



THE LATE MADAM

**Selina Amagdi Somtim Akweongo**

1931 - 2023

PRE-BURIAL MASS FOR LATE  
**Selina Amagdi Somtim Akweongo**

Programme

**DATE: FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 15TH 2023.**

**VENUE: SAINT BAKHITA CATHOLIC  
CHURCH COMMUNITY 20, LASHIBI-TEMA  
WEST**

*Processional Hymn CH305 - 7:30am*

*Introitus: Aseda ye de mo Nyame*

*Kyrie:*

*Responsorial Psalm CH34*

*Gospel Acclamation*

*Bidding Prayers*

*Collection*

*Me tiase eye wa dom kwara , Ewuradze nia*

*waye mami so*

*Adom be wo Jesus,*

*Me tumi me dawasi*

*Incensation*

*Santus:*

*Agnus Dei: CH432*

*Communion:*

*CH247 Sweet Sacrament Divine*

*CH246 Hidden God here Truly Present*

*CH212 Yes Heaven is the Prize my soul shall  
strive to gain*

*Hark! Hark my soul angelic voices are  
swelling*

**WAKE KEEPING:**

**FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 15TH 2023.**

**VENUE: FAMILY HOUSE AT  
DAPOORETINDONGO- BOLGATANGA  
OPPOSITE ST. CLEMENT PRIMARY SCHOOL**

*7:00pm - Arrival of body from the 37 Military  
Hospital to family house*

*7:00pm - 8:00pm - Prayers and adoration*

*8:00pm - Welcome address by family*

*Opening Hymn- United Choir*

*Opening prayer -*

*First Reading-English Job 19: 1, 23 -2 7*

*Second reading-Gurune Romans 6: 3 - 9*

*Hymn- United choir*

*Gospel-*

*Reflection-*

*Prayer of the faithful*

*Collection- United Choir*

*Tributes:*

*-Family*

*-Other tributes*

*Concluding Prayer-*

*Closing Hymn- United Choir*

*Announcement:*

# ORDER OF BURIAL MASS

**DATE: SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 16TH 2023**

**VENUE: SACRED HEART CATHEDRAL  
BOLGTANGA**

*Reception of body - 9:00am*

*Processional Hymn*

*Intronus:*

*Kyrie*

*First Reading: English-Wisdom: 3: 1 - 8*

*Second Reading (Gurune) Romans 8:1 - 11*

*Gospel: Matthew (5:1 - 12a):*

*Homily:*

*Collection:*

*Santus:*

*Agnus Dei:*

*Holy Communion:*

*Concluding Prayer:*

*Reading of tributes: -Biography*

*Announcements:*

*Vote of Thanks:*

*Burial Rites at the Sacred Heart Cathedral  
Cemetery*

*-Final commendation:*

*-Lowering casket into the grave:*

*-Last Respect-putting of soil into the  
grave by the next of kin:*

# SPECIAL INVITATION

*The Ayagle-Tampugre, The Somtim  
Yakote family, The Akweongo family and  
Dapooretingdongo /Bukere Christian  
Community cordially invite you to the  
burial and final funeral rites of their  
beloved*

*Mother Selina Amagdi Somtim Akweongo*

**FINAL FUNERAL RITES OF THE LATE  
SELINA AMAGDI SONTIM AKWEONGO,  
MADAM MELENI TAMPOLA AKWEONGO  
AND MR. JOSEPH ANANDENI  
AKWEONGO**

**DATE: SEPTEMBER 19TH TO SEPTEMBER  
24TH 2023**

*Tuesday 19th September 9.00am*

*Blessing of Food Items Family House  
-Dapooretindongo*

*Wednesday 20th September 3.00pm*

*Service of the word Family House*

*Thursday 21st September 4.00pm*

*Final Funeral Mass Family House*

*Sunday 24th September 8.30am*

*Thanksgiving Mass*

*Second Mass Sacred Heart Cathedral  
-Bolgatanga*

## BIOGRAPHY OF THE LATE MADAM

# Selina Amagdi Sontim Akweongo

*Now the laborer's task is o'er; Now the battle day is past; Now upon the farther shore. Lands the voyager at last.*

**M**adam Selina Amagdi Sontim Akweongo was born on 23rd August, 1931 in Yakote to Mr. Nkplemken Sontim and Madam Dongbon from Gbondan, Soliga Nangode all of blessed memory. She was the 4th of 5 children, 2 boys and 3 girls. Her life was marked by series of serious health events that should have ended her life, but she counted all to God for making her escape near death in all these situations.

She recounted how when she was about 7 years old she became so ill that the Father who enjoyed his market days refused to attend the market for fear he would be recalled home to bury her. Miraculously, she survived that near death incident. Her second major health event was when in her teens she was returning home from the forest after going for firewood, she had a wood pierce her eye, leading to a defect in one eye. As a result of this incident, she could not marry at the age at which her age mates got married. She stayed home for so many years until she visited her maternal first cousin Mma Ayampoka who was married to the Ayagle

Atampugre family of Dapooretindongo in Bolgatanga. It was there she met her late husband Mr. Caesario Akweongo, a farmer and a Catechist. In 2017 she suffered a serious fracture that should have immobilized her but miraculously she was able to walk again without crutches. Then she suffered a fracture in the waist in 2019 which she still survived.

She married Mr. Caesario Akweongo in 1961. She always recounted that she was advanced in age when she got married to Mr. Akweongo and having children did not come easily to her. Thus, many complained to Mr. Akweongo that why should he marry a woman who was unlikely to have her own children. But the husband would always reply them saying 'I did not marry her to have children but to take care of my 5 surviving children (3 boys and 2 girls) left by my late wives. Caesario like Selina was hit by unfortunate life events, losing his first wife, he got married again and lost the second as well and finally he married Selina.

Selina therefore never dreamt of ever having her own children given her age. When she began having her children (all 3 girls) she would always say that 'God allowed me to

bear children because I took good care of other children. So always do good to others and God will surely be good to you. I am grateful to God to have witnessed three generations in my lifetime’.

Two of her sons were sickle cell and were most often in crisis and these were trying moments for Selina because it meant staying in bed with them to nurse and manage their rheumatoid pain till they got better. When they were hospitalized, it meant staying with them in the hospital and coming back home to prepare meals for the family as she did not have a helping hand. This she did until they were as old as 32 years and when their wives could not manage their pain, she still had to step in to assist them.

**Working life:** Selina was a farmer and a petty trader. She would often repeat that in her paternal home she was a single truck that worked both night and day supporting the family because she was the last to get married. But then she will emphasize that in my husband’s house my burden doubled ‘I was now a double tipper truck’ working on the farm consistently and at the same time making meals and managing the home. She would sigh and repeat “perhaps that has made me strong to live this long and to still be able to walk and do things by myself to this age”.

Selina was an exceptional good cook and she cooked so well that she never enjoyed the

meals of others except her own. No wonder when she was unable to make meals for herself, she felt so frustrated because with instructions she couldn’t get us to prepare it exactly as she wanted it.

**Hygiene:** Her perfectionism permeated everything she did. She was exceptionally neat, and her dishes shone brightly, and she took a two-hour bath daily. It was always amazing how she single handedly kept and maintained the family house clean growing up. Selina exhibited the saying that ‘Cleanliness is next to godliness’,

**Family:** Her home was a home to all and sundry and from all walks of life; from the sons and daughters’ friends to her extended family members and strangers. A week never passed without a visitor in her home. It did not matter the time the visitor arrived, day or midnight, a meal had to be prepared for that visitor. Single tenants were served meals every evening irrespective of whether they cooked their own meals or not.

Her sons’ friends who came from outside Bolgatanga always stayed with them during long vacations and she prepared meals for all of them till school reopened. In her old age she still cooked and served everyone.

**A woman of her own:** She was a perfectionist, a disciplinarian, and a straightforward person. Selina was blunt and would settle any issue with anyone before the sun sets. She perhaps practiced what

the Bible says, 'Do not let the sun set on your anger.' She would always say that 'I cannot go to bed with an unresolved issue'. She never feared any human being and she would say it as it is. She will never provoke anyone but if you provoked her, she would settle the score with you right there. She never needed an arbitrator.

It was no wonder she felt so deeply hurt and frustrated when she never got a chance to defend herself after an uneventful accusation by the family she took care of.

She never visited people's homes because she always says that I do not want to be invited as a witness to any incident. She was always content with her lot.

**Final Moments:** Her health had been deteriorating since December 2022 because she suffered a stroke in the head that gave her so much pain and she was slow in speaking and eating. She came to Accra and was doing so well until when she suddenly grew weaker on the Saturday before her passing and was rushed to the hospital where she passed to eternity on Sunday 13th August 2023 at the 37 Military Hospital in Accra, two days to the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. She was a devotee of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary. She said her Rosary daily and received the blessed Sacrament every Sunday until her passing. The events leading to her death, from preparing herself and receiving twice the last

sacrament gives cause to give glory to God and may we all join to sing.

*To God be the glory  
Great things He has done  
So loved He the world that He gave us His Son  
Who yielded His life an atonement for sin  
And opened the life-gate that all may go in  
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord  
Let the earth hear His voice  
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord  
Let the people rejoice  
Oh Come to the Father  
Through Jesus the Son and  
Give Him the glory  
Great things He has done!*

Selina, Somtima Magdita, Mma, May you rest peacefully with your maker!





## TRIBUTE BY **Children**

*Jesus said to her I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die. John 11: 5*

**M**ama or Amagdi as we called her was a quiet, peaceful, and unassuming woman. She minded her own business and was a woman who loved to serve others, give to others and care for others. Growing up, all we saw was a woman working on the farms and cooking for us. There were no grinding mills in those days in the villages and where they were, the family could not afford to take the grains to the grinding mill, so she did all that on the grinding stone. Several bowls of grains for every meal. She taught all of us (boys and girls) to take turns grinding and to cook. Our Father had many large farms, and she was always working on the farms.

She didn't have many friends because she was always busy from sun rise to sun set. Growing up we never saw her sit idle. That would be unlike her. She hardly felt sick. She was always healthy and strong when we were growing up.

She cherished family so much that she was always recounting history, the family tree and

why it was so important to trace our family roots. For Selina, family was everything. It is no wonder there was no week without anyone visiting her from her paternal home. She visited every known family member in town to check on their welfare including taking my brothers and sisters to their maternal homes even though their mothers had passed on and would recount to them their family tree and roots as if she were related to their mothers. She would always insist do not forget your roots. Keep the links! It is important!

It is no wonder our family house was always full of people from my mother's home and village. Our home was a stopping place for everyone from her village and beyond, whether they were transiting, sick, in school, looking for a job or looking for a burial place. Once they arrived and usually late at night, our father would wake us up to assist her to prepare meals for them. We hated this and grumbled but for my Mum it was all good and a joy to be of service even if it meant sacrificing her sleep.

She worked so hard and all day that we all went through the same hard way and we often got angry at that. During harvest time we could trek to the farmlands to and fro from morning to sunset getting home as late as 7pm before meals were prepared. We saw it as tough but looking back, it prepared us well for the future to be multitasking and

always seeking to do the best that we can. During our secondary school days our Mum was the taxi driver. She carried our brothers' luggage on her head to the bus station for them to go to school and for those of us in Bolga town, she would take it to your school. She did whatever she could to assist us in our school days and we are forever grateful to her.

**A woman of her word:** This was a woman of her word. She was truthful and would stand up to anyone. If you accosted her during the day, you would receive it during the day. If she was accosted at night, before you wake up, she is right in front of your door, and you must settle it there with her. She hated lies and so do not come telling her a story that is not true. She will uncover the truth or if related to a third person, she would go and confront the person.

She had such a great and discerning spirit and was given wisdom from above. She could predict and conceive before the incident happened and if you listened to her you prospered. She would often repeat “book knowledge is not wisdom”.

Our Mum also could not withstand people taking others for granted because they are vulnerable. She will fight for them to the end. Several times she went to our father's debtors and retrieved the money people owed him, if he complained about how long they had

owed him. Aside from our father if anyone else complained that someone had bought something from him or her and had not paid and was making life difficult for that person, our mum will take the contact details, go to the person and will come back with the money.

Because of this her straightforward nature, she had fights with people and people misunderstood her because she will not take nonsense from anyone. When she was old and could not walk to the person to resolve and clear issues herself, she would narrate everything to you and ask you to call the person for you to be a witness because she was unable to sleep without resolving an issue. She practiced what the Bible says if your brother offends you, go to him and talk it over. This was so easy for our Mum because she didn't need an arbitrator and would not pass the message to a third person. She will handle it herself. From her village to our village she would talk it over directly with you.

She had many folktales that she told every night growing up and sang along, which some of us still cherish because they always ended with a moral lesson.

To what can we say to a mother like this, to pay tribute to your legacy of truth, selflessness, cherishing family and roots and never going to bed with an unresolved issue



with another person.

The long nights of chatting we will miss, the stories of everyone dear to you and how they ought to be serious with life, the phone calls to reprimand and correct are being missed. Well done, Mma!

May the good Lord grant you eternal rest in his bosom!

Mma! Paa Yire songa!



## TRIBUTE TO SELINA AMAGDI AKWEONGO BY **The Cassoma Family**

*So do not fear, for I am with you, do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous hand. Isaiah 41:10*

**M**y Mother Celine, that is how I affectionately called her was a woman who loved to the core and welcomed everyone. A stranger from a different country, yet she treated me like I was born and bred in her home. She gave to her enemies' bread to eat and water to drink, a saying Jesus said that has been difficult to practice. The more she got hurt in loving the people she cared and loved, the more she prayed for them and gave them more bread to eat and water to drink. What have I learned from my encounter with my Mother Celine, love till hurts. Give till it hurts. And above all give till you have nothing to give.

Secondly, she was the best cook. The first time I tasted her food in 2001, it was so delicious that I have never forgotten the taste and I am always longing for a repeat of it. No wonder she always wanted to cook her own

meals to her own specifications.

She was a woman who appreciated everything that was done for her no matter how little and she never missed her words “God will reward you and give back to you a billion fold “ Awa base tofo tuuma tole nenga“ literally meaning ‘God will let your work move forward’ (God will bless more the work of your hands).

So happy that she chose to spend her last days with us and the Cassoma family is forever grateful for the love she has shown us.

My Mother Celine, Rest peacefully in the bosom of your maker. Forever in our hearts!



# TRIBUTE TO GRANDMOTHER, SELINA AMAGDI AKWEONGO FROM

# Grandchildren

*Mma, as we affectionately called you, today we celebrate you as a woman of faith and hope who returned to your maker in peace.*

**Y**ou did things well and beautifully. You nursed us, some of us at the age of two, others four years and some of us were born in your lap. You were intelligent, disciplined, and hardworking woman. You supported your late husband Ceasario Akweongo and welcomed the missionaries who came to propagate the word. You used to share with us places where our grand father worked as a catechist to support the growth of Catholicism.

You always liked things to be done properly and orderly. Neatness was your philosophy, and this ironically would make you spend more time in the bathroom. You were conscious of everything you did and never tolerated indiscipline. Your social obligation was good, your presence was always felt.

You worked hard on the farms. It was a strenuous job for you because we were all tender at the time, we could not do much to help you. We remembered how our granddad; your late husband Ceasario Akweongo killed a fowl for you upon

completion of the work in the farm. He was so impressed of your commitment and dedication to the work in the farm. You were a good chef, you received all manners of people and gave them food. The house was a home for the sick, travelers and all sorts of people.

You had a lot of information especially the latest news of what was going on around Bolga.

You taught us so many things and these have helped us a lot in life. We are proud of you because you have nurtured our lives and vocation. You have raised up all calibre of people in the family, in various professions, religious life and many others.

You were always conscious of payment of your church dues. It was your priority and as religious this was our responsibility even though our aunty always insisted you pay it yourself but that was your joy in seeing do it on your behalf.

You never ceased to ask of our wellbeing and places of work. Your joy was us being around you always especially when your strength was failing. You would command Ruth to prepare food for us no matter where she was once we were home. We appreciate all you



did for us. You did much for us, we did less for you.

We appreciate you so much. May the good Lord rest your gentle soul until we meet again.  
Mma paa songa!. Yine bofu garigo songa.



TRIBUTE BY  
**Great Grand  
Children**

**O**h! Great Grandma Amagdi, how we loved to cling to those feeble hands of yours as we sit on your bed playing and laughing together. This won't be happening anymore. We are glad to have spent some time with you even though it wasn't enough, we will always cherish every moment we had with you.

REST WELL GREAT GRANDMA AMAGDI







*Photos of great grand-children*

TRIBUTE BY

# Ruth To My Treasured Grandmother

*“For if we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. Therefore, whether we live or die, we are the Lord’s”. Romans 14:8.*

**W**e are consoled by the words of the scripture above, knowing well that even in death, you are with the Lord.

The love of a grandmother is unique. God must have given grandmothers to us to make our lives more complete, to make us well rounded and better human beings.

She played a big part in my life such that time would not permit me to pen down everything. She taught me a lot about love and the meaning of family.

She was not just my grandmother, but my guardian, my friend, and my inspiration. I still cannot believe my lovely grandma has been taken away from me. I will miss you Mma but your spirit and strength live on in me and in the lives you touched.

I believe you live in me and in all those who have been touched by your love, strength, conviction, wisdom, and the beauty of your soul.

I know I was close to you, but you had everyone at heart, that even in your illness and going through pains, you would pray your Rosary and mention every family member in your prayers including the dead souls of the family. Love you “grandma”, you truly were a special woman!

You may have passed on, but your memories would always live on within me. Thank you for your sacrifices, your care and concern, your love and everything that you have done for me.

Wherever you are Mma, I know you are in a much better place.

I am thankful that you were my grandmother.  
Rest in peace Mma

We will never forget you and we will always love you forever.

Amogdi! as Lucia will affectionately call you,  
Paa Sunga!



## TRIBUTE FROM

# Nephews And Nieces

*“MMAH” and again “OLDLADY” are a few names we affectionately called you. Tasked to write a tribute to our beloved MMAH, our response was alright but then, how do we summarize our thoughts and memories of one who could pass as a legend in a Shakespearean script into a few paragraphs?*

In a moment, we hoped for your recovery so we could call you one more time on phone for “filla” on every happening in the neighborhood and beyond for hours unending and end by you telling us, “aaah ndabiha al3?”, to wit, “how many days do I have to live to be worried?”, yet the Good Lord knew you had paid your dues and your task on earth was done, yours were the angels of heaven to speak with...

**O**ur grief goes deep for we have lost a mother so dear to us. And yet we do not grieve as those who have no hope, for since we believe Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep. (1 Thessalonians 4:14)

To paraphrase C. S Lewis’s Last Battle, we your nephews and nieces and indeed everyone here have only known you for the “title and cover page” of your life story.

Carried on the wings of the Holy Angels to your heavenly home in the presence of Christ whom you diligently served on earth; your great story truly begins. We can only reflect on your great legacy left behind:

**1** Like Sarah (Gen 17:16), she became the mother of many nations. Indeed, you were blessed, and kings and great people came from you. Imperfect like any other person, she was filled with God’s love, a mother figure to countless lot, earning the name MMAH.

**2** If hospitality was a person, it would be “OLDLADY”; we have been amazed to reflect on the numerous people who have at one point in time, or another lived in Akweongo’s house because of her. Was it schooling, attending hospital, or just spending the night to continue a journey the next day? Your marriage to the Akweongo Family was a blessing not only to the Sontim family but to the whole Nabdam. You were a personification of the saying, “To keep one’s doors open to others.”

**3** You were the Law! We mostly saw you as an extremely strict aunt, yet you never relented in ensuring we always did the right thing under your care. You would create

an opening in your room window just so you could peep to see when we returned home in the night so you could question us by morning and if you were not convinced with our defense, your famous statement, “Fum laa worike me mbala” (Your bowl is broken to mean no food for you for coming in late) would follow. You taught all of us who ever stayed with you how to cook different dishes as you were a great cook yourself always telling us not to be like Apaper (an old friend to Mr Caesario) who ate millet flour most of his life because, “A kan doge ti bugum ta di a lan3”, the skills came in handy when we left home and for some of us, our spouses can attest to our cooking abilities. Ayekoo!! We recall with mixed feelings, times you asked us to drink soup for supper because we had scooped the “komiisum” and eaten with your sugar meant to produce a jug of tea with a full loaf of bread the next morning.

**4** You were fun to be around. Your great sense of humor was unparalleled and as such we were kept awake by laughter of visitors as they could not have enough of her stories for their short stay and resorted to listening to them and laughing into the night. You would fondly ask us the meaning of our slangs just to relate with us, juxtaposing our stories and terms with those of the time “naara” was harvested (her birthdate).

**5** You were very smart. You would often tell us you haven’t stepped in classroom before, but you are smarter than us

anytime we tried to outsmart you. Anytime you asked us, “Ya sukuu la liiba b33?” To wit what’s the use of your education, we at once knew we had done something unwise. Living under your roof alone was a blessing in our academics. You helped produce educationists, health workers, health directors, bankers, and other civil servants. You were the real professor of all these professions even without a certificate.

**6** Almost all of us who stayed in touch with you in the last few weeks before your passing to eternity recalls you asking us to keep the kinship ties. Your legacy lives on!

We will miss you dearly! RIP MMAH, MMAH PAAGUM SONMA!



# Picture Gallery

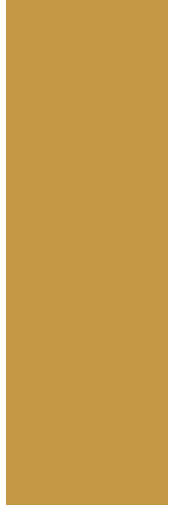




# Picture Gallery



# Picture Gallery







# Appreciation

***Our entire family appreciates your time and sacrifice at the burial and funeral of our beloved Mother Selina Amagdi Somtim Akweongo. It meant a great deal to us and Mum that you came to the funeral. Your presence at the funeral was a great comfort to us. Your participation, service, and support, financially and spiritually in the funeral was such a blessing to us. May the good Lord bless you all!***



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**Madam  
Selina Amagdi Somtim  
Akweongo**

