



CHRISTIAN ATSI TWASAM



1992 - 2023





ORDER OF SERVICE FOR THE STATE ASSISTED FUNERAL OF THE LATE **CHRISTIAN ATSU TWASAM**

ON FRIDAY, 17 MARCH, 2023



OFFICIATING CLERGY

1. Rev Cdre Paul Adjei-Djan
2. Bishop Dag Heward-Mills
3. Archbishop Kwasi Ampofo
4. Bishop Steve Asare
5. Bishop Kenneth Bamfo
6. Rev Kwame Boafo
7. Rev Franklin Dadzie York
8. Rev Benjamin Ackah Nyanzu



PART I: PRE-BURIAL SERVICE

1. **Music** - Police Band/Choir
2. **Reading of Tributes and Filing Past**
3. **Songs** - Anointed Sharaths

PART II: BURIAL SERVICE

1. **Opening Sentences**
2. **Hymn MHB 498** - Rock of Ages
3. **Prayer**
4. **Hymn: MHB 602** - Father I know that all my life
5. **Biography** - Family Representative
6. **Solo** - Edward Opare-Addo
7. **Tributes**
 - a. State
 - b. Widow
 - c. Children
 - d. Siblings

8. **Musical Interlude** - Police Band
9. **Scripture Readings**
 - a. Rev 14:12&13
 - b. Rev 20:11-15
10. **Song** - Anointed Sharaths
11. **Sermon** - Bishop Dag Heward-Mills
12. **Offering**
13. **Prayer for the family**
14. **Wreath Laying**
15. **Announcements**
16. **Closing Hymn: MHB 651** - Hark! Hark, my soul!
17. **Benediction**
18. **Departure (Burial party)** - Band

PART III: PRIVATE BURIAL



CHRISTIAN ATSU
TWASAM
1992 - 2023

BIOGRAPHY

CHRISTIAN **ATSU** TWASAM



2 Timothy 4:7-8

I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith:
Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the
righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them
also that love his appearing.

Christian Atsu Twasam popularly known as Christian Atsu, was born on the 10th January, 1992 at Kyeiamanfro, Kwahu in the Eastern Region to Jonah Akami Twasam and Sarah Afiko Dzuvor all of blessed memory. He later moved to madina with his mother and other siblings where he began his primary education at the La Nkwanta primary school in Madina. During his early school days at Madina, he was known by his peers as "Devioo" (little) due to his diminutive stature among the big boys he was playing with. A name he was still called by his close peers even after he became a professional footballer. At an early age of about 5, his football talent was so evident and his late father used to tell everybody his son will be the next big player in Ghana.





A prophecy he did not live to see come to pass. Nevertheless Papa indeed your son also chart his own course and left his legacy on this beautiful sands of time. He started his football career with Peace Boys Football club. A colts team at Achimota, Accra. By age ten, he was scouted by the Coach of the then Ga District under 12 football team to represent the district in the greater Accra under 12 inter district football competition that was hosted in Tema when he was playing for La Nkwanta Primary School. Even though the Ga district team came as the runner up of the competition, Atsu won the best player of that tournament and was subsequently chosen to represent greater Accra in the national milo under 12 championship in Kumasi. Before the tournament in Kumasi, he was seen by scouts of Feyenoord Fetteh Football Academy in one of his games for Peace Boys Football Club at Achimota, Accra and was picked for further trials at their academy in Gomoa Fetteh. But as fate will have it, The same scouts were at Kumasi to watch the national milo under 12 tournament to scout for other players. During one of the training sessions for the greater Accra team, the scouts decided to pick him and make final arrangement for his permanent transfer to the academy instead of opting for a further trials. His Parents were consulted and Atsu was officially allowed to join the academy at the age of 11.

That was the beginning of his football education at the Feyenoord Fetteh Football Academy. During his time at the academy, he continued with his formal education and was admitted at the Potsin T.I Ahmadiya Senior High School in the Central Region for the 2007/2008 Academic year. He was the only form one student to play for the school team in the 2008 National Milo Championship for second cycle schools in the then Brong Ahafo region, where he was awarded the best attacker of the tournament. Atsu won the best player awards in tournaments Feyenoord participated in in South Africa, The Netherlands, Belgium, Mali, Niger and Burkina Faso. An enviable record he made for himself at the Academy. It wasn't long Scouts within Europe

and Africa came calling eager to get him to clubs in Europe. In 2009, Ramp management lead by their chief scout, Graham Heydorn secured a deal for Atsu at Portuguese giant F.C Porto, but due to him being under age, he will leave Feyenoord Fetteh Academy for Cheetah F.C at Kasoa, in the Central Region till he turned 18 years in January 2010 when he left the shores of Ghana for F.C Porto in Porto, Portugal.

He joined the youth ranks of F.C Porto and continued with his hard work with the youth team. He won several awards including the Adidas Best Player Award at the Blue Stars/FIFA Youth Cup Tournament in Zurich, Switzerland in 2011. On 14 May 2011, he was called by the then first team manager Andre Villas Boas into the first team for a match against Maritimo, but was an unused substitute. Atsu, never returned to the youth ranks and was made a permanent first team player. At the end of the 2010/2011 season, F.C Porto sent him on a season long loan at fellow Portuguese Primeira Liga Club, Rio Ave for the upcoming 2011/2012 season. He made his debut for Rio Ave on 28 August 2011, in a 0–1 home loss against Olhanense. On 16 December 2011, Atsu opened the score at Estadio do luz against F.C Porto's bitter rivals Benfica in the 24th minute. He made 27 appearances for Rio Ave and scored 6 goals for the 2011/2012 season. He was adjudged the best player for Rio Ave for the 2011/2012 season. He will return to his mother club FC Porto for the 2012/2013 season.

F.C Porto won the 2012/2013 Primeira Liga title and Atsu was very instrumental in that campaign starting almost most of the league games and the UEFA Champions league. He had an excellent season, by the time the season was coming to close in 2013, it was rumoured that a lot of big clubs within Europe was after his signature. Chelsea Football Club reportedly brought the rumours to an end by signing him for an amount believed to be in the region of £3.5 million and was immediately loaned to Dutch club Vitesse Arnhem for the 2013–14 season.





Atsu made his debut against Feyenoord as a substitute on October 6th 2013. He went on to providing an assist for Vitesse only goal of the match. That was indeed a shadow of what was to come for the season. Atsu played a total of 30 games in all competition for Vitesse and scored 5 goals for the Dutch side as they finished 6th in the league. This lead to the team qualifying for the playoff. By the end of the 2013/2014 season, he was voted the Vitesse's player of the season. he returned to his mother club, Chelsea football club where he will also have loan spells at fellow premier league club, Everton for the 2014/2015 season, Bournemouth for the 2015/2016 and Malaga in the Spanish Top flight La liga for the 2015/2016 season. Injuries hampered his season and he could not perform to his maximum abilities as he used to.

He fully recovered for the 2016/2017 season and was loaned again to Newcastle United. There he made almost 32 appearances for Newcastle United as they won the championship gaining promotion to the English top flight the premier league. Newcastle signed him on permanent basis at the end of the 2016/2017 season on a four years contract where he will spent a total of five years at Newcastle United making him a fan favourite and a cult hero at the James Park.

By the time his contract came to end in 2021, he entered the free agency and moved to Saudi pro league club, Al-Raed in Saudi Arabia for the 2021/2022 season. But due to injuries, his playing time was limited. At the beginning of the 2022/2023 season, he signed an initial one year contract for Turkish Super big club Hataypor on 6th September 2022. There he was still battling with injuries until the end of january 2023 when he was fully declared fit to compete. On the 5th of February 2023, he came on as a late substitute to score the only goal of the match in the seventh minute of added time to rescue the club from going on relegation.

In June 2012, coach Kwesi Appiah the then coach of the senior national team the black stars gave Atsu his call up to the national team. On his debut against Lesotho at the Babayara Sports Stadium, he score in the process and from that time became an integral part of coach Kwesi Appiah's team and subsequent coaches of the senior national team. He was in the Ghana squad for the 2013 Africa Cup of Nations in South Africa. He scored the second goal of Ghana's 3-0 win against Niger in Port Elizabeth. Atsu featured in the rest of the games as Ghana came fourth in the tournament in South Africa 2013.

In 2014, Atsu was selected for the 2014 FIFA World Cup in Brazil. He started all the matches for Ghana, Ghana was eliminated in the group stage of the world cup. In 2015 Atsu was selected for the 2015 Africa Cup of Nations tournament. Ghana lost to Ivory Coast in the final. Atsu won three man of the match at the tournament. He was adjudged the player of the tournament and the his strike against Guinea was also adjudged the goal of the tournament. He participated in the 2017 and 2019 Africa Nations Cup in Gabon and Egypt respectively. He won one man of the match award at the 2017 tournaments, but his 2019 Nations Cup ended early as he sustained an injury during the opening game. In all Atsu made 65 appearances for the senior national team.

Atsu was actively involve in charity and philanthropic work. These are things he did without letting it known to the public domain. He was an ambassador for Arms Around the Child, an organisation supporting disadvantaged children and also an ambassador for Crime Check Foundation, an organisation dedicated to crime prevention advocacy, petty offenders' project, health check series, philanthropy and ex-convict reintegration project.

Atsu was married to Marie Claire Rupio and was blessed with two sons Joshua Christian Twasam, Godwin Twasam and a daughter Abigail Twasam.

Rest well my brother.

Rest well Atsu.



CHRISTIAN ATSU
TWASAM
1992 - 2023





CHRISTIAN ATSU
TWASAM
1992 - 2023



TRIBUTES

.....
“I learned all about life with a ball at my feet.”
- Ronaldinho

.....





CHRISTIAN ATSU
TWASAM
1992 - 2023





TRIBUTE BY

THE STATE



REPUBLIC OF GHANA

As human beings, creatures of the Almighty God, departing from each other in response to the Creator's call, is natural, but the departure of a patriot, full of wisdom, humility and kindness is really painful. But as we always say, when such painful departures occur, we cannot question God. He knows best.

The painful loss of our brother Christian Atsu, has undoubtedly created indelible imprints on the minds and hearts of compatriots, team mates, friends, families and the nation.

Government and Ghanaians in general, will continue to remember Christian Atsu as one of the committed, dedicated and result-oriented youth and football star of our time.

Atsu demonstrated the capacity to fully achieve his potential in his profession. His interest for developing and utilizing his talent for the Ghanaian people and beyond, will forever remain a reference point.

Throughout his career, Atsu interacted with many well-meaning Ghanaians and international partners at both personal and professional levels. His first close interaction with the Ministry of Sports, was his first call up to the Black Stars in 2012. His stellar performance with the Black Stars, right from his debut match against Lesotho on 1st June 2012 at the Baba Yara Sports Stadium in Kumasi, endeared him to many Ghanaians. A new Black Star was born that day, no doubt.

As one of the youngest players of the team, with much expectation from Ghanaians, he exhibited beyond the talents and skills known to many, when he scored the fifth goal in the Black Stars' seven-goal thrashing of Lesotho. Indeed, the BBC described him as an "excellent prospect", "quick and technically

impressive" player with high potential in the National team.

Atsu continued to serve Ghana through the Black Stars in many assignments, including, the African Cup of Nations in South Africa, 2013, Equatorial Guinea 2015, Gabon 2017 and Egypt in 2019. He also represented Ghana at the 2014 FIFA World Cup in Brazil.

His most memorable performance with the Black Stars was at the 2015 Afcon in Equatorial Ghana, where he won the Player of the Tournament, after his excellent performance helped the Black Stars to reach the grand finale.

In all the Ministry's interactions with the Black Stars, Atsu always displayed calmness, an attribute his mates have attested to.

His acclaimed humane nature, friendliness, love for people, commitment to mother Ghana and team spirit were exceptional and deserve emulation. Even at the peak of his career, Atsu remained himself and was never overtaken by pride, arrogance and indiscipline.

On the occasion of mourning our son, brother and colleague, we believe that Christian Atsu graciously paid his dues to Mother Ghana and memories of his commitment and contributions to the National team, the Black Stars, will forever remain in the minds of both present and future generations.

His legacy will remain as an inspiration for the Black Stars, the football fraternity and generally, the youth of our country, Ghana.

We pray that our brother, our son and our Black Star, finds the best place with the Lord.





TRIBUTE BY

WIFE



Lying before me today is the mortal remains of a beloved father and husband. I knew little that morning that God is going to call you home. In life, I love you dearly. In death I do the same. It breaks my heart to lose you.

You did not go alone.

For part of me went with you.

Your love is still my guide, and though I cannot see you

You are always on my side.

You were always so full of life.

You seemed to be immortal.

Your smile, your love, I see you in our children's smile.

You are never really gone as part of you is within them.

You are loved beyond words and missed beyond measure.

But as you always say, God win.

In Love, your wife.



CHRISTIAN ATSU
TWASAM
1992 - 2023





TRIBUTE BY
CHILDREN



We missed you dad,

You loved us for who we were and accepted us for who we were striving to become.

You always made us smile and filled us with strength.

Your strength gave us a sense of protection and love.

Now that you are in heaven, we know that you will continue to protect us.

Thanks for being our dad.

We will always love and miss you.

Rest well dad.



CHRISTIAN ATSU
TWASAM
1992 - 2023





CHRISTIAN ATSU
TWASAM
1992 - 2023

"When you've got something to prove, there's nothing greater than a challenge"

- Terry Bradshaw





TRIBUTE BY

SIBLINGS



Our hearts are filled with sorrow as we mourn you. Brother, we have missed you greatly as we are yet to learn and share ideas with you.

Ooh brother, we see you as a great person who cared for everyone, has a large heart, and never separated corn from beans. You taught us how to relate and love people.

Christian Atsu Twasam is your name, however, we preferred to call you uncle Atsu. Atsu as the scripture said in 2 timothy 4:7, we believe that you have fought a good fight, finished the race and kept the faith. Henceforth, what awaits you is the crown.

Atsu, we love you, but God loves you more. May your soul rest in perfect peace in the bosom of the Lord till we meet again.

.....

TRIBUTE BY

TWIN SISTER



Atsu, my heartbeat, the love of my life, my husband, my world, my role model. I journey to Turkey with the motive of returning to UK with you alive after the news of the earthquake. But as the holy book always says our thoughts, ways and plans are not of his plans.

You have a mother's heart, Atsu and do say "Atsupie is okey, just overlook it, it's nothing". Atsu, you left me in the middle of the ocean, as we are not done with our plans and the love we share together. Atsu, I pray you and the Almighty God grant me the strength to overcome this pain and permanent scar and to continue with your good deeds. Atsu, I love you beyond everything, but the Almighty God loves you more, rest in perfect peace, love, till we meet again.





CHRISTIAN ATSU
TWASAM
1992 - 2023

TRIBUTE BY

GHANA FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION



Christian Atsu Twasam, affectionately called "Ayigbe Messi" by his teammates and the football community made an instant impact the very moment he was called up to the Black Stars on June 1, 2012. Atsu did not only score on his debut but went on to play 65 matches and scored 9 goals for Ghana. He played in four Africa Cup of Nations tournaments and one FIFA World Cup in 2014 in Brazil. Christian was adjudged the best player at the 2015 Africa Cup of Nations in Equatorial Guinea where Ghana lost to Ivory Coast to finish second. Atsu was also named in the Team of the Tournament for the 2017 Africa Cup of Nations in Gabon, where Ghana came fourth.

He was born to make an impact and bring joy into many homes, not only in Ghana but also across the ocean.

Christian was described by the BBC as an "excellent prospect", whilst ESPN added he was «quick and

technically impressive», and a potential future star for his national team.

Christian, we don't know why you had to endure that kind of torture and pain before leaving us, but we know we will miss you. With your happy smile and sense of fun, we can't take it in that you are gone. You brought joy to every life you touched and made a difference wherever you found yourself. But a beautiful soul lives on forever, and we will always treasure and cherish memories of you.

Described by The Guardian obituary writer Louise Taylor as "a true Christian in every sense of the word", Christian was active in charity, being an ambassador for Arms around the Child, an organization supporting disadvantaged children as he also paid thousands of pounds of bail money to free Ghanaians who had been jailed.

Christian Atsu was loved by his teammates, technical team members, close associates, people in management positions, and even onlookers and supporters.

He was such a model and example to us of how we ought to care for and love one another on this side of life, cheerful and in good spirits even when times were hard. For this, he will be greatly missed.

Christian Atsu Twasam was a source of hope and inspiration for the oppressed and downtrodden in the football fraternity and society at large. Many young footballers looked up to him as a source of inspiration following his touching journey from the dusts of Kasoa to the pastures of Porto in Portugal, resulting in a career that spanned 13 years before his sad departure. He played his role as an excellent football ambassador everywhere he played i.e., Portugal, the Netherlands, Spain, England, Saudi Arabia, and Turkey



CHRISTIAN ATSU
TWASAM
1992 - 2023



His excellent personality and work ethic on the football pitch always showed profoundly.

Rest well Christian, may the angels sing thee to thy eternal rest in Abraham's bosom and may the Lord's face eternally shine upon you until we meet again.

A true football warrior, a gentleman, an icon, a true philanthropist, an issue-oriented person and a far-sighted man has left us.

We know he is in a good place and having a peaceful rest with his maker. May you rest in the peace you so richly deserve until we meet again.

Rest in Peace Christian Atsu Twasam.... Rest well until we meet again! We will miss you!





CHRISTIAN ATSU
TWASAM
1992 - 2023

TRIBUTE BY

PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALLERS' ASSOCIATION OF GHANA



You worked hard and always followed the path of honesty, simplicity and humility.

Nothing could be more worthy of emulation.

With teardrops running down our faces, we bid farewell to one of our own.

Christian, you left too soon but you live forever in our hearts.

You are an inspiration to the whole world and we're proud of your achievements both on and off the pitch, for your many humanitarian activities will never be forgotten.

Your name was conspicuously written in the heart of each and every Ghanaian football fanatic when you gave that electrifying display in the 2015 AFCON in Equatorial Guinea.

What a memorable performance it was!

We were runners up in that competition and of course your indelible contributions made it possible for us to achieve that.

You have accomplished many good things in life dear Christian, and on behalf of all the current and past players the PFAG can only say thank you!!

Posterity will be kind to your name and legacy.

Rest on champion! We love and miss you dearest Christian Atsu Tsatsu Fare thee well .

Thank you.



TRIBUTE BY

VITESSE



After a period of uncertainty and worry Vitesse have received the heartbreaking confirmation that Christian Atsu died in the tragic earthquake in Turkey and Syria. The Ghanaian attacker had just turned 31 years old. Our thoughts are with the family and friends of the former Vitesse player.

How thin the line can be between joy and great sorrow has become so sadly clear. Where Christian Atsu was still the celebrated man of his club Hatayspor on Sunday 5 February by crowning himself the match winner against Kasimpasa with a utilized free kick in extra time, the world was shocked a day later by the disastrous earthquake in Turkey and Syria. It soon became clear that Christian Atsu was amongst the many missing people, leading to fears for the worst. Vitesse have followed the developments in Turkey with concern and fear. As time progressed, hopes for positive news grew smaller and smaller. It is terrible and unbelievable that the last bit of hope has now also disappeared.

Christian Atsu Twasam was born on January 10, 1992 in Ada Foah, a town on the southeast coast of Ghana. The talented attacker made the crossing to Portugal at the age of seventeen, in particular to FC Porto. After 31 official matches for the club from the Portuguese port city and just as many games as a loan player for Rio Ave FC, Christian Atsu signed a contract with Chelsea in 2013. The London superpower first sent the Ghanaian international on a rental basis at Vitesse, before he was also loaned to Everton, AFC Bournemouth, Málaga CF and Newcastle United. With the latter club, Christian Atsu then acted for four seasons on the backdrop of the Premier League, his dream level. He also played the most matches



for 'The Magpies': 121 matches. After his period in England, Christian Atsu ended up at Hatayspor via Saudi Arabia (Al-Raed). He played football at the Turkish club since last summer. Christian Atsu is a sixty-time international from Ghana.

At Vitesse, people were able to enjoy Christian Atsu in the 2013|2014 season. As a footballer, but also as a person. There was no question that he was a technically skilled attacker with a great left leg. In total the Ghanaian noted thirty official games, six goals and five assists in the Vitesse shirt which he has always worn with pride. Thanks to his strong





performance in Arnhem, Christian Atsu was voted Player of the Year after the season by the supporters (association) of Vitesse.



But as mentioned Christian Atsu also impressed off the pitch. Within the club one can only find positive words for him. He had a warm and friendly personality and was always there for everyone. Ask Marko Meerits, for example, the Estonian goalkeeper who was always allowed to drive with Atsu to the training center at Papendal.

After he left Vitesse, Christian Atsu always remained committed to the club. The attacker really saw Vitesse as the fertile soil from which the rest of his career could grow. His warm involvement took shape on July 30, 2015, when he and his friend (and also

former Vitesse player) Bertrand Traoré were present as devoted spectator at Southampton vs Vitesse, in the preliminary round of the Europa League. Weeks before this game Christian Atsu asked for tickets, because he was so eager to see his former teammates. Together with Traoré he also visited the players' hotel after the game where it immediately became cozy as usual.

Christian Atsu also showed his good heart and commitment to Vitesse during the recent pandemic. In the summer of 2020 the former Vitesse player bought ten season tickets for families who were having a bit of a (financial) struggle. "This was the easiest decision for me. I didn't have to think about this for a second; I am so happy to be able to give something back to my old club and its supporters. This was the only right thing to do."

Christian Atsu said at the time. Vitesse will forever cherish its esteemed former player.

Vitesse are shocked by the terrible news. Two players of the current squad have played together with Christian

Atsu. The team has been wearing black armbands in memory of Christian at the away match against FC Volendam on Saturday February 18. At this game Vitesse fans and players showed a banner out of respect for Christian Atsu.

We wish Christian's family and friends a lot of strength with the great loss.



CHRISTIAN ATSU
TWASAM
1992 - 2023



Christian Atsu, 1992 - 2023
With deepest sympathy

I write today on behalf of Newcastle United Football Club to express sincere condolences to the loved ones of Christian Atsu, the Ghana Football Association and the people of Ghana following Christian's tragic passing.

Christian will forever be remembered affectionately by the players, staff and supporters of our club for the service he gave during five years at St. James' Park between 2016 and 2021.

As well as playing a hugely important part in the club's history as the team won the Championship in 2017 and continued its journey back in the Premier League, Christian is fondly remembered as a wonderful human being who was an incredible ambassador for football and his country.

We are blessed to have shared Christian's journey, and we send our deepest sympathies to all of you today as you remember and honour him.

Our thoughts and prayers are with you.

Darren Eales
CEO, Newcastle United





Christian Atsu, 1992 - 2023
In memory of a much-loved teammate

I have such fond memories of Christian during our five years together at Newcastle United, and I know I speak for everyone here when I say I am devastated that he has passed.

Everything you could wish for in a teammate, Christian was it.

As a player, he was blessed with natural talent. I remember him joining us on loan in the summer of 2016 as we aimed to earn promotion back to the Premier League and the whole dressing room took to him straight away.

As captain, I knew I could rely on him. He scored vital goals that season, but typical of Christian's selflessness on and off the pitch, he was always delighted to provide assists for others. We ultimately achieved our aim and won the Championship title that season, and it was a pleasure to share that joy with him.

I was delighted when his move to Newcastle became permanent, and he played a huge role as the club re-established itself in the Premier League.

But it was Christian as a person and friend that I will remember most. Always smiling, always positive and always brilliant to be around. He was kind and generous in every way a person can be. And he didn't shout the loudest – he didn't need to – because when he did speak, his words were warm and encouraging and you wanted to listen.

Christian, we will always miss you, but we will always smile when we think about you.

I'm so sorry I can't be there to pay tribute to you in person today but, on behalf of everyone at Newcastle United, I send my love and sincere condolences to Christian's family and the people of Ghana.

Rest in peace, my friend.

Jamaal Lascelles
Captain, Newcastle United





TRIBUTE BY

NANA SECHERE



To my dear friend,

I wish I was writing this for your retirement match instead of your funeral, but we all know that life isn't fair sometimes.

No words can describe the sadness my heart feels. A truly beautiful soul. It has been an absolute pleasure and honour having you in my life.

I will never let your memory fade, and so you will never truly die. You will live on forever in my heart and in my mind. I wish I had one more chance to laugh with you again.

You were so loyal and so kind. All your life you thought of others, you placed your arms around many children, now it is our turn to place our arms around your children.

I am forever grateful for your life. So, until we meet again, rest in heaven's eternal glory.

Love from your friend and Agent.

Nana Sechere





TRIBUTE BY

MICHAEL & AKOSUA ESSIEN



Football- what a beautiful game that unites people from all walks of life. To us, it is a game that knows no colour, no race, no gender and one which breaks boundaries. A game that gave us some of our greatest friendships, brothers and a real sense of community. A game that gave us you, our brother and dear friend- *Christian Atsu*

Just like us, the passion of the game, the zeal to make life better for you and your loved ones, the desire to take our dear mother Ghana onto the worlds' stage took you to many parts of the world including Turkey.

Our hearts are broken, we are still in shock and saddened about your sudden death. I was in Antalya, Turkey on that fateful day and we wish there were a million and one things we could have done to help or save you, but the Lord knows best. You were one of a kind with a rare humility especially for one so young. You had an amazing smile and a real compassion for humankind. You were without doubt a great

personality and everyone felt this so much so that people seek to emulate you. You were always fun to be around and I remember the Fufu sessions and jokes in Cobham, Surrey.

Atsu you have gone too soon. How cruel your exit was. We continue to ask God many questions. Your life has been short on earth but lived to the fullest. You are indeed our candle in the wind.

Atsu! Atsu!! Atsu!!! May the Angels of Heaven take you to the bosom of God where we trust we shall meet again.

Rest well our brother, Rest easy our dear friend. We will miss you always. Your loving memory will always remain a monument in our hearts..

Onua, Nante Yie..

With so much love and respect,
Michael and Akosua ESSIEN.



CHRISTIAN ATSU
TWASAM
1992 - 2023



TRIBUTE BY

ASAMOAH GYAN



Christian was one of my favourite players and also one.

Of the guys very close to my heart. I'm not God but the trust Christian had in me was unbelievable. He always tells me "Asa, please try and play every game for us cos I don't see us wining without you." Anytime he sees me, he shakes his head and starts laughing. After every goal I score, Christian always walks to me and always say "Asa, Nyame shira wo (God bless you). My heart is in pain for losing and humble, innocent and unbelievable footballer like Christian. Thank you for Everything.



Rest in Peace Brother.





CHRISTIAN ATSU
TWASAM
1992 - 2023

TRIBUTE BY

WARIS MAJEED



Knowing you was such a blessing in my life
as we use to learn and grow together.

When you left us, I was heart broken, I wish
I had the power to bring you back.

I have always told you how special you
were. You were full of love and kindness.
Sleep well my good friend till we meet
again.

Love you my friend...

Waris Majeed



CHRISTIAN ATSU
TWASAM
1992 - 2023



TRIBUTE BY

MUBARAK WAKASO



It's so difficult for me to express in words how I am feeling.

Since hearing about the earthquake on 6th February, I had hope that you were still alive. I never believed that this hope would turn into sadness.

You were my everyday guy, my friend, my brother. We played together, we laughed together we ate together.

You were someone who I trusted in everything because in a good or bad situation you was always there for me.

I have been here just looking at our pictures, reading our messages, watching our videos. All I have now is the memories in which I will cherish forever.

Rest in perfect peace, Love from your brother Wakaso Mubarak.





CHRISTIAN ATSU
TWASAM
1992 - 2023

TRIBUTE BY

LIGHTHOUSE CHAPEL INTERNATIONAL



Good people pass away; the godly often die before their time. But no one seems to care or wonder why. No one seems to understand that God is protecting them from the evil to come - **Isaiah 57:1 (New Living Translation)**

Christian Atsu joined the Lighthouse Chapel International King of Kings Cathedral in Achimota through its home cell in Abofun in 2012 where he gave his life to Jesus. It was not long after that that he travelled to ply his trade in Portugal.



During the home cell meetings; Atsu will often be the one leading the praises and worship sessions. On Sunday mornings, Atsu would organize his friends in the neighbourhood to church.

During the Sunday Services or evening conventions, whenever Atsu and his friends were in attendance, you will notice them during the praise and worship session when he Atsu will lead his entourage in dancing to give praises to God.

Atsu was not only a dancer in the house of God, he was part of the ushering team at the Lighthouse Chapel International, King of Kings Cathedral. His favorite part of ushering work, was cleaning the church on Saturdays in preparation for Sunday service. He would often join in sweeping and mopping the floor while singing his favorite praises song to God.

This he continued even after he became a renowned footballer for - Chelsea, Newcastle and the Black Stars of Ghana.

On one occasion when he was cleaning, a visiting pastor noticed him as a familiar person, but was not sure if it could be the famous Christian Atsu involved in cleaning of the church on a Saturday.

The pastor tried to find out by asking his name and in his humble voice and smiling face surprised the pastor by confirming he was Christian Atsu, the footballer!

Whenever Atsu visited Ghana, he attended a service or two at his church, the King of Kings Cathedral.

On many occasions he invited his friends, Black Stars team mates, to come with him to church.

Atsu, your church, Ghanaians and many well meaning people joined in praying for your life when the earthquake happened. We trusted that you will be spared.

But here we are saying goodbye to you.

We do not understand the ways of God, but we accept his will for us. We are comforted by this scripture:

"For we know that when this earthly tent we live in is taken down (that is, when we die and leave this earthly body), we will have a house in heaven, an eternal body made for us by God himself and not by human hands." -2nd Cor 5:1 (New Living Translation)

We thank God for your example in Christ and the Humility that you served with.

We will meet in Heaven.

Sleep well Atsu.





TRIBUTE BY

ELLIE MILNER

– Director, Arms Around The Child



It is with immense pain and disbelief that we have to write these words. We have held onto the hope that Christian would survive and be found in the rubble of the tragic earthquake to hit Turkey and Syria. Like the many friends, families and people impacted by this disaster, we are still struggling to accept what has happened and feel tremendous sadness at the devastating loss of life. We empathise with all those grieving for their lost ones. Our deepest condolences are with Christian's family, wife, children and many friends and lives that he touched.

Christian Atsu was a truly unique and wonderful man, and his legacy will live on through the many hundreds if not thousands of lives he has helped. He will live in our memories as one of the kindest, most talented, humble people to enter this world. A young boy from poverty in Ghana who followed his dreams had an incredibly successful footballing career and used his talent and platform to help others.

Arms Around The Child were fortunate to have known Christian and will treasure his support for the children we look after, especially the children in Senya Beraku where Christian was building a school in the local community. Christian believed in giving children a brighter future and the opportunity to succeed. He never forgot his own roots and didn't want to see any more children abused, imprisoned, affected by HIV, trafficked or sold. He was determined to use his prominence as a footballer to prevent this. He had also been supporting The Crime Check Foundation in Ghana with their work paying fines for petty crimes which had resulted in incarceration, and helping people reintegrate into society and get back on their feet.

Christian has been the global ambassador for Arms Around The Child since 2016. During that time, he visited the children at our home in Senya Beraku, Ghana on many occasions. He regularly organised for gifts and football equipment to be sent to the home and developed a very close relationship with the kids. In 2018 Christian and Arms Around The Child launched a campaign to build a new school in Senya to benefit orphaned children and the local community. Together Arms Around The Child and Christian organized the Black Star Gala, a special fundraising event at the Hilton Hotel in Gateshead, Newcastle, to kickstart the fundraising effort for a new school.

Whenever Christian visited Senya, the children and the community were always so happy to see him. They would welcome him like a hero, but also like a father, uncle or brother as everyone felt such a close affection for him. He greeted everyone with smiles and hugs, making each individual, child and adult, feel important and that they could dream and succeed in life. Christian loved the children and would always throw his shoes off to play barefoot football with them, something he loved to do whenever he visited. The children looked up to him, he showed them that they can have dreams for a better future and that through education, dreams can be achieved. This is why Christian was so passionate about building a school, he believed in education for all, especially as a way to solve problems and give kids a brighter future.





CHRISTIAN ATSU
TWASAM
1992 - 2023

Christian was the main benefactor of the new school buildings in Senya. He always wanted to know how the children were doing and we would regularly update him on the progress of the school, which after years of building is finally nearing completion. On Saturday 4th Feb 2023, just one day before his final game in which he scored a last-minute winning goal, he responded 'Thank you for the update. I will arrange some money so that we will be able to complete it fast, I am very happy with the progress.' Later in the day, he emailed again to say that he would come to open the school in June and bring his Black Star friends. This was our last correspondence with Christian; as always, he was thinking about the children and what he could do to help others.

The director of our home in Senya Beraku, Seth Asiedu had this message on behalf of all the children for Christian and his family:

'Our hearts are broken by the news regarding our beloved bro, Christian Atsu. We always felt the impact of his presence and were soaked with joy any time he visited us. He brought a lot of smiles and happiness to Becky's Home family at Senya Beraku in Ghana through Arms Around The child.

We called him our father, our friend, brother, uncle, sponsor and hero. You have left a great footprint through your generous act that no one can erase. We love you Christian Atsu. We are proud of you, and we are eternally grateful for the good work you did for us. Rest well.'

Arms Around The Child will strive to honour Christian's legacy by continuing to build and finish the school and support the children in Ghana towards brighter futures and opportunities in life. We want to share Christian's story as a beacon of hope, love and compassion. An exemplary human being who acted in both word and deed. Someone who believed in building a better world and helping those less fortunate. The happiness he brought to so many will leave a painful void, but we will always remember his kind heart and his beaming, infectious and joyful smile. Thank you Christian, we love you.

Ellie Milner
(Director Arms Around The Child)



CRIME CHECK FOUNDATION



"Good people die, the godly often pass away before their time but no one seems to care. No one seems to understand that God is protecting them from the evil to come" - Isaiah 57:1.

Christian Atsu was only 31-years-old, yet he served as the great oak tree that provided shelter for many.

Even in his death people are still benefiting from his generosity.

Crime Check Foundation worked closely with Atsu for a little over 5years.

He reached out to us after noticing the meanness in our justice delivery system, a system that puts every offender behind bars.

Regardless of the status he attained in his short life, Atsu remained grounded and cared for others, especially the down-trodden.

He was a strong advocate for giving petty offenders a second chance at freedom; something the state is not willing to give its citizens.

Atsu paid for the freedom of 113 strangers through the Petty Offenders' Project which he solely sponsored.

Not only did he pay for their freedom, he also gave 46 of them a source of livelihood through our Ex-convicts Reintegration Project.

Similarly, he paid for the health bills of many others under our Health Check Series.

Beloved, here lies the mortal remains of a man that many depended on. He was humanity personified.

Atsu also understood the power of education; he supported 5 brilliant but needy students through the foundation's Educational Support Fund.

As a noble man, Christian championed the passage of the Non-Custodial Sentencing Regime. He understood the importance of reformatory punishment.



Closely we walked with him and keenly we learnt from him and his dedication to humanity, we wish we could work together for a longer period but God knows best.

Dear Christian, we promise to continue your legacy, as we have already established contact with Becky's Foundation, the orphanage home you so much loved.

Christian made a remarkable statement with his life and we are thankful to have shared in that.

Out of the abundance of love, we dearly plea saying, may God grant your gentle soul a resting place in Abrahams bosom.

We will miss you.





COACH KWESI APPIAH



Atsu is one player after watching him play, I had the believe in him that his style of player will help the future of Ghana football because at the time I was trying to build a team for the future for the nation. Atsu was among one of the young guys I invited into the national team. When he arrived in camp, he was a player who never took his training sessions lightly. He was very professional. sometimes when you watch him trained you will ask yourself whether he was playing a match. that was the kind of person he was. And any role you gave him to play in games, he made sure he played to his maximum abilities. In every game played also, he entertained the crowd, try his best to make people who come to watch the game happy. He always try his best to always be on the score sheet or at least give an assist. He was one player who was liked a lot by us and Ghanaians as a whole. Atsu was one player who was very nice to everybody both the young and old players in the camp and he got on very well with almost everybody. He never had a dull moment. He was very generous too with his giving especially to the young ones who always come to camp. this he took outside camp by doing a lot of charity work by visiting a lot of orphanages just to give unto the underprivileged. He went to the extent of visiting some prisons and even pays money for some convicts to be released. This was sometimes mind blowing to some of us. He was an exceptional person with a golden heart. This got me closer to him and I use to visit him in Newcastle when I visit the UK and he also sometimes comes to visit me London. I never slept and dreamt that this will happen at such a time. But I believe it is God who knows what He is doing and we can pray that God grants him a perfect rest.

Rest well Atsu.





CHRISTIAN ATSU
TWASAM
1992 - 2023

TRIBUTE BY

CK AKONNOR

– EX-BLACK STARS COACH



You Played & Played it SKILFULLY —CHRISTIAN ATSU TWASAM

Ghana, & the Black Stars for that matter had had adroit left-footed footballers across generations. I won't bore readers with any old names in the name comparative analysis, because this is my tribute to you, and you alone need to be praised. You played & played it skilfully and to the joy of many a beautiful-loving fan. Talk about dribbling, assists, goalscoring, speed and speed of thought. Passing and inter-passing, movement on & off the ball. Tactical awareness and above discipline, and most importantly teamwork. It is no wonder you were declared the PLAYER OF TOURNAMENT IN AFCON 2015. I don't remember the last time The Black Stars ever won it since 1992.

I had a great privilege and honour to meet you at your base in Newcastle to strike close acquaintance and invite you back to the national team as the head coach. You accorded me all the courtesies, and engaged me in an open and frank discussion. But, unfortunately, turn down the invitation for reasons I'm unable to reveal nor disclose. Tried as I did, I was unable to convince you to change your mind and heart. It is well. When you had your turn, you played and played it like King David playing it skilfully on his harp.

Your charity works, acts of kindness and respect to humanity are being trumpeted across the length and breadth of the country. You led a life true to your name, CHRISTIAN, as exemplified by the disciples of Christ in the Bible. You were real and true to your name, words and works.

Let me leave it, I only met you briefly. As Ga-Adangbe, I say mo wo si ye hejo mi.

Rest in Peace!

Rest in peace.





IN THE NAME OF ALLAH, MOST GRACIOUS, EVER MERCIFUL

TRIBUTE BY

POT SIN T.I. AHMADIYYA SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL



The late Christian Atsu attended Potsin T.I. Ahmadiyya Senior High School in the Central Region of Ghana. He was admitted into the school with the 2007/2008 academic year group and his Registered Number is 4542.



The ardent quest of Potsin T.I. AMASS to win subsequent National Milo Soccer Championship then dominated the school after winning the 2006 National Milo Soccer Boys' Championship held in Koforidua in the Eastern Region. Master Yaw Frimpong, a key player of the winning team,

recommended his colleague at Feyenood Academy in Gomoa Fetteh; the player was included in the school team to fortify it and enhance their chance of conquering the National Championship as representatives of Central Region.

This special one was to be the dynamic Atsu Twasam, popularly called 'Messi' because of his pedigree, skills, and dexterity on the ball.

The School Authority then triggered Atsu's admission into the school and its endearing Soccer Team. Moses Bamutu, the then Senior Coach and General Supervisor of Feyenood Academy, facilitated the scout and the darling Atsu continued to soar. He was in the Technical Department and a member of Wahab House.

On the field of play, Atsu endeared all with his special skills and disciplined composure; he performed duties assigned and the amazing skills earned him a place in the team as the only Form One Student for the 2008 National Milo Soccer Boys' Championship.

Atsu's talent and skills would show in totality as he developed; he won the best attacker award of the tournament for the Milo Soccer Championship held in Sunyani in the then Brong Ahafo Region. Obviously, the team won most of the inter-school soccer competitions at all levels. In most of these competitions, he won the best player awards.

The pedigree of Atsu in soccer was predicted by coaches and even football fans throughout the country.

Off the pitch, he was shy-looking though; he was calm, respectful, an epitome of humility and discipline. In





CHRISTIAN ATSU
TWASAM
1992 - 2023



fact, he was exemplary to all especially his team mates. This is what his then Headmaster, Mr. Mohammed Ackonu, underlined. No wonder his unique traits latently made him a public figure and legend in his chosen career. From Potsin T.I.

Ahmadiyya Senior High School, the late Atsu proceeded to Portugal where he joined FC Porto as his first club overseas.

It is worthy to disclose that the late had Potsin T.I. AMASS at heart; barely a week prior to exiting this stage, had he sent a voice message promising he would support a host of projects on-going in the school if God permits. Painfully, however, the notable philanthropist and a well of humility could not survive his dream for his Alma mater.

Fare thee well, Christian. P-AMASS will forever remember you and your sacrificial spirit.

May the Almighty Allah grant Christian Atsu a lofty place in paradise.



TRIBUTE BY

ABDUL HAYYE YARTEY

– Cheetah Football Club



"And spend [in the way of Allah] from what we have provided you before death approaches one of you and he says, "My Lord, if only you would delay me for a brief term so I would give charity and be among the righteous."(10) But never will Allah delay a soul when its time has come. And Allah is Acquainted with what you do (11) " – (Quran, 63:10-11)

Atsu, my son, your sudden demise has caused much pain and sorrow to me personally and to the Cheetah family at large. We cannot comprehend the fact that such a strong and energetic man can disappear from among us like an early morning mist. Indeed, death is a heart breaker and home wrecker.

Atsu, as he was commonly known and called, I never thought I would see the day, I would be writing a tribute for son. My heart is saddened and my spirit aches. As your father in sports, all I ever wanted to do was protect you at all times but I couldn't.

In 2007, I was engaged by a FIFA Accredited agency called Ramp Management based in Canada as a Chief Scout for their organization. Fast forward, in January, 2008 the team officially informed me of their visit to Ghana. My job was to scout for under 17 players in Ghana and organize a match for them to watch when they arrive. I did scout some players from across the country and organize a match against **Feyenoord** now known as **WAFA** at their base in Fetteh in the central region of Ghana. Ramp Management came down with **Parlo Cardoso**, who was then the chief scout of **Sporting Lisbon** and **Graham Heydorn**, the Project Manager for Ramp Management. Christian Atsu, who was then playing for **Feyenoord** was spotted by us just some few minutes of play together with other three boys from the newly recruit. Sporting Lisbon later sent invitation the four players selected but unfortunately, Christian Atsu was denied of honoring the invitation from his club. Later in the year I persuaded his team to sell Christian Atsu to my football club known as Cheetah

FC and after a year and half of successful negotiation Christian was released to **Cheetah Football Club**.



Immediately, Christian got to Cheetah FC, he was introduced to **FC Porto**. They quickly expressed interest and invited him for trials. All documentations was completed and Christian by the Grace of God had to leave to Portugal for his trials. On the 20th of January, 2010, before his flight took off to Portugal, he sent me a text message and I quote **"I appreciate all you have done for me, thank you. As I embark on this journey, I will like to assure you that, I will not return back, I will surely succeed on this trial. I am going to play football to the highest level, the whole world will hear of my name Christian Atsu Twasam. I will make you proud, I will make myself proud."** Almost a week after, FC Porto expressed interest in signing Atsu.





It is worth mentioning that, Atsu actually donated all his three month salary received from FC Porto to a church, right behind the Cheetah FC camp. These moneys was sent to me by western union with specific instructions from Atsu, when I asked why he was giving all the money out to the church, his answer was that, he entered an agreement with God that, after the trials, if he succeeds he will give all his three months' salary to that particular church.

It saddens me to say that, I was with Atsu to see him board his first flight to Europe and also witness his last flight from Europe to receive his body, this was not how we all wanted it to be but however Allah in his own wisdom, knows best and I pray he grant him a place in Heaven.

Son, Your characteristic way of calling me "**Mr. Yartey**" will forever ring in my ears.

The morning of February 12th was so cold when I was called and given the news of your untimely death, while reminiscing on fond memories we had.

My son, you were the type of person that always loved helping people. You worked behind the scenes in people's favor without asking for anything in returns. You were always giving a helping hand to everyone you came in contact with and were willing to give your last to help make someone else's life better.

I would like to thank the Divine Lord for allowing me share this lifetime with you as your father.

What makes me so proud was, you didn't allow wealth and fame change your sense of humbleness, you served humanity and the world heard the name **CHRISTIAN ASTU TWASAM** just as promised

For me, Christian was a Christian, he was an angel on earth, and he was truly a son of God.

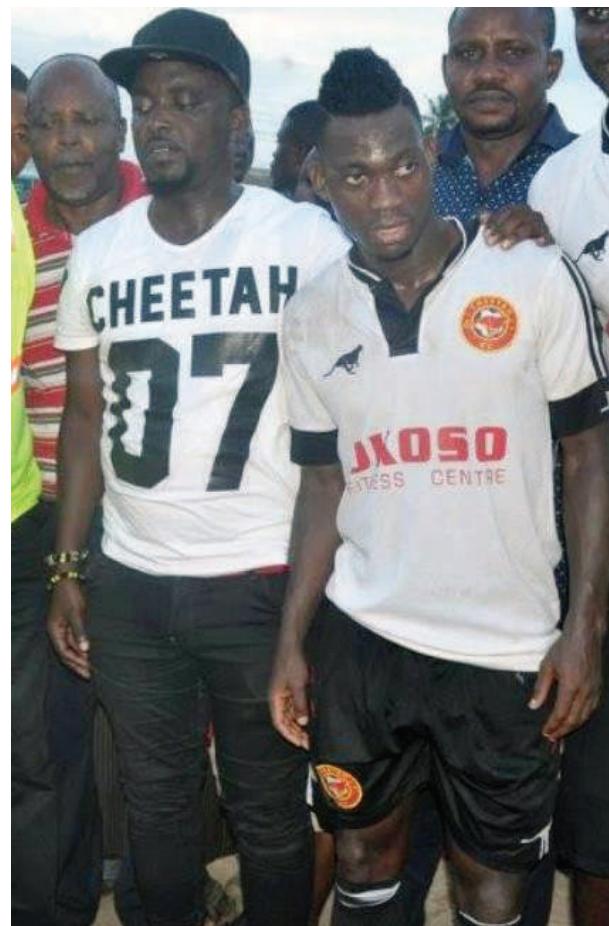
We have really lost a great and a wonderful person.

We may bid you farewell today but the utmost assurance is that you will forever remain in our hearts. Atsu we love you.

Like **Shakespeare** put it, the world is, but stages where every man must play his part, Atsu, you have played an excellent part, you have fought a good fight, you have finished the race, you have kept the faith, Now there is in store for you the crown of righteousness which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to you on that day. (2 Timothy 4:7-8)

We are devastated that you are gone so soon, but we know that death is not the end, for we know that you are resting peacefully in Heaven. We bid you farewell and rest in perfect peace.

Amen.



CHRISTIAN ATSU
TWASAM
1992 - 2023





CHRISTIAN ATSU
TWASAM
1992 - 2023



CHRISTIAN ATSU
TWASAM
1992 - 2023





CHRISTIAN ATSU
TWASAM
1992 - 2023





CHRISTIAN ATSU
TWASAM
1992 - 2023





CHRISTIAN ATSU
TWASAM
1992 - 2023



AWARDS



CHRISTIAN ATSU
TWASAM
1992 - 2023



AWARDS





HYMNS

MHB 498

1. Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
Let me hide myself in Thee;
Let the water and the blood,
From Thy riven side which flowed,
Be of sin the double cure,
Save me from its guilt and power.
2. Not the labor of my hands
Can fulfill Thy law's demands;
Could my zeal no respite know,
Could my tears forever flow,
All could never sin erase,
Thou must save, and save by grace.
3. Nothing in my hands I bring,
Simply to Thy cross I cling;
Naked, come to Thee for dress,
Helpless, look to Thee for grace:
Foul, I to the fountain fly,
Wash me, Savior, or I die.
4. While I draw this fleeting breath,
When mine eyes shall close in death,
When I soar to worlds unknown,
See Thee on Thy judgment throne,
Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
Let me hide myself in Thee.

MHB 602

1. Father, I know that all my life
is portioned out for me;
the changes that are sure to come
I do not fear to see:
I ask thee for a present mind,
intent on pleasing thee.
2. I would not have the restless will
that hurries to and fro,
seeking for some great thing to do
or secret thing to know;

I would be treated as a child,
and guided where to go.

3. I ask thee for the daily strength,
to none that ask denied,
a mind to blend with outward life,
while keeping at thy side,
content to fill a little space,
if thou be glorified.
4. In service which thy will appoints
there are no bonds for me;
my secret heart is taught the truth
that makes thy children free;
a life of self-renouncing love
is one of liberty.

MHB 651

1. HARK! Hark, my soul! Angelic songs are
swelling O'er earth's green fields and ocean's
wave-beat shore: How sweet the truth those
blessed strains are telling of that new life when
sin shall be no more!

Angels of Jesus, angels of light,
Singing to welcome the pilgrims of the night!

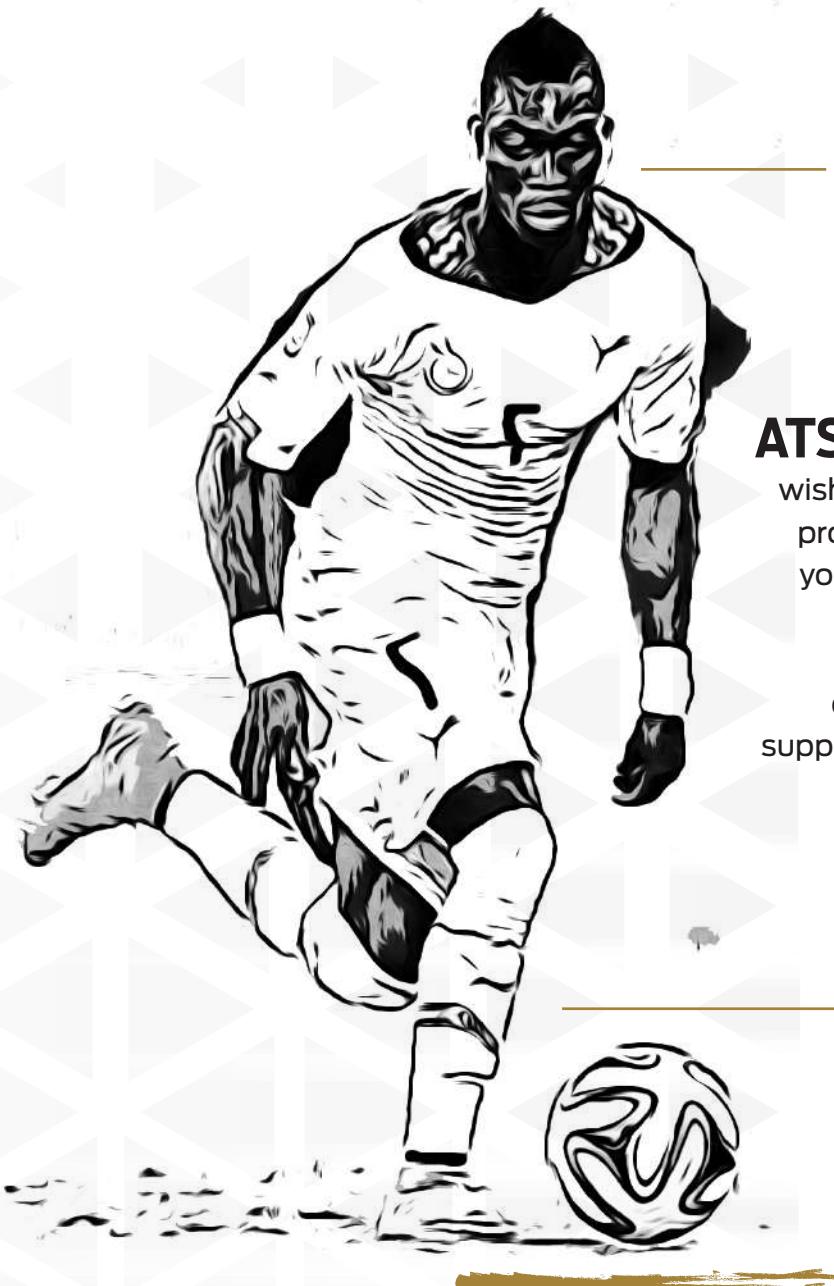
2. Onward we go; for still we hear them singing:
Come, weary souls, for Jesus bids you come;
And through the dark, its echoes sweetly
ringing,
The music of the gospel leads us home.

Chorus

3. Far, far away, like bells at evening pealing,
The voice of Jesus sounds o'er land and sea,
And laden souls, by thousands weekly stealing,
Kind Shepherd, turn their weary steps to Thee.

Chorus





The entire family
of the late

CHRISTIAN ATSU TWASAM

wishes to express their
profound gratitude to
you, our friends, well-
wishers and loved
ones for your show
of compassion and
support during this time
of sorrow.

**May God richly
bless you.**



Scan to Download

