PASTOR SAMUEL APPIAH DANKWAH
“Kwaku Gyekye”
(November 8, 1910 – October 25, 1997)

His Early Life: Pastor Samuel Appiah Dankwah, (known by family members as “Kwaku Gyekye”), was born on 8th November, 1910 to the Opanin Kwame Appiah and Obaa Pan in Adwoa Mante. Both parents were from Osiem in the Eastern region of Ghana.

His Educational Background: He had his education up to standard seven at Osiem Methodist Primary and Koforidua Methodist Senior Schools. After his elementary education, he had a vision to learn a trade. This desire and zeal were translated into reality when he enrolled for tailoring apprenticeship for three years.

His Family Life: Pastor Appiah Dankwa was initially married to Madam Yaa Darkwaa in 1937 and this marriage produced two kids, but none of them survived. As a result of the demise of this first wife, on July 4, 1935, Pastor got married to Mrs. Elizabeth Appiah Dankwah - a.k.a Adwoa Owusuuaa.
His Conversion, Ordination and Ministerial Career: Pastor Dankwah worked for three years as a Ward Assistant at New Tafo Clinic. He also served as a Toll collector at Bunso for a period of time. Not satisfied with these employments, he decided to practice the skill he acquired as a tailor from 1935 to 1939.

Pastor Appiah Dankwah was initially an active member of the Osiem Methodist Church, but later joined the Saviour Church of Ghana. In the latter, he was appointed to the high office of Church Secretary. He had the habit of reading inspirational books. This was how he laid his hands on Adventist inspirational books, especially those written by Mrs. Ellen G. White. Through these books, he received more light about the gospel which he readily shared with his close associates. Among these were: Opanin Daniel Nkrumah (a. k. a Opanin Yaw Nkrumah); Charles Boadu (a. k. a Opanin Kwasi Asare); Opanin Kwaku Agyei, and Opanin Odigidigi, all of belessed memories. Through his effort, they all embraced the Seventh-day Adventist doctrines and joined the Church. The desire for further light made them to send a five-member delegation to Ashanti-Bekwai for discussion with Pastor J. A. Clifford, the then President of Seventh-day Adventist Mission in Ghana. The President was later invited to Osiem for more interactions and Bible studies. By July 1939, Pastor Dankwah was employed as a Teacher Evangelist by the Seventh-day Adventist Mission and his first station was Wiamoase in Ashanti. As a minister of the gospel, he served in several places including: Kumasi Metropolitan Area, Agona Ashanti, Techiman, Brong-Ahafo, and Koforidua in the Eastern Region. Through hard work and dedication to duty, he was ordained into full ministry in the year 1951 by Pastor J.O. Gibson, the then President of Ghana Mission of Seventh-day Adventist.

Contribution to the Church: Through our dear Pastor's counsel the church at Osiem put up a magnificent temple for the Lord, and also bought some glamorous choir robes. In fact Pastor Appiah-Dankwah devoted all his time, energy and even his financial resources for the advancement of God's work. Through God's guidance he led Osiem SDA Church to plant new churches in places lived: Ettokrom, Maase, Old Tafo, and Anyinasin. The church will ever remember the great effort of Pastor Dankwah in helping to raise the standard of singing ministry in the Osiem SDA Church. He did this by inviting good song composers and vocalists like Brothers Asare Bediako and Kwaku Agyemang from Kumasi. These experts taught them many scintillating songs.
**His Retirement Days:** The Late Pastor Samuel Appiah-Dankwah retired from active ministerial service on April 1975. In the same year, he was appointed as a Church Pastor at his hometown Osiem. His presence there was a blessing to the SDA Church in particular and the people of Osiem and her environs in general. Through his God-given leadership qualities, he ministered to many. Through his ministry, those with broken hearts and weakened hands were strengthened in the Lord. His soul-searching sermons were beyond description, and were indications of the fact that he was a chosen vessel from God to lead His people to the "Promised Land.” Thus, the church can say without reservation that he passed this test of his calling with “PECULIARITY.”

**His Last Days:** By God’s grace, he worked relentlessly until he finally left the ministerial assignment in 1995. Pastor Appiah Dankwa was finally called to rest, on the Sabbath morning of October 25, 1997 in his home at a ripe age of 87. In the words of Ellen G. White, Pastor Appiah Dankwah was known to be a man "who will not be bought or sold" in the faith. *(Education, p. 57)*

Members and pastors of the Osiem Seventh-day Adventist Church testified to the good works of late Pastor S. A. Dankwah. They recollected their experiences during his stay at Osiem as a retired minister. The Administration and leadership of the South Ghana Conference also testified to the good works of Pastor S. A. Dankwah. In the Gospel Ministry, he proved himself in all spheres as a good leader. He was productive and indispensable. Perhaps, he was one of those who thought “it was better to wear out than to rust out”

As the saying goes, "great men are not great in their own estimation.” His family, fellow ministers, relations and close acquaintances bear positive testimonies of his spirituality and integrity. Socially, Pastor was, to all men, a good father and a counselor. He never hesitated to share his wealth of knowledge and experience in life with others. Yes, he has left behind inestimable bequeathed legacy and a life worthy of emulation.

**Source:**