination demonstrated the extraordinary strength that lived within her. She was physically and mentally strong, courageous and resilient.

Mavis's achievements cannot be measured by certificates, job titles or material possessions alone. Her achievements were found in the people she raised, the people she supported, the communities she served and the lives she touched. But perhaps her greatest achievement was being Mavis, a woman who lived boldly, loved deeply, worked hard, and never allowed life's difficulties to completely defeat her.

Her departure has created a painful emptiness for her family, friends, church community, and everyone who knew her. Mavis Naomi Odarkai Mills will be remembered as a beautiful woman, a strong woman, a wise woman, a hardworking woman, and a woman of extraordinary resilience.

A Christian who loved God, an entrepreneur who pursued opportunities, and a mother who placed family at the heart of her life. Her voice may now be silent, but the lessons she taught, the laughter she created, the people she helped, and the love she gave will continue to speak for her.

Her children, Henrietta and Henry, will carry her memory with pride. Her family will continue to tell her stories. Her friends will continue to laugh at her jokes and remember the nicknames she gave them. Her church will remember her service. And those she helped will remember her generosity. Most importantly, her family can take comfort in knowing that she fought a good fight, lived with courage, loved her family fiercely, and remained faithful to God.

*Mavis may have left this world, but she did not leave our hearts. Your work here is done.
Your fight is over. Your legacy lives on.*



*Until we meet again, rest peacefully in the arms of the God you loved and served.
May your beautiful soul rest in perfect peace.*

TRIBUTE

TRIBUTE FROM CHILDREN

By Mrs Henrietta Mannah & Mr Henry Kwao

To our Beloved Mother,

Today, we stand here with a heart filled with pain, gratitude, pride, and love as we honour the life of an extraordinary woman — our mother, friend, protector, teacher, and greatest supporter. Mum was a caring mother in every sense of the word.

She carried everyone's burden as though they were her own. Her love was genuine, deep, and unconditional. She had a way of making people feel safe, welcome, and valued. You could approach her with anything because she was easy-going, thoughtful, compassionate, and always ready to support people without hesitation.

Mum was intelligent beyond words. She understood life deeply and could adapt to any standard of living without losing her dignity, values, or strength. She remained focused, determined, and hardworking in whatever life threw at her. Mum was always moving, just like a river, emptying herself into friends and family. She was always working, planning, trying to make life better for her children and the people around her.

Education meant everything to her. She believed her children deserved the very best and pushed us with high standards and expectations. At times, we may not have fully understood her strictness, but today we understand it was all rooted in love. She wanted us to become responsible, respectful, and God-fearing adults.

Mum spoke her mind openly and honestly. She was vocal when necessary and could use harsh words when she believed it would correct or protect you. One thing we learned quickly was this: you could never go to war with Mum and expect to win. She always had an answer for the tough questions, and she never backed down from what she believed was right.

Her faith in God was undeniable. Mum loved God and made sure her children also loved and served Him. Even through health challenges, her faith remained strong. As we watched her fight through pain and difficulties, it taught us that she was a true fighter, a woman who refused to accept defeat or settle for what people called "normal." She never gave up.

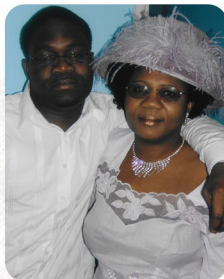
Mum was also funny, full of life, and unforgettable in character. We miss her jokes, protection, courage, and friendship. We miss her food, calls, and little fights because they were part of the beautiful relationship we shared.

She accepted her children's friends as her own. She treated them with respect and kindness. Supporting people came naturally to her. She had a unique way of helping others with intelligence, ease, and genuine compassion. She was charitable, thoughtful, and passionate about lifting others.

Mum protected us in ways we did not always understand. There were things she kept away from us simply because she wanted to shield us from pain. She worked tirelessly to give us the best life she possibly could. Every sacrifice she made came from love. One of the things we miss most is our unannounced visits, walking in and having long conversations with her. Mum taught us everything we needed to know. She was always willing to speak openly about her relationship with our dear father.

Sometimes she would smile and say she missed our father whenever she saw her son display his charming character. She would say, “You look like your father.”

We’ve missed her calls, waving support, laughter, presence, strength, friendship, and voice.



From your only son, Henry Kwao:

“Today, I am a proud son, brother; husband, and father because you gave me your very best and never gave up on me. Everything good in me carries your fingerprints. I have missed our open conversations with no boundaries. Thank you, Mum, for your sacrifices, your prayers, your discipline, your love, and your unwavering faith.”

From your only daughter, Henrietta Mannah:

“Words cannot describe the loss I feel saying farewell to you, but heaven chose to give you wings, and now it’s time you flew. Thank you for being a second mother to my children; you bathed them, fed them, and took them to school until they were old enough to care for themselves. You cared for me from my third trimester until I gave birth, and I will do the same for my daughter. Thank you for your endless patience, sacrifices, and quiet support. A silent thought, a secret tear keeps your memory ever near in my heart forever. Rest well, Mum. You fought a good fight. You loved deeply. You served faithfully. We will always love you.”



TRIBUTE

TRIBUTES FROM GRANDCHILDREN



From Danetta Mannah

I wish I had more time, more time to talk to you, more time to spend with you, more time to even just hold your hand once more. All the nights I told myself I'd call you but woke up forgetting, all the afternoons I told you I'd come to visit but never came, because in my head, you were not leaving any time soon. I had taken the time we had together for granted, and before I knew it, you had been taken away from us.

I could go on and on about how much I miss you, but that wouldn't change anything. Instead, I want to dedicate my part of this speech to explain how amazing you were. Fortunately, I was blessed with the opportunity to grow up with you and have you in my life. Many young people grew up without knowing their grandparents, but you are a major part of who I am today. You took me to school; you kept me company when my parents were working; you did such a great job of bringing my brother and me up.

For your 70th birthday, I told you that you reminded me of this Bible verse, Proverbs 3:15: "She is more precious than rubies; nothing you desire can compare". To me, nobody can replace who you were; you were kind, funny, and eager. You were always considerate of me, doing your best to make sure I was always happy, making sacrifices so that my cousins and I were having a good time. You would never forget me, always thinking of me wherever you go, and I would like to reciprocate that. Grandma, I will never forget you. You may not be here with us physically, but you will forever live in my heart. I know you would want me to move on and push myself even harder; I will not disappoint you. I know you are in a better place now, relieved of any pain or suffering you were experiencing, and that alone is comforting enough. Rest well, Grandma; I will always love you.

From Angelina Kwao

I will always cherish the memories I had with Grandma; she is such a hardworking person who never gives up. She never failed to make all of us smile, even if she wasn't feeling great herself. I will always feel emotional when we pass through Enfield, where she took us to the cinema and the market years ago, before we knew how it feels to lose someone you love so much.

I will always cherish the memories of the four of us messing around, with her jokingly telling us off. She constantly showered me with gifts that I still treasure and use today, and she always did everything she could to keep our bond strong. I deeply regret the missed opportunities to call and visit her during school holidays like she always wanted. Even though she was taken from us far too soon, I am choosing to focus on the future and devote my life to making her proud. I love you, Grandma, and I always will.

From Evans Mannah Jr

Even though you're not here with us, your voice echoes in my day-to-day activities. If I could, I would love to share one last moment with you. You were such a caring person; you would always put others first and would never fail to put a smile on my face. You were the best.

All those memories we made will always have a place in my heart. Your humour was prodigious, always relating it to Ghana somehow and somehow. It amazes me how you cared for all of us (Angel, Oscar, Danetta, and I). We were a handful, I must admit, but no matter the situation, you handled it with perfection.

I remember that one Christmas, the 25th of December 2023; it was an unforgettable Christmas. All the jokes we shared and activities we played, they were just perfect. If I could see you again, the last thing I would ask for would be a hug. I love you, Grandma.

From Oscar Kwao

The things she was able to do for me were amazing. She cooked for us, took us to the movies, cracked jokes with us, and that is just to mention a few. We were four energetic kids, but she matched our energy.

When she lived in her old house, we would all snuggle in her bed and watch Adom TV until late. No matter what anyone says, she is the greatest.

Grandma taught us Ga. Back then we would sit on the floor while she taught us, typing the words, pronouncing them, and then translating them. Deep down, I still wish I could hear her again for one day. Maybe more. I miss you a lot.



TRIBUTE

TRIBUTES FROM FROM IN-LAWS

Tribute to my mother-in-law by Mr. Evans Mannah

Today, we gather here to honour a woman whose presence shaped our lives in ways words can barely hold. When I first met my mother-in-law, I wasn't sure what to expect, though we had spoken many times on the phone; but Awo is Awo, and anything is possible. We all have heard stories about in-laws, but what I found was someone kind, thoughtful, and quietly generous who welcomed me without hesitation, without judgement, and without conditions. Awo Babe.

From the beginning, she made it clear that joining this family meant being included fully, which allowed our relationship to grow naturally and respectfully. Today I stand here reminiscing about the year 2000, how we celebrated our first Christmas Eve together in Shepards Bush with the last bottle of your RED wine. That night was fun and with lots of memories. Awo, you were not only part of my family, but you became part of my heart too, and my second mother.

You shared family traditions, practical advice, and stories that helped me understand the history I had stepped into. Family traditions were never casual details to you; they were meaningful links between generations. As my mother-in-law, you took care to preserve customs and shared stories that gave our family a sense of continuity and belonging. Your support and presence made important transitions feel manageable rather than overwhelming.

You were an amazing woman. You faced challenges with determination and composure, showing that resilience is built through steady efforts. The way you managed work-life and raised two incredible children is truly commendable and inspiring. It's a privilege to have you as my mother-in-law; not only that, but you also gave me the most beautiful and intelligent woman as my wife. I can't thank you enough for raising such a kind-hearted woman. I truly feel blessed.

Thank you for the love you gave without expecting anything in return. You were our biggest lifesaver for the help you offered so willingly, staying with us for 6 years to look after your grandchildren. The love and care you showed every single day leaves a mark that will last a lifetime. To the world you might be a grandma, but to your grandchildren, and to us, you are the best.

You touched more lives than you ever knew. Though words feel small, the love and respect remain. Gone from our sight but held in our hearts forever. Awo, you are missed! Rest well. You will always be remembered, and we wish you eternal peace and gratitude for the love you gave. Thank you!



TRIBUTE

TRIBUTES FROM FROM IN-LAWS

Tribute to my mother-in-law by Mrs. Augustina Kwao:

They Say There Is a Reason — For Me, You Were Gone Too Soon Awo, words cannot fully describe the pain and sadness I feel as I say farewell to you. Although my heart wishes we had more time together, heaven has called you home, and it is now time for you to rest with our Maker.

I wish God had allowed you to stay with us a little longer. There was still so much more I wanted to share with you, so many more conversations I wanted us to have, and so many more memories I wanted us to create.

I will always remember the first time I met my mother-in-law. You welcomed me with a tender smile, warm hugs, and such genuine love. To my great delight, we began speaking in Ada, the language I speak. I was so happy and honoured to discover that you could speak my language. It felt as though God had given us something special to share from the very beginning.

Awo, you were a loving, kind, God-fearing, hardworking, and caring woman. You always went the extra mile to be there for me and for others. Your love was not only expressed in words but through your actions, your sacrifices, and the way you cared for everyone around you.

I especially remember how you were there for us when your grandchildren, Angel and Oscar, were born. When I was unwell, you stayed with us and cared for them. During those precious times together, you would advise me about marriage, raising children in the ways of God, supporting one another, and remaining committed to each other through every season of life.

I will never forget one of your visits when you looked at us and said, “You and Henry have brought up the children very well, and they are respectful. Well done.” Those words meant so much to me. I was deeply grateful for your encouragement, and I will carry those words in my heart forever.

Awo, I will always cherish the precious time we spent together. Thank you for your words of wisdom, your encouragement, and for being there for me during the difficult times in our marriage. Your advice and prayers meant more to me than I can ever put into words. Thank you for being there for all of us, especially for your grandchildren.

Thank you for raising your son, Henry, to become the God-fearing man he is today. And thank you for opening your heart and your family to me and allowing me to become part of your family.

We will miss you dearly, Awo. We will miss your caring heart, your tender smile, your jokes, your infectious laughter, and your telephone calls. We will miss the way you remembered the grandchildren on their birthdays, calling to wish them well and blessing them with your thoughtful gifts.

And I will especially miss those telephone calls every hour, waiting patiently for my special banku and



TRIBUTE

okra soup that was “still not ready yet!” Those little moments may seem simple, but they are now precious memories that I will treasure forever. Awo, your love, kindness, wisdom, and faith have left a lasting mark on our lives. Though you are no longer with us physically, your memory will live on in our hearts, in your children, in your grandchildren, and in all those whose lives you touched. You were a blessing to our family, and I am grateful that God allowed our paths to cross.

Rest peacefully, Awo. Until we meet again, may you rest in the loving arms of our Maker. You will forever be loved, remembered, and deeply missed

TRIBUTES FROM FRIENDS



Mr. Kojo Bonti-Amoako

I have really struggled to scribble a sentence. One might ask why? It is because I still struggle to accept that you have transitioned.

Anytime we talked, sometimes for hours, we laughed and laughed. Those moments will forever remain precious to me.

Thank you very much for the lessons you taught me. One lesson among them all was your audacity to move through life accepting yourself every day—to live boldly and unapologetically as yourself.

Thank you for feeding me.

Thank you for the conversations.

Thank you for giving me a place to sleep.

Thank you for your kindness.

Thank you for being you.

Farewell,
Kojo Bonti-Amoako.

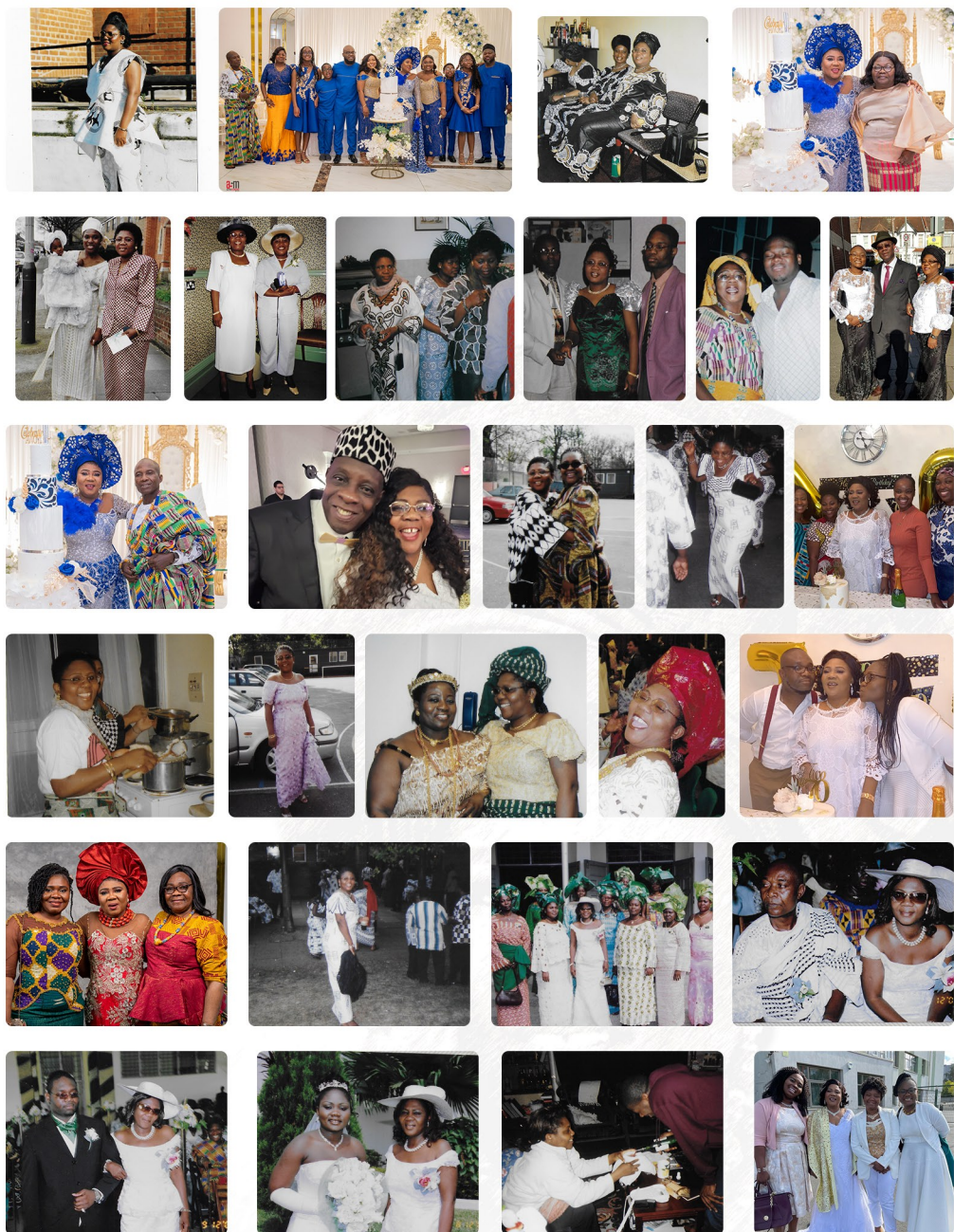


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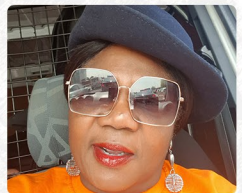


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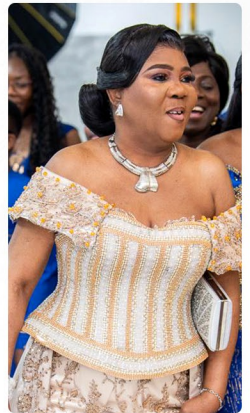


PHOTO GALLERY



A HEARTFELT THANK YOU

On behalf of our family, we would like to express our deepest and most sincere gratitude to everyone who came to support us during the funeral service of our beloved mother, Mavis Naomi Mills. Thank you for taking the time to be with us, for travelling from near and far, and for standing beside our family during such a difficult and emotional time.

Your presence, prayers, kind words, calls, messages, generous contributions, and every act of love and support meant more to us than words can adequately express.

Losing our mother has left a deep void in our hearts, but your love and presence reminded us that we are surrounded by a wonderful family, friends, and community who genuinely care for us. You helped us celebrate her life with dignity, love, and beautiful memories.

Our mother was a loving, courageous, hardworking, and warm-hearted woman who touched many lives. Seeing so many people come together to honour her was a beautiful reflection of the love and respect she gave throughout her life.

May God richly bless you and your family, replenish you for every sacrifice you made, and continue to surround you with His grace and protection.

From the bottom of our hearts, thank you for mourning with us, praying with us, and celebrating the beautiful life of our mother with us.

We are eternally grateful.

Rest peacefully, Mum. You will forever remain in our hearts.