



**In Loving Memory of
Dr. Leonard Yao Kaledzi**



Biography of Dr. Leonard Yao Kaledzi

“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

Dr. Leonard Yao Kaledzi was born to Wilberforce Kofi Kaledzi and Madam Ami Hamenu on March 17, 1946. In those days of limited medical facilities, all women who were having difficult labor had to be sent to the only Hospital situated in Keta, which was about 80 miles from Bleamezado by road. And so it came to pass that Dr. Leonard Yao Kaledzi was born at the Government Hospital in Keta. He was the second of 7 siblings.

Leonard grew up in Bleamezado and started his Primary School at the Blemezado E.P basic school now known as Kaledzi Memorial EP Middle School. Academically he was such a brilliant boy that throughout his basic school days he came top in his class. . After his Primary education, he had to continue with the Middle School education in Adutor, a town about 8 miles from Bleamezado. He and his colleagues had to walk on a daily basis to and from the Middle School.

Right from the beginning of his childhood, his parents instilled discipline and hard work in the young Leonard, like they did to his elder siblings. As Leonard grew up, he became adept at farming and fishing which were the main vocations in the area at the time.

In the year 1960, Leonard sat for, and passed, the Common Entrance Examination with a Scholarship to go to Mawuli School in Ho. He completed his G.C.E. “O” and “A” Levels and in 1968, proceeded to the University of Ghana to pursue a course in medicine.

Throughout his student days in Mawuli School, Leonard was an active sportsman who played Basketball and Volley Ball for the school. He was also active in extra-curricular activities and belonged to various groups like the Voluntary Workcamps Association of Ghana (VOLU), Students Christian Movement, Debating Society and a member of the Editorial Board of the popular school magazine The Heart, published by the students.

He completed his Medical school in 1974 at the University of Ghana, Legon. After completing his housemanship in 1975 at the Korle-Bu Teaching Hospital in Accra, he was posted to the Komfo Anokye Teaching Hospital in Kumasi where he met his lovely wife, then Ms. Elizabeth Adobea Addo. He was later transferred to the Jirapa Hospital in Upper West Region in 1976.

Leonard and Elizabeth got married in 1977, after he was transferred back to Korle-Bu Teaching Hospital as an Instructor in the Anatomy Department. They were blessed with their first son, Elikem, in 1978. In December 1979, Dr. Leonard Kaledzi left to pursue a 4-year Surgical Residency at Harlem Hospital in the USA. He was later joined by his wife and son in 1981. The couple was blessed with two more sons Elom (deceased) and Sena.

He worked in various hospitals, is a diplomate of the American Board of Surgery and later started his private medical practice ; New Horizon Medical Offices in the Bronx, New York, where he worked for many years until he became sick a couple of years ago. Leonard was the “People’s Doctor” in the Bronx. His patients were not only Ghanaians, but from many other African Countries ,The West Indians and the Hispanic population.

With all the accomplishments in the USA, Leonard never forgot his roots. He built a Hospital in Dansoman, Accra, some years ago with the plan of relocating to Ghana. He visited Ghana every year and spent the annual Easter in his beloved home town of Bleamezado.

Leonard built the Bleamezado Evangelical Presbyterian Middle School in memory of his late father, Mr. Wilberforce Kofi Kaledzi. He made numerous, generous donations to the school. He established a scholarship scheme for deserving pupils and supported the local Evangelical Presbyterian Church in diverse ways. He also donated medical equipment including hospital beds and medications to the Keta Government Hospital, where he was born.

Leonard, never forgot the older generation in the village, he supported in every way; be it village development, funerals and festive celebrations. He donated and never stopped contributing to the Anlo chieftaincy till he died.

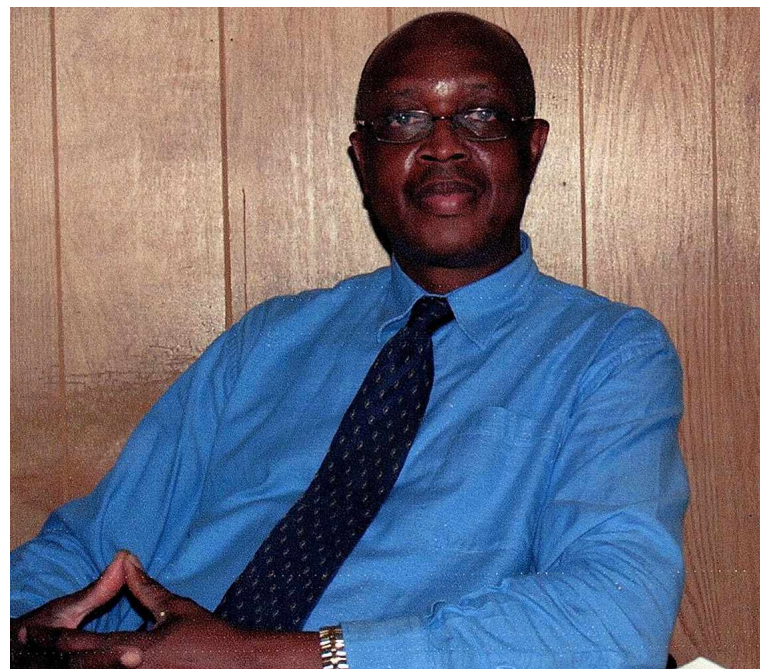
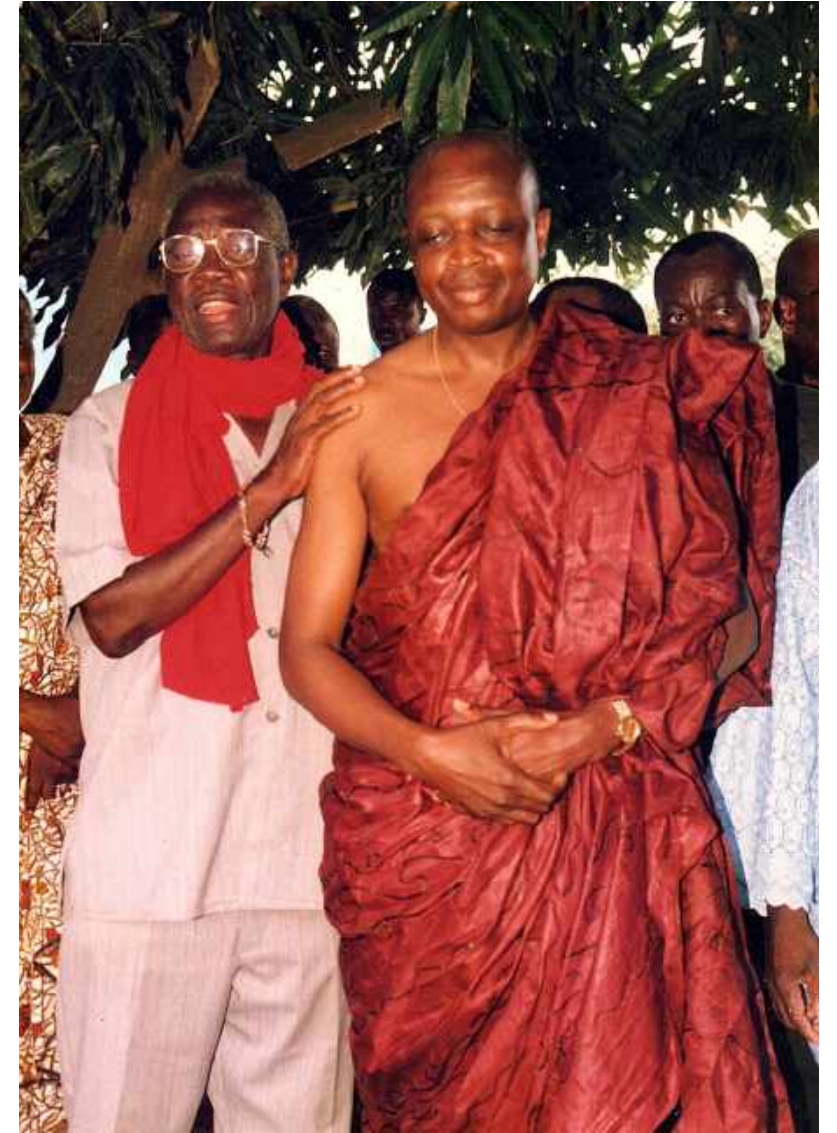
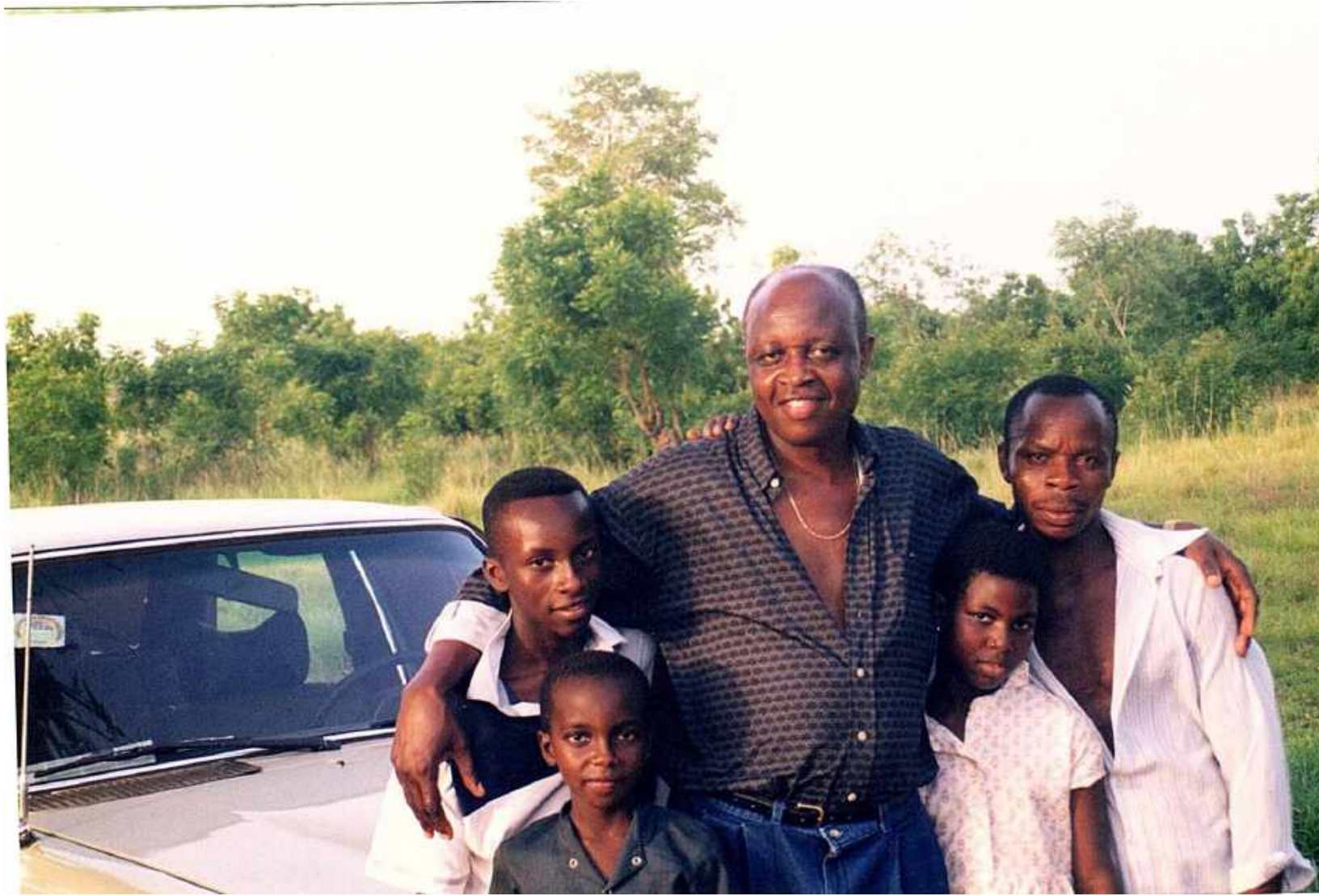
He was a member of the United Volta Association (UVA) and Council of Ewe Associations of North America (CEANA). He made generous donations to these and other organizations from time to time. He was also patron of several organizations in the Bronx.

Dr. Kaledzi was an astute businessman. As the saying goes “behind every successful man there is a woman”. Elizabeth, was there to support him throughout all his endeavors. He owned several businesses and was the Board Chairman of the Star Oil Company until his unexpected demise.

In his spare time, Leonard loved reading, gardening and listening to classical music. He loved to organize get togethers on various occasions and he was a very good host. He will be remembered for his good taste in wine. Leonard was a kind, loving and caring “cool” gentleman.

He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Elizabeth Kaledzi and two sons, Elikem and Sena Kaledzi, siblings and a host of nieces and nephews.

May his soul Rest in Peace.





IN LOVING MEMORY OF A VERY SPECIAL HUSBAND; LEONARD YAO KALEDDI

A mighty rock has fallen. His heart is very giving and ours very grateful.

When God was making husbands as far as I can see He made a special soulmate only for me. He made a perfect gentleman, compassionate, kind and with more love and affection than you could ever wish to find. God gave my darling husband a heart of solid gold. He gave me wonderful memories only my heart can hold. Leonard was someone I could talk to that no one can replace. My dear husband was someone I could laugh with till tears ran down my face.

Leonard, it's hard to believe you are no longer here, words cannot describe how this makes me feel. You have passed on to the other side though I wish you could be here with me and our two boys.

You supported and loved us all, you were a remarkable man, dependable, loving and caring. You were the center of my world, one in a million, my companion, dear friend, a wonderful husband, my inspiration and my steadfast rock from the beginning to the end.

The moment that you left me on January 24th, 2021, my heart was split in two, one side filled with memories, but the other side died with you. I often lay awake at night when the world is fast asleep and take a walk down memory lane with tears running down my cheeks.

Remembering you is easy, and I do it everyday but missing you is a heartache that never goes away.

I hold you tightly within my heart and there you will remain. I cherish you more because of the road I have travelled.

Leonard was such a wonderful man, and I am not sure I can really express just how much I miss him.

Leonard was not only a wonderful husband but also a wonderful father, best friend and more. His gift of making everyone feel comfortable, secure, and loved were his greatest strength. It has been 45 years since we have been together, and I look back over those years with much happiness. I remember the first time we met at the Komfo Anokye Teaching Hospital in Kumasi, where I was working as a newly qualified RN. There was this tall lanky gentleman head full of hair smiling who asked me to assist him examine a patient I had just transferred from the outpatient department (OPD) to the ward for admission.

It was by fate that blessed day because he was concentrating on me more than the patient laying on the stretcher in front of him. He asked me my name and with a trembling voice I said, Elizabeth Addo and he introduced himself as well. The rest has been a memorable history till now. He was always a gentleman, well-mannered and polite. His good nature attracted everyone he met. Leonard was a hardworking and giving man.

Not only was he committed to his patients and working long hours, he was also committed to giving back to the Ghanaian community and anyone who got to know him.

Leonard is in heaven now, but I know he is looking down at us with a big smile on his face. Leonard, forever will you live in my heart and mind and never die.

With love always, I remember you. With fond memories, I think of you. I am grateful for the times we shared together. I will cherish my memory of you forever. I wish you could have stayed with me, but heaven needed you. I know you would have stayed here with us if you had the power to. I know you would have spared me the grief and pain if only you could.

God saw you were getting tired and a cure was not to be. So, He put His arms around you and took you home. I trust you are resting in perfect peace. You are truly unforgettable my love, my friend, my dear husband.

Leonard, Rest In Peace my love, yaawo odzombang (Ga), hede nyuie (Ewe)





Elikem Kaledzi Tribute

The thought of my father, Dr. Leonard Yao Kaledzi, elicits feelings of love, respect and admiration in my heart. As a young boy with little to no understanding of the world, the aspect of my dad's character I remember recognizing, was my father's gentle loving nature combined with an almost infinite amount of patience. As a young boy, I would ascribe almost superhuman qualities to my father. I am convinced he was superhuman. I walked around with the belief that there wasn't any problem he could not solve. No matter how funny and ridiculous my questions were he always had an answer which amazingly made perfect sense to me.

As a fledgling medical professional with a hectic schedule he had no problem entertaining the muses of a four-year-old child. My father had such a kind and gentle nature which revealed itself through his altruistic nature. For as long as I can remember, whoever my father encountered, even for the briefest of moments, he always displayed his best self. That meant always being generous with his time, always having a smile ready and he always being cognizant of what his words and deeds could do in terms of influencing and affecting others. My father was able to relate to people from all walks of life from the maintenance men in Tracey Towers, to the security guards in the lobby, his colleagues in the medical profession, and to complete strangers you can tell there was a genuine admiration for my dad whenever he was around people.

My father was born in Ghana on March 17, 1946. I am sure at that time, life in Ghana for a poor child in the village was by no means easy. My father will tell me about the humble beginnings he was born into and the challenges as a child growing up in the village that he overcame on a daily basis. Challenges that I cannot even dream of because resources were meager and at a premium. Indeed, my father's tough circumstances served to strengthen his resolve and hardened him so he could persevere. Through all this, his heart was never hardened and my father's gentle nature and kindness remained, and those aspects of his personality grew infinitely. This enabled him to become the amazing medical doctor, father and loving husband that he was.

I continue to have fond memories of my dad since his passing. One that sticks out and serves to highlight the fact that everyone he encountered could not help but take a liking to my dad. In middle school my dad dropped me off in school on some mornings. On days when we were running ahead of schedule, we will stop by the deli across the street from dad's office to pick up some breakfast. My father would order the same thing, black coffee with two sugars and two fried egg sandwiches with veggies on toast. You could tell that the owners of the deli who were two old Italian men admired and respected my father so much. They would never pass up the chance to reveal how they created this sandwich especially for the vegetarian "Doc". Imagine that in a deli in the middle of the Bronx, those two who came from two completely different worlds and had nothing in common with my father, were delighted to create a secret menu for my dad because there was nothing on their menu that my dad could eat. I cherish those 30 or 40 minutes before class where I sat in his office with him.

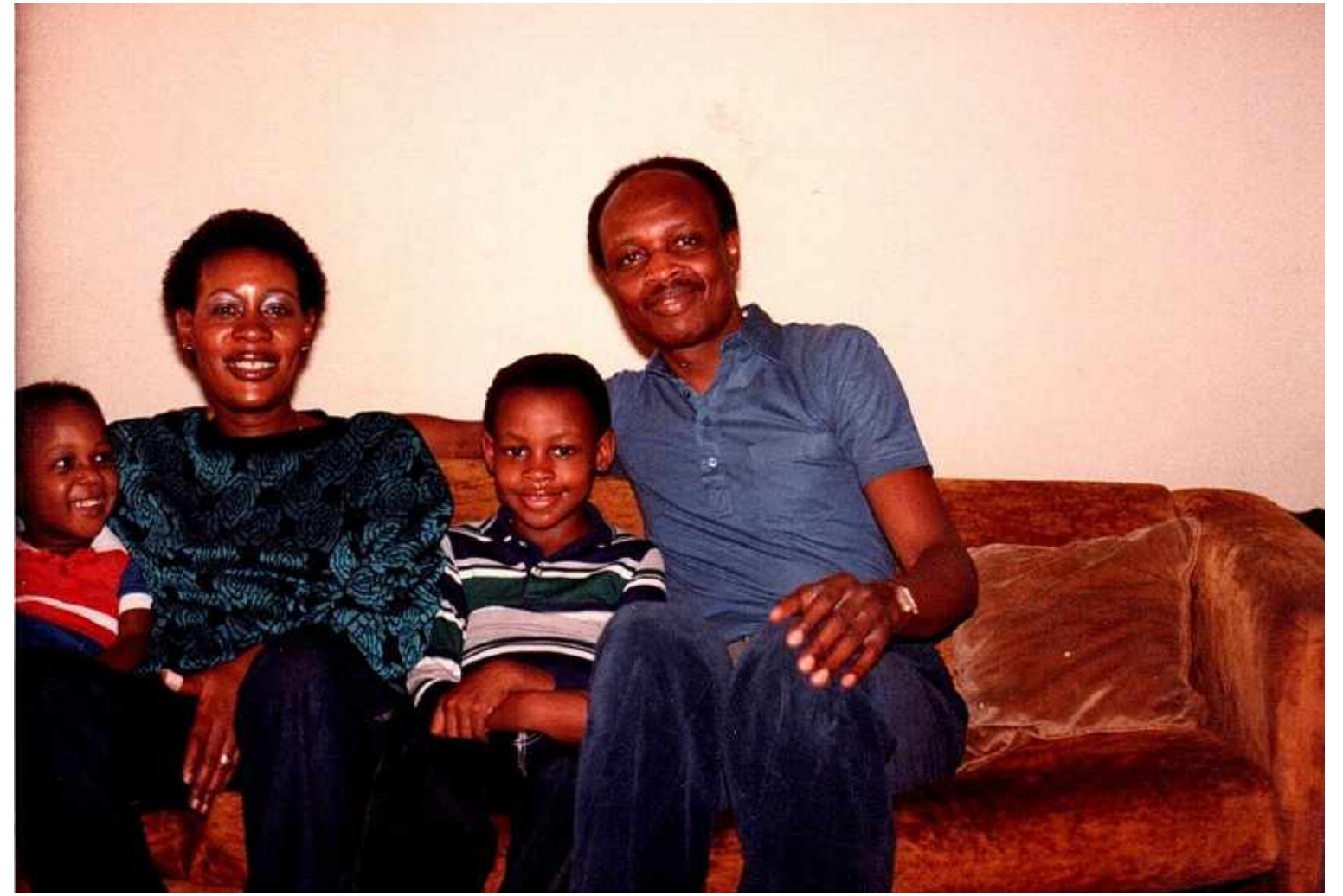
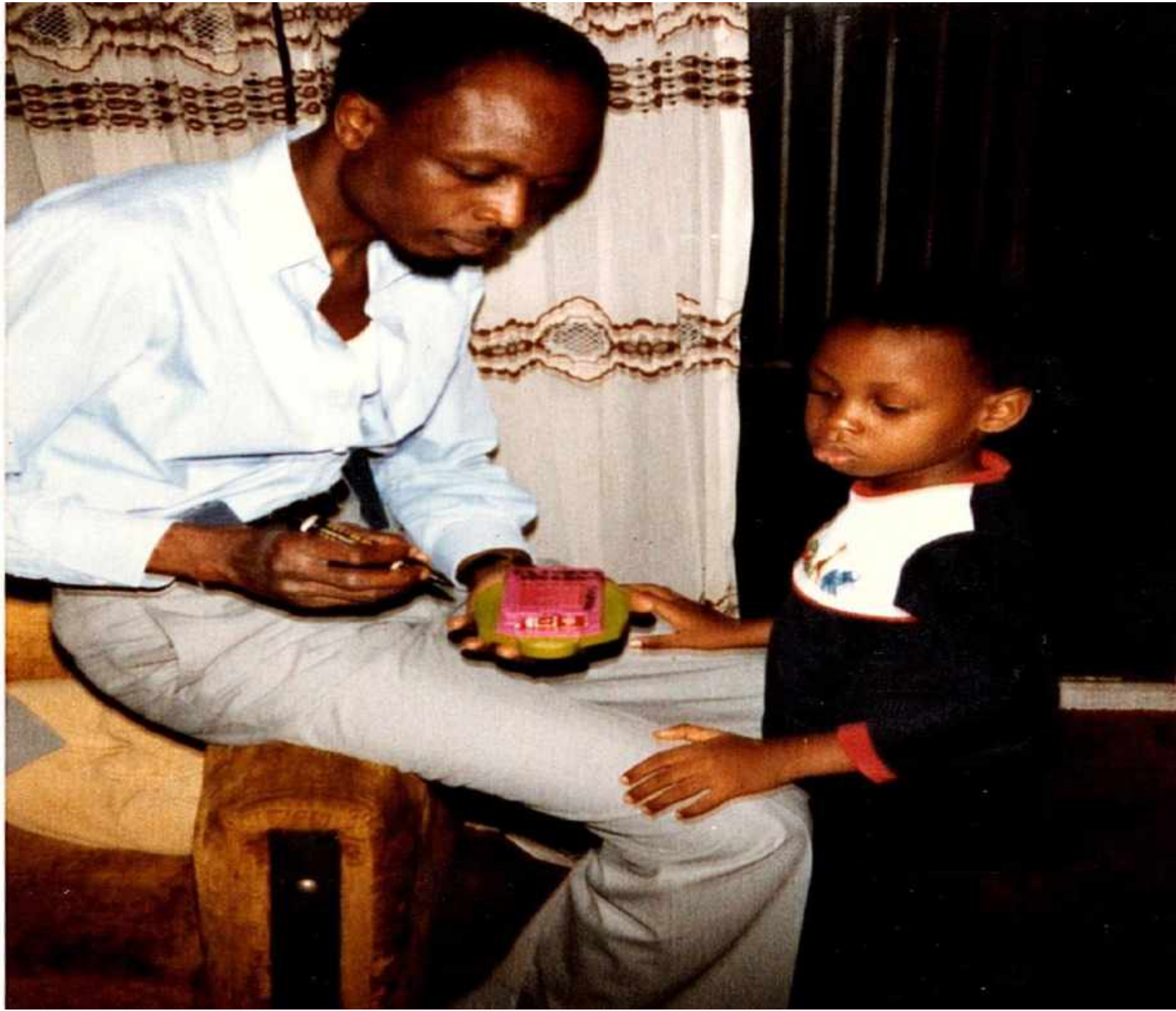
My father always espoused the importance of utilizing your position to help others to have a positive impact. My father did not only see his office as a means of providing for his family, he also saw it as his opportunity to have an impact, by providing desperately needed medical care for underserved communities. Dad's office was adorned with photos of influential people like Martin Luther King Jr, Nelson Mandela and Kwame Nkrumah. So yes, as you would imagine, I received impromptu history lessons every morning before I even got into the classroom.

What made my dad so unique was how he applied his advice and teachings consistently in his daily life and in the way he practiced medicine. How did my father practice medicine? He practiced medicine with patience, kindness and with a rare charitable nature. A lack of resources or the financial means on a patient's part was never a factor in the level of care my father provided. My father regarded his patients as family and treated them as such.

As a husband, my father was perfect in that regard. My father adored and doted on my mother; it was evident that my father loved my mom more than words can describe. I strongly believe it was his love for my mother, his wife, that gave him the strength to defy the odds and to prove so many doctors wrong. It was my father's love for my mom that gave my father the strength to walk out of that hospital just so he could go home with my mom. He loved my mom so much that he just wanted to be in her presence, together, in love.

January 24, 2021, I think of this day, and I have to ask myself why. If anyone deserves to live, it was my father who was a rare human being who lived his life for others, always giving of his time and love without expectation of reciprocation. No one is perfect, but my dad was as close as you can come to a pure soul. With that being said, I have to come to terms with the fact that for now, at least, I will not understand God's plan. What God's reasoning was for calling my dad at this time. I take solace in the fact that, my father is now resting and is at peace. I will take solace in the knowledge that his presence will always be here with my mother, Sena and I, as a loving spirit who will always be watching over us to make sure that we are fine and to ensure that we don't dwell too much on the sadness caused by his passing. Just like my dad, although he is not here with us, he is still in a sense living for us. The way the world is, many people are not fortunate to truly come across good human beings who have your best intentions at heart. All of us who met my father can say we were blessed to have the experience of knowing and loving Dr. Leonard Yao Kaledzi.

Heaven's ranks of angels have grown by one. Rest easy Dad. I love you. We will meet again someday.



Sena Kaledzi Tribute

“A tree is known by its fruit; a man by his deeds. A good deed is never lost; he who sows courtesy reaps friendships and he who plants kindness gathers love” -Saint Basil

That quote by Saint Basil is vividly brought to life by the story of my father Leonard Yao Kaledzi. Dad you were a man truly altruistic in nature that found fulfillment through the service of others. You fought valiantly for two years propelled by your indomitable will, grit, determination and love for your family.

I never once doubted that you would be coming home with us. You met every challenge put in front of you and made us all proud each step of the way. Although your will was superhuman we are but mere mortals made of flesh and ultimately your body could no longer withstand the suffering you endured.

Your loss has left a massive void in my heart which will never be filled, but I find comfort in knowing you are no longer in pain and you are reunited with Elom in heaven. I hope your soul may rest easy knowing that despite this tragic loss our bond as a family has become fortified. I will continue to hold you dear to my heart and recount all the good times we shared. Memories of me as a child running and jumping into your arms when you would get home from work, helping me win the science fair every year, playing basketball on your days off, and watching classic boxing matches while you gave me history lessons on all the fighters.

You were the hardest working man I know and had limitless energy. You operated as if there were more than 24 hours in a day. Although you were a very busy man you always made time for anyone who was in need. You had an immense and unyielding degree of patience to deal with seemingly the most frustrating of experiences. You forged this saint like patience through your ritual daily meditations,devotions, and introspection.

I often sit in your study where you would meditate to read your writings and books in order to get closer to you. In doing so I have learned we share more in common than I ever knew.

Dad I promise to take heed to all the lessons you have taught me, be stoic in the face of adversity, exercise my will power daily and to remain on the illuminated path. May you rest in peace and be rewarded for your lifetime of devoted service to others. All the good you have done in this world will ensure you are never forgotten despite leaving us in the physical form.

You were a brilliant humble man with a kind heart who saw every day as an opportunity make a difference. A consemate gentleman, the ultimate role model, and the best father any son could ever hope to have. Thank you for all that you have done for me Dad. I think of you everyday and feel you here with me giving me strength. Im sorry it had to end like this and I struggle to find the greater purpose behind this tragic loss but some things are beyond explanation.

I know you have prepared me for all that life may throw at me. You have given me all the tools necessary to be successful in this world. Although I am not ready to say goodbye I will remain strong and do as I promised to you.

As Khalil Gibran said, "Oh heart, if one should say that the soul perishes like the body, answer that the flower withers but the seed remains"

I love you Dad. May you rest in perfect peace





Tribute for my Dear Bro Leonard Yao Kaledzi by the Senior Sister; Madam Constance Alikem Kaledzi

Bro Leo as we all affectionately called him was popularly called 'Driver' by the entire family during our childhood. This was because, when our Mum was pregnant with him, I used to say she'll give birth to a 'driver' or car owner. Our mother gave birth to him in Koforidua (Eastern Region of Ghana) and every time I saw anyone driving by, I'll shout out to them to go and bring back my Mum and 'Driver'; and that became his name.

Oh Bro, we your Siblings: Sisters Mary, Constance, Dora, Julie, Alice, Kafui, and Brothers Albert, Vincent will all Miss you terribly.

O Death, you have taken us by surprise! A very Big Tree has fallen.

I was expecting you to rather bury me but God's ways are not our ways.

Isaiah 55:9 says, "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways. And My thoughts than your thoughts".

Our Dearly beloved Brother, Rest in the bosom of your maker till we meet again. You indeed fought a good fight.

"Dzudzɔ le ntifafa me"

Oh Sister Betty, Elikem and Sena; Kpo Oo, Babaa Nami



TRIBUTE TO MY BROTHER IN LAW DR LEONARD KALEDZI

Today, as we celebrate the beautiful life of our dear Dr Leonard Kaledzi whom I affectionately called Leonard, I would like to thank you all for taking time out of your very busy schedule to join us. Leonard, my brother in law was the dutiful son my late mother never had. Our mother had four daughters, no sons so whenever we brought home a young man he automatically became her dear son. Leonard conducted himself so well that my mother readily welcomed him into the family. Maybe because my sister Betty was her last daughter, Leonard became her favourite son in law. Leonard could sit and have a good and long conversation with my mother but with respect.

Despite the very busy nature of his work, Leonard enjoyed life full of joy and happy memories which touched the life of many. His wife Betty, children Elikem, Sena and the rest of the family and his friends are very grateful for the years he spent on earth with us. We all know what a kind, generous, humble and selfless man Leonard was. He was never bitter. He just got on with life. He was honest, kind and thoughtful and always put others first. If there is anything we would remember Leonard for this is it. I have personally lost a brother and a good friend. There was never a dull moment in the Kaledzi household when Leonard was around. When you visit the Kaledzi house he made sure that you felt as if you were in your own home environment.

Anytime I brought friends from London UK to visit, he would welcome them very warmly. If he couldn't take them to show them around New York he would arrange to have somebody to do so at his own expense, so much so that my friends were forever grateful. I was always at ease around the family and we seemed to have a lot in common, whether it's current affairs, sports or the goings on in our beloved Ghana. Oh dear, and the red wine – after a hard day's work I would wait for Leonard to return home so that we could have a glass of his good quality red wine. He introduced a lot of his good friends to this special red wine. With Leonard you can be sure to enjoy good quality life around him. Oh dear, Leonard, how about The Blue Note? You never told me in 2018 that that was the last time we would be going there together as a family. I just can't believe it! It's just like a dream that Leonard has left us.

On my 80th birthday in 2018 in spite of his busy work schedule Leonard managed to take 10 days off work and took Betty and myself to one of the most beautiful Island Curasol in the Carribean Islands with all expenses paid by him. I remember offering to buy them – Betty and Leonard – cups of coffee whilst on this holiday. He refused and said 'your 80th birthday is on the Kaledzi family'. How many in laws would be so kind? Such a generous man! Leonard was a distinguished gentleman who stood very tall among others. He was very spiritual and so beloved! So ladies and gentlemen let us all love one another in life because love is of God.

Leonard, you are at peace with your Maker where there is neither pain nor suffering. We loved you so dearly, but our Creator loves you even more.
May He grant you eternal peace until we meet again.
Your dear sister in law

Auntie Ruby



TRIBUTE BY E.Y.G. KUMODZIE

“I am distressed for you, my brother, Dr. Leonard Yao Kaledzi; You have been very pleasant to me; Your love to me was wonderful, Surpassing the love of women. How the mighty have fallen, and the weapons of war perished!” 2 Samuel 1:26-27. The Family Time Bible.

The dreadful news of your passing away on Sunday, January 2021, came as a shock to me, my wife, my children and my entire family and friends. We all knew you were having some health problems but being the strong and hardy person you were, we knew you would pull through; little did we expect you to pass away so soon. What about the plans we made to put some variety in our Easter activities this year? It is difficult for me to accept that your usual Easter visits home have come to an end.

Our destinies got intertwined in the year 1961 and have remained so for 60-odd years. It will take an expert Historian, which I am not, to fully recount what the two of us went through during our school days, as well as when we became adults and started our family lives. Leonard was my big brother in every sense. He was ready to advise me anytime I consulted him on any matter. He had a very high sense of humour and it was a joy to be in his company. I don't recall anytime that we quarrelled or even raised our voices in an argument. Leonard was cool and reserved and was not easily ruffled.

We were so close that, by coincidence, we married in the same year and our wives became “sisters” instantly, making our children regard each other as biological siblings. Whenever our families were together, it was a joyous occasion. When our only daughter, Dede, went to school in the USA, Leonard and his wife, Elizabeth, whom I call in our family circles as “NYAPENOR”, adopted her and they became her surrogate parents up to today. When Dede was getting married in the USA, her dowry had to be delivered as a matter of course, to Leonard and Elizabeth.

Leonard had “green fingers” and it was a joy to join him in his vegetable garden whenever I visited the Kaledzi's during my annual leave periods during the Summer months. In our youthful days, we had many experiences together; some were happy, exhilarating, dangerous and foolish. When we grew up in later years, we would sit down, over a bottle of beer or wine, and reminisce over our escapades with a lot of laughter and self-teasing. One incident will suffice here. During our 6th. Form days in Mawuli School, we decided “to ghost” (to study after official lights-out) one night. Whilst the ghosting was going on in the Wilberforce House Common Room, we noticed that there was some light flashing in the distance across the football field. Nobody remembered where the idea came from that “it was a witch returning from its night escapade”. Being the two dare-devils in the group at the time, Leonard and I decided to go and “catch’ the witch. In our foolhardiness and youthful exuberance, we ran across the football field towards the flashing light only to realise that it was a night soil carrier with a lantern going to dump his baggage somewhere. The teasing and the laughter from our colleagues ended our “ghosting” that night. The two of us immediately earned the accolade, “Witch Hunters “.

When Leonard was undergoing his Houseman ship at the Korle-Bu Teaching Hospital, I lived with him for some time in the Housemen's flats. One day, we went out in his new Polski Fiat Car. A taxi driver drove recklessly into, and damaged, our car. The taxi driver refused to accept responsibility; he became aggressive and threatened to physically beat us. He started pouring unprintable invectives on us in the local language and the onlookers around advised us to disregard him and go to see to the repair of our car ourselves.

In the evening of that same day, Leonard was on night duty at the Emergency Ward when a patient having a strangulated hernia was brought into the ward. Believe it or not, it was the taxi driver we had the encounter with earlier in the day. Leonard duly attended to the man but later called me to lecture me on the Laws of Karma.

Leonard was a very hard working fellow. He excelled in anything he put his mind to. He wrote articles on various topics and he was a voracious reader of any type of literature and was widely informed on any topic. I can confidently say that he was an inspiration and a role model to many of us, including his nephews and nieces..

Leonard opened his private medical practice in the Bronx in New York, and anytime I visited Leonard and Elizabeth in the Summer, I followed Leonard to his Clinic and stayed there until he closed. I can say with all certainty that, there was no day that Leonard closed from the Clinic before 11:00 p.m. That was the hard working Doctor that every patient wanted to see. Leonard wouldn't close his Clinic until he attended to all the patients. No matter how late we got home in the night, Leonard was up by 5:00 a.m. for his morning devotion before getting ready to go to work. He behaved like someone who had 25 hours in the day.

Leonard, (Haayo!), in our last conversation, you were confident you would make a full recovery and I believed you because of your resilience. I cannot put into words how much I will miss you. My family and I will be forever grateful to you and your wife, Elizabeth. I will continue to cherish our relationship and guard jealously the people and principles you held dear. Rest assured, wherever you are, that Betty, Elikem and Sena can count on me in your absence. Give my sincere love to the forebears and Elom.

The Ancient Ancestors in Kemet (Egypt), wrote in the "Egyptian Book of The Dead" that "To call the name of the dead is to make them live again". Dr. Leonard Yao Kaledzi, you will live again because we will all be calling your name always.

As Jonathan said to David, "Go in peace, since we have both sworn in the name of the LORD, saying, 'May the LORD be between you and me and between your descendants and my descendants, forever'". 1st. Samuel 20:40

Hayo!, you were a good man; May you rest peacefully in the bosom of the Lord.



Dr. Anukware Ketosugbo M.D., FACS
A MAN OF ALL SEASONS FOR ALL SEASONS

The 1960s were the heydays of educational activism and a serene confidence in the Ghana educational system that only if we work hard and excel at our studies, our future will be secure. This fervor was taking place in all segments of life in Ghana. It was electric! Into this environment at Mawuli Secondary School, entered teenagers from different backgrounds villages, towns and cities. All with the same burning desire and the zeal to learn. You can see it in our eyes and body language; today we call it “attitude”. We were the conquistadors of tomorrow! Thrown into this hectic mix were the Kaledzis, the Kumodzies, the Quartey, the Menkas, the Gapkos, the Dovlos, the Dzandus, the Agbloyors, the Zormelos and the Amables amongst others but too many to name; all trying to find ties that bind them together, that will help us grow into men and women of consequence but most importantly, help us navigate our journey through Mawuli School and beyond.

Amongst these, a subrosa relationship developed between Leonard Kaledzi, Simon Ametam and Anukware Ketosugbo. Even though we all had our own charismas Leonard was the most popular. “Haayo” was his nickname till this very day. Participation in basketball, volleyball and long distance running made him even more popular and he was “one of the guys”. His easy going, fun loving manner belied a serious nature and an even more fierce competitor. This became obvious when he became one of the Senior Prefects at Mawuli School along with Ametam. Leonard Kaledzi and Simon Ametam entered the Ghana Medical School and I, being their junior, took a detour a year later to learn Biochemistry at the University of Science and Technology. It was during these years, that Leonard and Simon began to reveal their true magnanimous nature. When Biochem textbooks were unavailable at Tech, they will send me fresh new textbooks from the Legon University Bookshop. When we were together at Korle Bu, they will insist that we eat at the Medical School Cafeteria, where they will heap their plates with food, take an extra empty plate with which they made mine portion. We ate like kings! During his internship and residency training in different regions of Ghana, the adjectives excellent, kind, outgoing were applied to him repeatedly. Same adjectives were similarly applied to him during his Harlem Hospital years in New York.

In New York, the full measure of the man named Leonard Yao Kaledzi came into focus. He came to achieve the American Dream and he did but there was a Ghanaian Dream too. The Dream was to help his fellow man in Blemzado (his ancestral home) and his immediate family in Ghana achieve parity in education, wellbeing and wealth. He achieved that too. “Uncle Leo, Efo Leo” was always there for the giving. His entrepreneurial spirit and its successes were a source of great pride and joy for him but alas sometimes, a greater source of pain, and frustration. His annual one man medical mission in the Lower Volta Region during Easter vacations were highly anticipated.

Through it all, the man I have affectionately called the “Mayor of the Bronx” was quietly leaving his indelible mark on Ghanaians in the Bronx. He was their “DOCTOR AND FRIEND” HE WAS LARGER THAN LIFE. He sponsored many activities and underwrote many Ghanaian organizations especially annual convention of the “Council of Ewe Nations of North America” also known as CEANA : an international organization drawing on all Ewes from Ghana, Togo, Benin and Western Nigeria. Not only was he loved in the Ghanaian Community, his African-American and other Africans sang his praises. I know, because I have taken care of a few of his patients. His annual Labor Day Barbecue Party was a popular end of summer togetherness in the Tristate area and beyond. He and his loving wife were a fixture on the Ghanaian funeral circuit giving solace and treasure whenever and wherever it was needed.

Solace and Peace surround Betty , Elikem and Sena now. In the last two grueling years, Dr. Leonard Yao Kaledzi was a profile in courage, determination and a sheer force of will in the face of adversity and pain. During it all, Betty has been an amazing pillar of strength, devotion and love in his time of greatest need. I saw firsthand why he called her his “ROCK”. She truly shared his dreams regardless of the cost.

I know that Dr. Leonard Yao Kaledzi is truly at peace now and continues to pour his magnanimous love and blessings on all of us from above.

AMEN

Anukware Kodzo Ketosugbo MD, FACS



Tribute from Bright Agbeko

If we are very fortunate, there are people in our lives who inspire us to be better. For me, that was my Uncle Leo. A once in a generation kind of man.

I still remember the first time I go to meet my uncle; he was in Ghana for my Grandad's funeral. I was just a child playing football and the ball went under his car. He picked up the ball and said "Agbey, is that you?" in Ewe. I just knew straight away that "that's my uncle!" and I jumped into his arms for the tightest cuddle I've ever had. It's a very happy and stabilising memory that will stay with me forever.

It was not Christmas without a new shirt and trousers from Uncle Leo. I wore them proudly and told all my friends that my uncle in America bought them for me.

I remember our first visit to Uncle's house in New York and his beloved dog, Precious came to greet us at the door. Precious was a huge Rottweiler. I have to admit, I was scared! That was until we walked in the door and Precious plodded over and licked my hand and even rolled over and let me rub her belly. How we laughed. The calmest, gentlest dog I've ever met, much like her owner; a strong but gentle giant.

He always had a joke to tell, stories to share and a word of wisdom to give you if you listened. I have never known a wiser, more caring and loving man. He embodied everything that was possible, great and true. As a child growing up in Africa, having Uncle Leo to look up to was a great inspiration, particularly when times were inevitably, tough.

Uncle Leo was the first person to introduce Tiff and I to good quality red wine and we blame him for our new found expensive tastes! Our wedding was one of the happiest days of our lives and to have him and Aunty Betty there to celebrate with us (and even help clear up the next day!) is a story we continue to tell.

Uncle, I'm glad you came from my family and I am extremely proud to call you my Uncle. Your name will live on for generations and tales of you will be told to our kids and grandkids about our uncle who defied all odds and made it where it was deemed impossible.

Uncle Leo, you fought a tough fight. Rest in Peace. With love from Bright, Tiff, Austen and Joy.

SALUTE!



Mr & Mrs Agagah's Tribute to their Dear Uncle

It's really hard to believe that my Dear Uncle; the Loving, Kind hearted Giant aka The Legend slipped away Quietly into eternity .

What moves through us is a Silence, a quiet Sadness, a Longing for one more time with you, one more Word, and one more Touch!

We may not understand why you left at such a time when it's impossible to even be with the family at your funeral. But little by little, we will begin to remember that you just didn't die, but that YOU LIVED! And that your life gave memories too Beautiful to forget .

Your last message to our son Elom was, 'The Legend shall live Forever'! Indeed, Forever in our Hearts!

I am so so Grateful for the week I spent with you last year; you let me into your life history, experiences, your miraculous recovery, the family tree etc etc.

It was a 'Light-Bulb Moment' and I'll Cherish those last memories forever!

Dear Uncle RIPP,from all your toil and Pain.

EP Hymn 591- Dɔ 'lɔ lɔlɔtɔ, dɔ lɔ nadzudzɔ

Gifty, UK

I called you Uncle because you accepted me as a nephew when I married your niece

Dear Uncle Leo,

I was deeply shaken and sad when I heard the news of your sudden death.

You are such an amazing, kind ,humble, gentle and unassuming great person.

I remember vividly and fondly the little escapades we had together in London, Paris, Accra and mostly at home in Bleamezado too.

The void you've left with such wonderful memories and your great personality is unparalleled.

You will surely be missed and we will cherish your memories forever

May God grant you the perfect peace IJMN

Xe de nyuie lo

Kwamiga Agagah (SHEK)



TRIBUTE FROM YOUR GRANDCHILDREN: ELOM, EYRAM & SENAM AGAGAH (London)

It Saddens us to know that you are no longer with us and we'll no longer hear The Legend's Voice.

Theoretically, as the brother of our Grandma, you are our Grand /Great Uncle but we both preferred 'Grandpa Leo' .

We heard so much about you as a children growing up and through the years, we grew to understand that you and your brothers were the dominant male and father figures in our Mother (Gifty's) life, This is why we call you 'GrandPa' and you always referred to us as your 'Grandsons'.

Our first interactions with you were through Phone calls between us across the pond; London and NewYork then eventually spending lovely quality times together multiple times on both sides. We recount each of these interactions with as always loving, caring and warm. Our face to face interactions were magical; from learning about our beautiful Ewe culture to just general conversations about life, are things we will cherish forever.

We would never forget ever!

We Nicknamed you "The Legend" for multiple reasons: Your Mannerisms, Philanthropic Nature, The Stories you tell us, Your Life History, Your Actions, The Gentle Giant you are and your Swagger as a man.

As you stated in our last conversation, "The legend lives forever" and indeed. you will live in our hearts.

Goodbye Grandpa, Dr Leonard "Legend" Kaledzi.

Elom Agagah and Senam Agagah.

To the legend known as Grandpa Leo,

My mum would talk endlessly about you growing up and upon meeting for the first time in 2011, I could see why. My impression of New York didn't extend past the city so it's fair to say that I was confused and maybe even a little disappointed that that's not where we were headed. That feeling quickly escaped me upon being welcomed into your home by our beautiful family - well most of them - I was petrified of dogs up to this point and nobody told me about Precious! It only took a day or two for her to win me over and by the end of that trip, I loved dogs :). The year I spent in Oklahoma a few years later will be remembered fondly for allowing us to deepen our relationship with Thanksgiving being a particular highlight. I'm finally grateful that we had the chance to reconnect in Ghana in 2019 for one last hurrah. You'll be missed and never forgotten. <3

Eyram Agagah



Tribute For Uncle Leo

(from nieces and nephews)

Dear Uncle Leo,

It is hard to put in words how deeply sorrowed we all are. A great giant, a true icon and a mentor has departed the earth and left a void in all our hearts.

You were the uncle that every child was always excited and bold to brag about. As children, we looked forward to your visits which were always accompanied with numerous gifts that brought us so much cheer. Even as busy as you were, you always promptly responded to our letters, encouraging us to study hard and strive for greater heights.

As we grew up, what we cherished most were your wise words of wisdom that inspired us to be the best that we could be. You will be fondly remembered for your gentle, warm and kind spirit which knew no boundaries. You provided for many and accomplished so much in your lifetime. A true role model for all of us. You truly left footprints on the sands of the earth.

Our Dear Uncle Leo, we hoped and prayed that Lord will keep you with us longer but sadly, our Lord who knows best, determined that this was not to be. Thank you for pouring out your life so selflessly into others. We will cherish every moment that we were blessed to have had with you. Your words and works will not be forgotten. We will hold fast to the memories and carry on your great name and legacy for generations to come.

May your dear soul rest in perfect peace. Hede nyuie le nutifafa m3

Mrs. Elizabeth Kumahor and Family

In Memory of Dr. Leonard Kaledzi

Those we love never go away, even when they die. They continue to live in our thoughts, feelings, words and smiles. They invade our spaces even more than before. A joke, a piece of silly news, or a comment will be said, and you will know exactly what they would have said. Auntie Betty, our condolences to you and the entire family. It is a difficult time but rest assured that Uncle Leonard, Efo Leonard, is resting in the arms of the Lord and he has no more pain.

He was so kind and took such wonderful care of our entire family for as long as we can remember. He took especially great care of Daddy; Paul Kumahor, his cousin and friend. He was diligent in making sure Daddy always had the correct treatment and medication, and consulted the proper doctors.

We know they are already together in heaven, chuckling away with their unique laughs, and smiling down at all of us. We think of him living in the hearts of all those he touched. Nothing loved is ever lost, and he was loved immensely by so many! Auntie Betty, Elikem and Sena, we thank you for being there for Uncle Leo and for taking such wonderful care of him. Ayekoo!! God richly bless you. Dr. Leonard Yao Kaledzi, Uncle Leonard, may mother earth lie gently on you and may light perpetual shine on you. May your soul and those of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in perfect peace. Amen.

Elizabeth D. Kumahor
For the Kumahor family





The Quartey Family

“Family is an interesting word. According to the dictionary, family consists of a unit of people that includes parents and children. For us, this is too limiting of an example. The Kaledzis are family to us. Our bond is beyond the superficial and the artifice. It speaks to a link of common values and shared beliefs. The belief that when you need help, those who care reach out. When you need to hear a kind voice and encouraging word, you lend it as quickly as possible. You do it without malicious intent, you do not pass judgement and you do it without expectation of anything in return. For many years, the Quartey and Kaledzis have been bonded by these principles. We have been humbled by the endless bouts of hospitality by Dr. Kaledzi.

It is hard to put into words how monumental the loss of Dr. Kaledzi has been for us. He was more than family. He was a stalwart in our lives and was an everflowing bounty of knowledge and kindness. The laughs, the jokes, the robust conversations about politics, sports and our beloved homeland Ghana are all priceless treasures that we will hold onto. During our many shared vacations, we witnessed the generosity of our esteemed stalwart up close. Beyond the personal hospitality, his giving heart extended toward his people. We realized that the good Doctor has created family everywhere he could. He treated everyone with dignity, never demeaning people based on perceived status. From children, to those in the service industry and his friends and fellow doctors, everyone was worthy of respect. He has created opportunities both economical and educational for people in his native home village. He supported, in every way he knew all people. Quietly and humbly. It was not loud and show but with purpose and humility. More so than any time we spent with Dr. Kaledzi, that is the time we cherished the most.

To the Kaledzi family, we offer our deepest condolences. To the family friends, we stand in solidarity and mourn with you. To his patients, whose lives he changed for the better, we pray for you.

To Mr., Dr. Kaledzi, to Uncle and “DJ K...”

We miss you, we cherish you and hold you dear to our hearts. May your good deeds continue to bare fruit.”

-The Quartey Family



Ellen Norley Quaye-Ntow

I have known Dr. Leonard Kaledzi's family for over four years since I started visiting with Mrs Ruby Lily Tandoh. Any time I visited Dr Kaledzi's family they welcomed me wholeheartedly as if I was part of the family. I am blessed to be part of your family.

I remembered on my first visit you took us out and I saw the Statue of liberty, the National Park, Museums, etc and eating out. On our way back on one of our many visits a gentleman greeted you and introduced himself as one of your patients. You stopped and had a brief conversation with him, shortly after, you told us that the gentleman reminded you that you treated him while he was ill and he did not have money to pay for the treatment. But you treated him anyway.

Dr. Leonard Kaledzi was somebody who could do anything for anybody no matter who you were. He also treated people with the outmost respect.

During the 2018 thanksgiving you were frail when I visited the family and we celebrated thanksgiving, having dinner together was lovely. I will never forget it.

It was with a heavy heart when I heard about your passing, so I ask God - why? Is only God who knows the answer.

I thank you for saving my life and for many others.
Thank you for being the greatest, kind, generous and caring individual.

Dr Leonard Kaledzi rest in the arms of the Lord.
Rest in perfect peace till we meet again.

I will also like to take this opportunity to thank and praised Mrs Elizabeth Kaledzi, Sena and Elikem for their time and support they dedicated in looking after him when he needed them. May the Lord lift his hands upon you and gives you comfort. He will never forget all you have done for him. He would be proud of you all. I also thank you all so much for the hospitality and the warm welcome. And for that I thank you.

Auntie Ellen

University of Ghana Medical School Class Tribute

Leonard, it has been a long ride from 1968, since we were admitted to the Ghana Medical School, now known as the University Of Ghana Medical School (UGMS). You have been a friend, a mate and a colleague.

Leonard, although was one of the tallest in the class, he had a gentle disposition. He was soft-spoken, friendly and full of jokes. He always had a smile on his face and got on well with all of us as well as others who came into contact with him. He remained in touch with most of us in Ghana. At a personal level, Leonard was very generous, gave freely of himself without expecting anything in return. His home in New York was always open to anyone who visited the United States and contacted him.

He has impacted each of us in diverse ways and no single write-up can capture the totality of the role he has played in our lives. We rather conclude our tribute by a compilation of the various sentiments expressed by individual members of the group upon hearing the news of the demise of a beloved colleague:

It is with much sorrow that I have to inform you about the passing of Dr. Leonard Kaledzi, a true scholar and a gentleman. His passing occurred just this afternoon, January 24th 2020. His wife wanted me to inform you since they both regard you as true friends. May he rest in peace.

Togbe Yao, fare thee well. My deepest condolences to his wife and the family. May the Almighty rest his soul in eternity.

Our deepest condolences to his family. May Leonard's gentle and stylish soul rest in perfect peace.

Thank you for sharing this information. I know how difficult this must be for you personally. Thank you for being there for him and his family for all these years.

OOOH very sorry to hear this. A true gentleman even through hardship and suffering. My sincerest and deep felt condolences to the entire family.

May the Holy Spirit of comfort be with them throughout this time

May our dear brother Rest in Peace. May the good Lord bless and console his dear Wife and family.

Bad news again. May our dear friend rest in eternal peace

I am very much saddened to hear this terrible news. Thanks for sharing and extend my deepest condolence to his wife and the family I will reach out to them later

Oh my God!! This is a very sad day indeed. May God Almighty comfort Kaledzi's family and also give us friends strength and grace as we mourn. May his soul rest in perfect peace.

Saddened to hear about Efoo Leonard's passing.

First it was Ametam, and now it is Leonard. May his soul rest in perfect peace.

Please extend my condolences to his wife and family.

A very big loss.

Sad to hear. May his soul Rest In Peace. May the Lord provide all that the family needs at this time.

Oh dear. Leonard my friend, rest in perfect peace.

May the Good Lord comfort the family.

Sad to learn of the passing of Leonard, a true gentleman. Our deepest condolences to Betty and the family.

May he rest in eternal peace.

I am sorry to hear this . I pray, for the Lord to console his family at this

Moment in time. May He grant them the peace of mind to survive the ordeal and to provide for their needs.

Ao, Ao, Ao! What a loss! Leonard, rest in perfect peace, and, may our Maker find a place for you in His bosom! Deepest condolences to his wife and the rest of the bereaved family! May God comfort them and dry their tears!

May the soul of our dear brother Kalii as I used to call him, rest in perfect peace

May he rest in Peace. Condolences to his family.

May the gentle soul of our brother rest in perfect peace. Condolences to the wife and children.

May the gentle soul of Kaledzi find eternal rest with his Maker.

Our deepest condolence to his wife and his family.

R I P Kaledzi

Dr Yao Kaledzi, gentle, kind, caring, compassionate, a gentle man's gentleman. You answered the call to meet your maker in the great beyond. We your classmates and friends are left grieving and asking why did you have to leave so soon? We had hoped all would be around to celebrate 2 score years and 10 post-graduation! But alas God's call always supersedes all human plans. We hope and pray that the angels are lined up to welcome you. We wish you eternal peace and also pray for your good family and friends left in this "covid infested" world. Adieu, nante yie wo ne wo Nyame nko asomd-wie mu.

May the gentle soul of Leonard Rest in Perfect Peace.

We all knew him as a quite gentle giant in the class, who everyone listened to when he stood up to speak. Full of wisdom, maturity and integrity.

We would be remiss if we did not say a few words about Betty. You have been more than a wife and a friend to Leonard. You have been the foundation to who your husband was. Words cannot express the gratitude we all have and feel for what you have done for Dr. Kaledzi. Thank you and May the Lord grant you peace.



TRIBUTE TO DR. LEONARD KALEDZI FROM OMSU 1966/68

.....And yet another brilliant and prominent star has fallen from the skyline of OMSU'66/68.....

Leonard Yao Kaledzi, or Hayoo and Okpikpingoro, as he came to be popularly and affectionately referred to by his mates, was part of a group of young boys and girls who were admitted into Mawuli School in September 1960 to begin the journey that was to lead to the University of London GCE Ordinary and Advanced Level Certificates.

Right from the start, Hayo stood out for three reasons. One was his height. Hayo was gangly for his age which attracted attention. Secondly, he had a sly and infectious smile which endeared him to his mates but which seniors who tried to bully him found irritating, because they were disarmed by his response and their inability to ruffle him. Thirdly, while most of us tried to identify with the nearest big town when seniors asked about our hometowns (for example, those from Kedzi and Dzelukope claimed to come from Keta), Hayo was resolute in his answer that "My name is Kaledzi and I come from Bleamezado", proudly advertising his hometown.

Hayo was a friendly member of the class. He had a repertoire of jokes which kept us laughing but at the same time he was committed to his studies. Hayo was in the Science class at both the Ordinary and Advanced Levels and he maintained this focus throughout his seven years of studies in Mawuli School. It was therefore no surprise that he was part of the Big Six, who were the distinguished members of the 66/68 year group that entered Medical School from one class in the same year, a big feat in those days.

Hayo was in Wilberforce House and in his Sixth Form years he served with distinction as the House Captain. We remember with nostalgia, Hayo struggling with the middle-distance races, the discuss and javelin throw during the Inter-House Athletics Competition, all in an effort to win points for his house. His height was also effectively utilized on the basketball and volleyball courts where he distinguished himself and played for both the House and School teams. During those years Mawuli emerged Regional Champions in those two sporting events. Indeed, Hayo was also part of the University of Ghana Volleyball team during his University days.

Between his Form 5 and 6th Form years, Hayo underwent a personal transformation from the easy and happy-go-lucky teenager, who indulged in all our school boy pranks, into the calm, sober, philosophical and spiritual personality which remained with him for the rest of his life. He never lost touch with members of the year group. He remained committed and fulfilled all his financial obligations regularly and cheerfully. When the year group platform was launched, Hayo was one of the earliest people to join. In addition, he developed close, long-lasting relationships with some of his mates which survived long after Mawuli School and until his passing away.

Hayo, we followed your career progress and your professional and humanitarian exploits with interest and pride. We shared the accolades heaped on you with a sense of close identity. When we were informed a couple of months back about your ill health, the year group platform was inundated with well wishes and prayers for your recovery. We were overjoyed by the initial news of your recovery and prayed to the Good Lord to complete the good work that He had begun by granting you complete recovery. But, Alas, His ways are not our ways, neither are His thoughts our thoughts. He knows you have completed the task He gave you on earth with distinction, and He has called you to higher service above.

Hayo, Okpikpingoro, Rest in Peace. OMSU'66/68 salutes you and bids you farewell.

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COUNCIL OF EWE ASSOCIATIONS OF NORTH AMERICA, INC.
CONSEIL DES ASSOCIATIONS DES EWES EN AMERIQUE DU NORD

TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF DR LEONARD YAO KALEDZI

Romans 14:7, For not one of us lives for himself, and not one dies for himself. 14:8, For if we live, we live for the Lord, or if we die, we die for the Lord; therefore, whether we live or die, we are the Lord's. 14:9, For to this end, Christ died and lived again, that He might be the Lord for both the dead and the living.

The Eweland lost a giant. The Council of Ewe Associations of North America (CEANA) lost a giant. It is with a heavy heart and sadness that I write this tribute to honor the life and work of one of our own Dr. Leonard Yao Kaledzi. Even though it was very devastating, we took comfort in the fact that our father, brother and uncle is now with the Lord as the scripture teaches us. We therefore hope this fact can help heal the pain for all of us. CEANA is a charitable organization registered in 1994 in the USA and serves as the umbrella for 18 Ewe Associations in North America. The mission of CEANA is to promote collaboration among Ewes in North America and harness their talents and resources toward the development of Eweland.

Dr. Kaledzi believed in the mission of CEANA and also the health and well-being of members of the Ewe community home and abroad. He devoted his time and sacrificed a lot of resources to make sure the Ewe community and CEANA succeed. As a medical officer, Dr. Kaledzi treated patients who come to his clinic free of charge. On some occasions, he even gave money to patients who come to the clinics and do not have enough funds to travel back home from the clinic. This is the story of a great man, a hero, and a great philanthropist.

It is very difficult to know that he will no longer be with us. However, the Ewe community and CEANA will forever be grateful for the time he spent with us and his good works will forever remain with us. As such, a befitting tribute is for all of us to continue the good work that he had championed to make Eweland a better place for our people and for the future generation. CEANA welcomes everyone across the globe to help develop Eweland.

For our departed true son of Bleamezado; you have fought a good fight. We ask for a resting place with our ancestors. Until we meet again, may your soul rest in perfect peace.

Dr Leonard Yao Kaledzi, hede nyuie. Mawu nanor kplimi miagakpe.

Tribute to Dr. Leonard Yao Kaledzi
From United Volta Association Inc. NY



ATI GÃAA DE MU!! HENOWO BE ATI GÃAA DE MU!! Dukɔwo mitso, UVA fomea mitso!! Eyli ne di, asi funu ne di! Dukɔwo mixɔ nami. Miafe Hamemegã, nutefewɔla, kpedeɲutor, norviworla, Dr. YAO KALEDDZI be yedzo le miado me. Ye yi mia torgbuiwo gbɔ adi deme.

Dr. Leonard Yao Kaledzi was a towering figure in the Ghanaian community, especially the Ewe Community in the Tri-State area. He lived in New York but made it his duty to be responsible for all Ghanaians especially the Ewes who arrived here and needed medical services which they could not afford. He gave his time and resources to enhance the quality of life of not only Ghanaians but all Africans in the diaspora.

Dr. Kaledzi would leave his job to attend medical compensation hearings for individuals to be compensated for injuries at work. Call him any time in his office or home, he will give you medical advice or send prescriptions to a pharmacy for you to pick up. A man who sought the well-being of all and sundry. To the Ewe community, he was the source of information on our culture and norms. He contributed in diverse ways to make sure the Association was well grounded. He encouraged peaceful coexistence among members of the Association. Doc was humble and soft spoken. He mingled with everybody at our picnics, end of year celebrations, birthday celebrations, funerals and weddings where he gave generously.

Doc, you left a big void in UVA that no one, if any, can fill in the foreseeable future. You will be greatly missed but your memory and good deeds will live with us forever. It is our hope and prayer that mother earth will rest gently on your mortal remains.

Hede nyuie, Dzudzor le nutifafa me. Wo dor nyuiewo na dze yowome.

Appreciation

The family of the late Dr. Leonard Yao Kaledzi wish to express their heartfelt thanks to all sympathizers who in various ways gave their support and love during these difficult and sad times.

May the Good Lord Richly Bless You all. Amen

