As one of our publications, Pioneer of the Month brings to you from time to time brief accounts of some of our pioneers who had laboured in God's vineyard.

This month, we present a teacher and servant of God,

Elder Emmanuel Mensah Appauh
(Tuesday, September 24, 1937 – Saturday, May 8, 2010)
EARLY LIFE: Elder Emmanuel Mensah Appauh was born on Tuesday, September 24, 1937 to the family of Late Opanin Yaw Sarkodie and Late Madam Akosua Kusiwaa of Sanfo-Aduam in the Amansie East District then in Bekwai District, of Ashanti Region. His father gave him a family name, Kwabena Kyei. Death later brought separation between the young boy and his loving father. Sequel to the sudden death, Emmanuel (Kwabena Kyei), was adopted by his Uncle who later changed his name to Appauh. Through his uncle, he was later baptized into the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the year 1957.

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND: Elder Emmanuel Mensah Appauh had his primary and middle school education through the help of his Uncle, who enrolled him at Sanfo-Aduam L. A. School. After his Middle School he proceeded to a Technical School in Kumasi, for training in bricklaying and draughtsmanship. He made several attempts to attend Adventist Seminary of West Africa (ASWA) in Nigeria, but all efforts yielded nothing due to financial constraint.

MARRITAL EXPERIENCE: As a vibrant and committed Christian, Elder Emmanuel one day had preaching appointment at Community 6, SDA Church, Tema, where he met a beautiful lady Miss MercyKwartemaa. They became acquainted with one another, and they later got married in the year 1967. The Lord blessed their marriage with five children namely: Diana, Martha, Esther, Ruth and Emmanuel.

WORK EXPERIENCE: As a young man, full of energy and zeal, Elder Emmanuel moved from his hometown to Accra at the 23 years of age. In Accra, he was employed as a Teacher at Hansen Road SDA Preparatory School. Along with teaching, he learnt the craft of bag-sewing and painting which partly became sources of livelihood for his family. He also worked for many years as Chief Security Officer at the State Construction Cooperation (SCC), for many years, until the company was divested by the Ghanaian Government.

However, his painting work and bag-sewing businesses sustained his family after the SCC job crumbled. He was fully engaged until he took the decision to become a pastor. Though, he could not make it to ASWA, he became a powerful instrument in God’s hands and won many souls for Christ within the Accra-Tema Metropolis. His love for music enabled him to set up a singing band at the Labone SDA Church, where he was a Pioneer member.

In 1986, Elder Emmanuel Mensah Appauh joined Christ Our Hope SDA Church, North Kaneshie, Ghana. The Church would ever remember his immense contributions, especially in the areas of Personal Ministries and Sabbath School Departments. During this period, many people benefited from his wealth of knowledge and one of those was Elder Frank Anim Akuffo. In 1993, he relocated to Niiboiman near Tabora, and then had his membership transferred from Kaneshie SDA Church to the King of Glory SDA Church, Abeka-Lapaz. As a result of his commitment to God’s work, which was immediately noticed by the members, he was nicknamed;
“Honourable.” Within one year in this new church, he was elected the first Elder and Chaplaincy Coordinator. He also served as a deacon for so many years in the Church.

Indeed, Elder Emmanuel Mensah Appauh’s outstanding performances made him to be desired by many departments of the church especially, the Temperance, Personal Ministries, Home and Family Life Ministries, Stewardship, and Sabbath School. He also served as Church Leader for the then Branch Sabbath School at Nii Boi Town. This man of God, earned recognition from the Local Church to the Union level.

LAST DAYS: On Saturday May 1, 2010, he preached a sermon, and assigned to promote the stewardship activities for Saturday May 8, 2010. Unfortunately, he never did the promotion because Elder Emmanuel Mensah Appauh was rushed to the hospital for medical attention on Friday 7th May, 2010 and he passed-away on Sabbath 8, May 2010 at the age of 73.

CONCLUSION: To many, this man of God was a gifted father, teacher, trainer, counsellor, honourable, elder, pastor and many more. Elder Emmanuel Mensah Appauh courageously served the Lord in all ramifications. A faithful witness of his Redeemer, he touched the lives of many within and without, and never hesitated to render a helping hand whenever the need arose. Finally, he completed his task and went to rest from all his labour in this world. He lived an exemplary life, a life worthy of emulation. Of a truth, his life can be summed up with these words from the scriptures: Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them. He was called to rest on a Sabbath day, what a day to rest in the Lord!
Source:
Elder Emmanuel Mensah Appauh (2013) Information was extracted from burial program held on Sunday 27th June, 2010 at Cosmos School Park near Lapaz Market, Accra, Ghana. Edited by Fagbe Abimbola O. (The Former Research Assistant, Ellen G. White–SDA Research Centre, Babcock University, August, 2013).