

A CELEBRATION OF LIFE FOR

Sophia Naaki Thompson

Sunrise: May 22, 1947
Sunset: March 2, 2022

FRIDAY, APRIL 1, 2022 - 6:30 PM

SATURDAY, APRIL 2, 2022 - 9:00 AM

Cotton Funeral Service

1025 Bergen Street • Newark, New Jersey

Obituary

On May 22, 1947, Sophia Naaki Thompson was born to the late George Nii Noi Thompson, a Ghana Customs Officer and footballer, and Grace Adoley Allotey, a seamstress and homemaker, in Accra, Ghana.

In her youth, Sophia spent most of her time with her grandmother who cooked for a living. She was always the last person to come outside to play because she had to help grandma cook and clean up first.

But because of that exposure in the kitchen, Sophia started cooking by herself when she was only 10-years old. So to anyone who has ever praised her cooking, especially her famous Jollof Rice and chicken, this is where it all started. In Grandma Jesse's kitchen.

And after primary and middle school, Sophia decided to improve her skills further. She attended a vocational school where she worked at the Canteen of the Korle-Bu Teaching Hospital for several years.

Apart from the kitchen, Sophia was also very immersed in her Christian community from an early age. She was a member of the Korle Gonno Methodist church choir for several years. And if you didn't know, she was also an avid hockey player on the Methodist Youth Hockey team. Without a doubt, from childhood until her last moments, her faith and love of God were ever-present.

After Sophia married, she migrated to the United States in 1975, where she lived a very active lifestyle. She got her first job at the Central Services Factory in Elizabeth, where she worked for 5 years before working with Syms, a retail store in Secaucus until she retired. She was a prominent member of Resurrection Power Assemblies of God in Newark and a member of their Women's Fellowship. She also worked with other local groups like Aglow fellowship and the Brothers and Sisters in Newark.

But while all of this was happening, Sophia had also been blessed with 3 wonderful children along the way. She found more blessings in the love and care of the friends she considered family. They supported her as she raised 3 children with love, patience, discipline, and humility. And with her actions, she taught them the meaning of respect, good manners, and, most importantly, hard work. And today, they have all grown up to be responsible men of integrity.

So to honor that, I would like to thank you for doing an amazing job MAA SOPHIA. Your sons have become great men who proudly embody the values you raised them with.

Sophia Naaki Thompson (a.k.a) Maa Sophy, Aunty Sophy, was a peacemaker with a strong heart. She spoke softly, praised proudly, and only ever wished to be at peace with everyone. She was known best for opening up her home to everyone, especially the children of 440, where she fed and took care of us all. She was everyone's aunty, and her home was like a second home to so many. And we remember her so fondly, not just because we all ate her Jollof, or her shitto, or spicy fried turkey. No, we remember her so fondly because of all the irreplaceable memories that we formed in her home and in her presence.

She was the best of the best and will be dearly missed by her loved ones, friends, and entire family.

Sophia Naaki Thompson is survived by her 3 sons: Theophillus (Tammy Young), Rex (Madeline Boughton), and Michael Torto (Jasmine Torto). Her grandchildren: Jamiyah, Michala, Alyzza, Mason, Michael Torto Jr., and Theodore Lauderdale. Her sisters: Mrs. Lydia Ayoola, Murriet Allen, Mrs. Dorcas Quaye Thompson, and her brother: Clifford Nii Noi Thompson.

May she rest in perfect peace, till we meet again.

HYMNS 1 IT IS WELL WITH MY SOUL

1st stanza

*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



2nd stanza

*Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come, let this blest assurance control,
That Christ has regarded my helpless estate,
And hath shed His own blood for my soul*

3rd stanza

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 !

HYMNS 2- IN THE SWEET BY AND BY

1st stanza

In the sweet by and by

We shall meet on that beautiful shore

In the sweet by and by

Oh, we shall meet on that beautiful shore

2nd stanza

There's a land that is fairer than day and by faith we can see it a-far

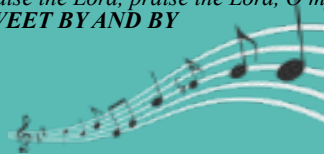
For the father waits over the way to prepare us a dwelling place there

3rd stanza

We shall sing on that beautiful shore

The melodious songs of the blessed and their spirits shall sorrow no more

Not a sigh for the blessings of rest



Order of Service

FRIDAY EVENING SERVICE

Opening Prayer.....Mrs. Naomi Commey/ Brother Fiifi Okyere
Purpose of gathering.....Deacon Edward Opoku
Call to worship.....Worship Team
Praises.....Praise Team
First Bible reading.....Ms. Christina Acquah
Biography..... Family Member
First Hymnal.....In the sweet by and by
Tribute by church.....Deaconess Mrs. Vida Pabby
second bible Reading.....Mrs. Beatrice Effah Poku
Tribute by Children.
Tribute by Family
Word of exhortation.....Rev. Maxwell Kelvis
Altar call.....Rev. Maxwell Kelvis
Prayer for the family/ closing prayer.....Rev. Maxwell Kelvis
Closing Hymnal..... It is well with my soul

SATURDAY MORNING-BURIAL SERVICE

Opening Prayer.....Mrs. Naomi Commey/ Brother Fiifi Okyere
Call to worship.....Worship Team
Praises.....Praise Team
Word of exhortation.....Rev. Maxwell Kelvis
Announcements..... MC
Closing Prayer
Closing Hymn.....Pay our last respect

Proceed to the Hillside Cemetery for burial



Interment
Evergreen Cemetery
Hillside, NJ





Tribute By Church-Resurrection Assemblies of God , Newark, NJ .

“If we live, we live for the Lord

And if we die, we die for the Lord.

So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord”

(Romans 14:8)

Partings come and hearts are broken, loved ones go with words unspoken.

Our consolation is that our Sister Sophia Thompson who Joined the church In July 2002 and continued to remain among the universal church of God even on her sick bed is resting peacefully with the Lord. It was not surprising that just a day before her demise when the assistant pastor together with some members visited and prayed with her on her hospice bed, she responded in her own way to the prayers, committing her life into the hands of the Lord even when she was not able to talk.

Auntie Sophie as we usually called her, was a dedicated member of our church. Before she became ill , you would always see her in the church. She would call the women’s leader Mrs. Beatrice Effah Saturday night to remind her to pick her up on Sunday morning for church and she would always be ready waiting downstairs to be picked up .This explains how she did not play with her time with the Lord. She is the woman that was time conscious and would make sure to attend church activities on time. At a point in her life, she became so disappointed that she couldn’t come to church because of her inability to climb the stairs and would usually call and say in Ga“ I would like to come to church but cannot climb the stairs”(sounding very frustrated).

Our mother Sophia was very generous. Like the Macedonia Church, she even gave out of her hardship. She continued paying her tithes even when she became disabled and was not working. Not only did she give her tithes and offering but she also supported people with her cooking whenever they were having parties, child naming dedication, funerals, and any type of function. She was always willing to assist anyone with any kind of help she could offer them.

Auntie Sophie was very thoughtful and contributed to the church in her own unique way. She also had a strong faith and belief in the Lord. This faith enabled her stay strong and remained positive while going through surgeries upon surgeries. Our mother encouraged herself in the Lord and remained very hopeful while the church supported her in prayers.

These moments were a true heartbreaking moment for the church but again we were hopeful that there was going to be light at the end of the tunnel. However, If the Lord who knows the beginning to the end and knew her while she was a clot of blood in our mother’s womb, thought it wise to call our sister at this time, who are we to challenge Him? Though we weep, we do not weep like people who have no hope for we believe that our sister is with the Lord, and we shall meet with her again when the trumpet sounds.

Rev. Dr. William Adu Amponsah and the entire resurrection Assemblies of God church have lost a dear sister and a great asset. Auntie Sophie, your thoughtfulness and dedication would forever be remembered.

The Earth has one gentle soul less.
And Heaven, One gentle soul more
Deep in our heart a memory is kept
Of one we loved and shall never forget
Sophia, your life is a beautiful memory,
Your absence a silence grief
God bless you and keep you in His care,
Until we meet again
Rest in perfect peace

Tribute From The Family

A tribute to Sophia Naaki Thompson: "SOO OH SOO" as we affectionately called her, has enough material for two complete books: A religious one and a Cook book. (Anyone who knows Sophia can easily guess at least one chapter in the Cook book.)

The first book will be called THE 3 P'S OF LIFE and the Cook book will probably be: WHY NIGERIAN JOLLOF CAN NEVER BEAT GHANAIAN JOLLOF? but these imaginary books will be for another place and time.

74 years of good deeds cannot be easily compressed into a few lines but we will try our best. Anything written on Sophia Thompson should include chapters on prayerfulness, persistence and patience.

On the lighter side she had enough food for everyone who came to her house. The mesmerizing taste of her Jollof and shito is legendary.

SOO OH SOO always reminded us of our Christian roots and religious upbringing. She believed in the power of prayers.

She was also a very patient person. According to her, magic tricks are instant because they are not real. Prayer, however, takes time, patience and faith. Sophie was PERSISTENCE in motion. She was PERSISTENCE PERSONIFIED. In fact if the English Dictionary decided to illustrate the word PERSISTENCE with a person her picture will be chosen unanimously.

Sophia Naaki Thompson was a gift from God. A rare treasure of peace and love. SOO, as your lifeless body lies here you are still alive in our hearts and taste buds because the taste and aroma of your Jollof and shito will remain in our mouths and your LOVE will be embossed in our hearts forever.

Sophia Naaki Thompson, you cannot be replaced because you are a limited edition of one.

Good bye, SOO OH SOO

Tribute From Your Sons

First and foremost, MOMMY, thank you for allowing us to enter this world through you and teaching us how to survive in it.

Raising three boys couldn't have been easy, but you made sure we had everything we needed and more. You are the strongest woman we know, and we have our entire childhoods to serve as proof.

All your beautiful actions, help shape the men we all came to be.

We thank you for raising us to love God and teaching us to always put Him first. We remember Psalm 23, [This scripture reminds us that the Lord is our shepherd] a prayer we said every night holding hands in the living room when we were younger.

That consistent prayer became the foundation of our spirituality. It helped us fully understand that if simply put our faith in God, our blessings would come naturally because with God all things are possible.

But MOMMY, you didn't just teach us to love God, you also taught us to love the people around us. The kindness you extended to others was so amazing to see because you showed it with actions and not just words.

For you to raise 3 boys to men, and be THAT kind, with your hardships, is all the confirmation we need: there is a GOD.

If we could restart life and re-enter this world, MOMMY, we would only choose you, over and over again.

And now, there aren't enough words to fully explain how painful, hurtful, and damaging it is to know that you are no longer of this world, MOMMY.

But we know that your light is shining from the heavens. And even though we may feel like we still need you, when God calls for his angels, we must leave it in his hands.

So MOMMY, please watch over us, and please watch over our children.

We wish your grandkids could have the chance to spend more time with you, We know how much you loved and adored them. But through our word, our action, and our way of being, they will KNOW the kind of woman you were.

We will miss your LOVE, we will miss your Patience, we will miss your Laughter, and a lot of people will miss your heavenly cooking.

You put LOVE into everything you touched and we thank you so much!!

We won't let you down MOMMY!!

We will make you proud!!!

Even though, you are not physically with us, your spirit will be with us until we meet again in heaven.

And until that time, we will miss you dearly, MOMMY!!

We love you!!

And as always, TO GOD BE THE GLORY!!!!!!

Acknowledgement

The family of **Sophia Naaki Thompson** will remember and cherish your many expressions of love, sympathy and prayers so graciously extended. Thank you and may God Bless you.

Professional Services Provided By

COTTON FUNERAL SERVICE

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Orange, NJ
973-675-6400

1025 Bergen Street
Newark, NJ
973-926-6400

COTTON-PARKER FUNERAL HOME

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