FUNERAL PROGRAMME

A Legacy Beyond a Lifetime



LATE MR.

AKOSON DYE JOSEPH

1939 – 2026

Papa Akoson · Army Man · Old Soldier · Undertaker

4–6 DECEMBER 2026 | LIMBE & BAKEBE, CAMEROON

IN LOVING MEMORY

Papa Akoson



†

"I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith."

2 TIMOTHY 4:7

DAY ONE

Friday, 4 December 2026

LIMBE

Funeral Service · Lying in Repose · Wake Keeping

9:00 AM — ◇ **Removal of Remains**
Limbe Mile One General Hospital Mortuary.

9:10 – 10:00 AM — ◇ **Funeral Procession**
From the mortuary to Presbyterian Church, New Town, Limbe.

10:00 AM – 12:00 PM — ◆ **Funeral Service**
Presbyterian Church, New Town, Limbe. The Order of Service follows on pages 5–11.

12:00 – 1:00 PM — ◇ **Procession to the Akoson Family Residence**
Mabeta New Layout, Limbe.

DAY ONE · CONTINUED

Friday, 4 December 2026

LIMBE

Akoson Family Residence, Mabeta New Layout

1:00 – 6:00 PM

◆ **Lying in Repose, Public Viewing & Light Refreshment**

Akoson Family Residence, Mabeta New Layout, Limbe.

6:00 – 6:10 PM

◇ **Conclusion of Public Viewing**

Transfer of the remains to the designated overnight holding arrangement.

6:00 PM – Dawn

◇ **All-Night Wake Keeping**

Without the remains. Religious reflections, tributes, cultural performances, music, entertainment and refreshments at the Akoson Family Residence.

Order of Church Service

Friday, 4 December 2026 · 10:00 AM

The Entry

by the Temple Choir

The Salutation

MIN In the name of God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

CONG **Amen.**

MIN The grace and peace of God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

CONG **And also with you.**

MIN Our help is in the name of the Lord,

CONG **Who made heaven and earth.**

The Opening Sentence

MIN The Lord your God, who has compassion on you, says: "The mountains may depart and the hills be removed, but my steadfast love shall not depart from you, and my covenant of peace shall not be removed."

ISAIAH 54:10 (RSV)

The Opening Hymn

CHB 383

Asleep in Jesus

1 Asleep in Jesus! Blessèd sleep!
From which none ever wake to weep;
A calm and undisturbed repose,
Unbroken by the last of foes.

2 Asleep in Jesus! Oh, how sweet
To be for such a slumber meet!
With holy confidence to sing
That death hath lost its venomed sting!

3 Asleep in Jesus! Peaceful rest!
Whose waking is supremely blest;
No fear, no woe, shall dim the hour
That manifests the Saviour's power.

4 Asleep in Jesus! Oh, for me
May such a blissful refuge be!
Securely shall my ashes lie,
And wait the summons from on high.

5 Asleep in Jesus! Far from thee
Thy kindred and their graves may be;
But thine is still a blessèd sleep
From which none ever wake to weep.

The Responsive Psalm

Let us pray with the words of Psalm 103:8 & 13–17

MIN The Lord is merciful and gracious,

CONG **Slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

MIN He does not deal with us according to our sins,

CONG **Nor repay us according to our iniquities.**

MIN For as high as the heavens are above the earth,

CONG **So great is his steadfast love towards those who fear him.**

MIN As far as the east is from the west,

CONG **So far does he remove our transgressions from us.**

MIN As a father shows compassion to his children,

CONG **So the Lord shows compassion to those who fear him.**

MIN For he knows our frame; he remembers that we are dust.

CONG **As for man, his days are like grass; he flourishes like a flower of the field.**

MIN But the steadfast love of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting upon those who fear him,

CONG **And his righteousness to children's children, to those who keep his covenant and remember to do his commandments.**

MIN Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

CONG **As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.**

Hymn

CHB 375

Blessed Assurance — Jesus Is Mine!

1 Blessèd assurance, Jesus is mine!
Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
Born of His Spirit, washed in His blood.

REFRAIN

This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Saviour all the day long;
This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Saviour all the day long.

2 Perfect submission, perfect delight,
Visions of rapture now burst on my sight;
Angels descending bring from above
Echoes of mercy, whispers of love.

3 Perfect submission, all is at rest,
I in my Saviour am happy and blest;
Watching and waiting, looking above,
Filled with His goodness, lost in His love.

Eulogies

- Biography
- Family Head
- Temple Choir
- Congregation

Hymn

CHB 282

Whither, Pilgrims

1 Whither, pilgrims, are you going,
Going each with staff in hand?
'We are going on a journey,
Going at our King's command;
Over hills and plains and valleys,
We are going to His palace,
Going to the better land.'

2 Fear ye not the way so lonely,
You a little, feeble band?
'No; for friends unseen are near us,
Holy angels round us stand;
Christ, our Leader, walks beside us;
He will guard, and He will guide us,
Guide us to the better land.'

3 Tell us, pilgrims, what you hope for
In that far-off better land?
'Spotless robes and crowns of glory,
From a Saviour's loving hand;
We shall drink of life's clear river,
We shall dwell with God for ever,
In that bright and better land.'

4 Pilgrims, may we travel with you
To that bright and better land?
'Come and welcome, come and welcome,
Welcome to our pilgrim band.
Come, O come, and do not leave us;
Christ is waiting to receive us
In that bright and better land.'

Proclamation of the Word

- The Text
- Song
- Funeral Offering
- Holy Communion
- Sermon
- Prayer
- Family Thanksgiving
- Announcements

The Commendation

MIN Let us now commend our father and brother, Late Mr. Akoson Dye Joseph, into the hands of God, our Maker and Redeemer:

God, our heavenly Father, by your mighty power you gave us life, and in your great love you have given us new life in Jesus Christ. We commend Akoson Dye Joseph, our father and brother, to your merciful keeping; and pray that, in your infinite love and mercy, you will bring him, with your whole Church, living and departed in the Lord Jesus, to a joyful resurrection and the fulfilment of your eternal kingdom; through the same Jesus Christ, your Son our Lord, who died and rose again to save us, and is now alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit in glory for ever and ever.

CONG **Amen.**

The Departure

MIN Lord, now you let your servant depart in peace,

CONG **According to your word;**

MIN For my eyes have seen your salvation,

CONG **Which you have prepared in the sight of every people;**

MIN A light to enlighten the nations,

CONG **And the glory of your people Israel.**

MIN Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

CONG **As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.**

MIN Let us now, in hope of a joyful resurrection, bring our departed father and brother to his resting place; for there is no permanent home for us here on earth, but we are looking for the one in the life to come.

Benediction





Papa Akoson

ARMY MAN · OLD SOLDIER · UNDERTAKER

THE FUNERAL OF

Late Mr.

AKOSON DYE JOSEPH

1939 – 2026

BAKEBE

UPPER BAYANG · MANYU

DAY TWO

Saturday, 5 December 2026

BAKEBE VILLAGE

Arrival · Cultural Rites · Burial · Celebration of Life

4:00 AM

◇ **Departure of the Funeral Convoy**

From Limbe to Bakebe Village, Upper Bayang, Manyu.

9:00 AM

◇ **Expected Arrival at Bakebe Village Entrance**

Bakebe Head Town.

UPON ARRIVAL

◆ **Ekpe-Led Cultural Procession**

Traditional escort of the funeral convoy and remains from the village entrance to the Akoson Family Residence, Bakebe.

9:30 – 10:30 AM

◆ **Ceremonial Opening of the Casket**

Traditional rites and display by dignitaries of the Nkogonock clan and Bakebe elders.

DAY TWO · CONTINUED

Saturday, 5 December 2026

BAKEBE VILLAGE

Akoson Family Residence, Bakebe

10:30 AM – 4:00 PM

◇ **Public Viewing & Light Refreshment**

Akoson Family Residence, Bakebe.

4:00 – 4:30 PM

◇ **Final Viewing and Last Respects**

A final opportunity for family, friends and mourners to pay their respects.

4:30 PM

◆ **Burial**

Interment of Late Mr. Akoson Dye Joseph.

6:00 PM – Dawn

◆ **All-Night Celebration of Life**

Cultural performances, music, entertainment and refreshments. Continues into Sunday, 6 December 2026.

In Loving Memory

Biography & Eulogy

Late Mr. Akoson Dye Joseph · 1939 – 2026

Biography 17
The Life and Legacy of Papa Akoson Dye Joseph

Family Eulogy 24
A Tribute from His Wife, Mama Sarah Bechem Tarh Akoson

For additional eulogies and tributes from Papa's children, grandchildren, relatives and friends, please visit

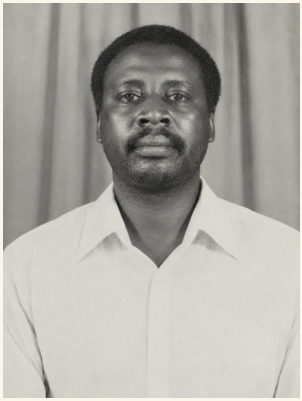
AKOSONFAMILY.COM

The Life and Legacy of Papa Akoson Dye Joseph

Circa 1939 – 29 September 2026 · A Life of Service, Family and Legacy

Early Life

Papa Akoson Dye Joseph was born in or around 1939 in Bakebe Village, in what later became known as West Cameroon. He was the son of Mr. Akotarh, a landholder of Bakebe, and Bakume Ayuk of Upper Ebweagwa. His early life was shaped by humble beginnings and the loss of his father while he was still a young boy. With the support of members of his extended family, he grew up in Bakebe, the village that would remain an important part of his identity throughout his life.



Papa Akoson in his prime

Education & Teaching

Papa received his early education at the Basel Mission, later Presbyterian, School in Bakebe. According to his handwritten curriculum vitae, he attended school between 1958 and 1964, obtaining his First School Leaving Certificate. He distinguished himself through his academic abilities, discipline, and remarkable physical fitness. His performance earned him the opportunity to return to his former school as a probationary teacher, marking the beginning of a career in education.

His teaching assignments subsequently took him to Fonenge between 1965 and 1966, then to Baro, and later to Fotabe, where he served until approximately 1970. During these years, Papa earned a reputation as a quiet, humble, reserved, and dedicated young teacher. His interests extended beyond the classroom. In Baro, he was elected cell president of the Y.C.N.U. youth wing, while in Fotabe, he served as its cell secretary. He also demonstrated practical

ingenuity, notably constructing a wind vane that was erected in front of one of the schools where he taught.

Alongside his intellectual abilities, Papa possessed extraordinary physical endurance. Former pupils recalled that he would run approximately twenty laps around the school football field before beginning his lessons. This remarkable display of fitness eventually attracted the attention of military recruiters, including a delegation associated with the late General Tataw, who encouraged him to enlist.

What began as a promising teaching career soon took a new direction.

Military Service

In the early 1970s, Papa joined Cameroon's armed forces, beginning his military career in the Cameroon Navy in Douala. His service subsequently took him to various naval establishments along Cameroon's coastline, including Base Navale de Kribi in 1974, Base Navale de Lobe in 1979, Douala again in 1985, and Limbe in 1990.



Papa Akoson during his years of military service

His military career was characterized by discipline, professional training, and dedication to duty. Over the years, he acquired several military qualifications, including the Brevet Militaire Parachutiste (Military Parachutist Certificate), together with certificates in manoeuvres, general service, and navigation.

One of the most significant chapters of Papa's military career came during the mid-1990s, when Cameroon and Nigeria became engaged in armed conflict over competing territorial claims to the Bakassi Peninsula. Papa participated in the fighting on the Cameroonian side, serving his country during this difficult period in the history of both nations.

His involvement in the Bakassi conflict was a defining experience within his years of military service. It meant that his long career in uniform extended beyond training, routine assignments, and naval postings to include participation in an armed confrontation. His service during this period remains an important part of his military history and the story his family preserves.

Between 1990 and 1999, Papa continued his progression through the military ranks, including Maître, eventually attaining the rank of Sergeant Chef, or Chief Sergeant. In 2000, after decades of service, he retired on pension. In recognition of his conduct during his military career, he received a Certificate of Good Conduct issued by the Ministry of Defence in Yaoundé.

Although his formal military career had come to an end, the identity he had established during his years in uniform remained with him. To many who knew him, he was affectionately called "Army Man" or "Old Soldier." He was also widely known by another memorable nickname, "Undertaker." These names became part of his identity and remained with him throughout his later years.

MARRIAGE & FAMILY

While Papa devoted much of his working life to education and military service, he also built a family that would become one of his greatest sources of pride and fulfilment.

As a young man in Bakebe, he met Sarah Bechem Tarh of Tali Village. Their friendship gradually blossomed into love and eventually marriage, beginning a lifelong partnership marked by commitment, perseverance, and shared responsibility.

Together, Papa and Mama Sarah were blessed with eight children: Marie, Rene, Akotarh, Joseph, Grace, Samuel, Valerie, and Mmeti.

Raising eight children required considerable sacrifice, especially with limited financial resources. Papa was not a wealthy man, but he believed strongly

in the value of education and was determined to give his children opportunities that would prepare them for the future. He worked hard to ensure that they attended good schools, often placing their educational needs ahead of his own comforts.

His commitment went beyond providing school fees and other necessities. Having begun his own professional life as a teacher, Papa remained actively involved in his children's learning. He sat with them after school, explained difficult lessons, corrected mistakes, and encouraged them to work hard. He expected discipline and effort, but he also offered patience, guidance, and support.

For Papa, education was both a responsibility and an investment in the generations that would follow. The same dedication he had brought to teaching other people's children in Bakebe, Fonenge, Baro, and Fotabe became an essential part of how he raised his own family.

A Man of Quiet Strength

Those who knew Papa closely remember a man of quiet strength, humility, determination, and self-discipline. He was generally reserved, preferring to demonstrate his convictions through his actions rather than unnecessary words. Once he made up his mind, however, he possessed remarkable resolve.

One memorable example was his decision to stop smoking. After years of smoking, Papa decided one day that he had smoked his last cigarette. He stopped completely and never returned to the habit. It was a simple but lasting demonstration of his determination and ability to remain committed to a personal decision.

The Akoson Name

Beneath his reserved nature was also a deep appreciation for family and the importance of remembering one's origins. Having lost his own father at an early age, Papa found a meaningful way to preserve his father's memory.

His father was named Akotarh, a name understood within the family to mean "Father of Ako." As a young man, Papa chose to replace the element "tarh" with the English word "son," creating the surname Akoson, meaning "Son of Ako."

What began as a personal tribute to the father he had lost eventually became the name of an entire family. As his children grew and established families of their own, the name Akoson passed to succeeding generations, becoming a lasting symbol of ancestry, identity, and belonging.

As the family expresses it:

◆

"A name created from the memory of a father became the inheritance of generations."

Service to Community

Papa's sense of responsibility extended beyond his immediate household. He maintained a strong connection to the communities where he lived and remained deeply committed to the welfare and development of Bakebe, the village of his birth.

In 2013, he was elected Vice Chairman of the Mabeta New Layout Council, reflecting his participation in community affairs and the confidence placed in him by those around him.

He was also a founding member of the Bakebe Development and Cultural Association (BADEVU), through which he supported development initiatives intended to improve the lives of the people of Bakebe.

His commitment to the village remained evident even during the final months of his life. In August 2026, while hospitalized, Papa made a contribution towards BADEVU's "Water Is Life" project, an initiative dedicated to bringing water to Bakebe. In recognition of his support, the association presented him with a certificate of contribution.

That gesture reflected the enduring connection between Papa and his ancestral home. Even while facing his own health challenges, he remained concerned about the welfare of the village where his life's journey had begun.

Later Years

As the years passed, Papa had the joy of seeing the family he and Mama Sarah had raised grow beyond their immediate household. Their children became


BAKEBE DEVELOPMENT AND CULTURAL ASSOCIATION (BADEVU)

Certificate of Appreciation

SECOND PHASE FUNDRAISING JOURNEY

« Water is Life to Our Bakebe Community »

Proudly Presented To

Mr. Akoson Dye Joseph

Donation: CFA 100.000 Frs

The President of BADEVU is delighted to officially confer you this Certificate for bringing water to our Community Bakebe. Your unwavering support is invaluable, and we sincerely appreciate your commitment to this vital cause.

Bate Wilfred Harold

BATE WILFRED HAROLD

TREASURER, BADEVU

BADEVU OFFICIAL SEAL

Kima Robert Atem

KIMA ROBERT ATEM

PRESIDENT, BADEVU

Bakebe, Cameroon • October 2026 • Water is Life Project • BADEVU Second Phase

BADEVU Certificate of Appreciation, "Water Is Life" project, 2026

parents, grandchildren arrived, and eventually another generation followed. The young boy who had once depended on the care of extended family after losing his father had lived to become the patriarch of a family spanning four generations.

In 2024, Papa and Mama Sarah travelled to Columbus, Ohio, in the United States of America, where they spent time with family. Their visit provided a treasured opportunity for togetherness and created lasting memories captured in family photographs. It was a particularly meaningful period in their later years, reflecting how far the family they had built together had grown beyond its beginnings in Cameroon.

Even as advancing age gradually slowed his steps, Papa remained a cherished presence at family and community gatherings. With his familiar walking cane and quiet dignity, he continued to enjoy the company of loved ones and the affection of those who knew him.

REST

On Tuesday, 29 September 2026, at approximately 8:30 a.m., Papa Akoson Dye Joseph passed away at Buea Regional Hospital, bringing to a close an earthly journey of approximately eighty-seven years.

He leaves behind his beloved wife, Sarah Bechem Tarh Akoson; their eight children; twenty-five known grandchildren; and three known great-grandchildren: Derick, Abigail, and Zion. He also leaves behind an extended family,

relatives, friends, former colleagues, and members of the communities whose lives he touched.

A Lasting Legacy

Papa's journey was one of humble beginnings, determination, service, sacrifice, and enduring family commitment. From a young boy growing up in Bakebe, he became a teacher, an athlete, a naval serviceman, a participant in the Bakassi conflict, a husband, a father, a grandfather, and a great-grandfather.

He served his country through decades in uniform, including a difficult period of armed conflict. He devoted himself to the education and upbringing of his children, remained committed to the development of his community, and preserved the memory of his father through a name that continues to unite his descendants.

Perhaps the most remarkable thread running through Papa's life is the connection between his beginnings and the legacy he left behind. As a young boy, he experienced the loss of his father. As a young man, he created a name to honour that father. By the end of his life, that name had become the shared identity of children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren whose lives now extend across Cameroon and beyond.

His military service has ended. His earthly journey is complete. Yet the family he raised, the values he instilled, the communities he served, and the name he created will continue to carry his memory forward.

As the familiar saying goes:

◆

"Old soldiers never die; they just fade away."

Good night, Papa Akoson.
Good night, Army Man.
Good night, Old Soldier.
May your soul rest in perfect peace.

The Akoson Family

Celebrating a Life of Service, Family and Legacy

Family Eulogy

A Tribute to My Beloved Husband

Late Mr. Akoson Dye Joseph

By Sarah Bechem Tarh Akoson

There are lives that become so deeply woven into a family that it is difficult to imagine the family without them. Akoson Dye Joseph—our beloved Papa Akoson—was such a man.

Our story together began many years ago in Bakebe Village, where we met as young people. At the time, neither of us could have known the long road that life would allow us to travel together. Friendship grew into love, love into marriage, and marriage into a family that would eventually include eight children, twenty-five known grandchildren, and three known great-grandchildren.



Papa and Mama Sarah in their younger years

Through the changing seasons of life, Papa remained deeply committed to his family.

He was not a man born into wealth or privilege. From humble beginnings, he worked his way forward through determination, intelligence, discipline, and hard work. His life took him from the classrooms of Presbyterian School Bakebe, where he first distinguished himself as a student and later became a teacher, into a long military career that would earn him the affectionate names Army Man and Old Soldier.

But to us, his greatest achievement was not his rank or the uniform he wore. It was the family he built and the sacrifices he made for it.

Papa believed strongly that his children should become something meaningful in life. He worked tirelessly to provide us with opportunities, especially through education. He was prepared to sacrifice his own comfort so that his children could go to good schools and pursue their ambitions. He followed their progress, worried about their well-being, encouraged them when life became difficult, and took great pride in seeing them move forward.

He did not simply provide for his children; he participated in their upbringing. He advised them, taught them, corrected them, and encouraged them. His discipline was often accompanied by patience. He understood that raising children required more than commands—it required guidance.

Papa was a man of remarkable willpower. Once he made a decision, he possessed an uncommon ability to stand by it. We remember, for example, how after years of smoking, he decided one day that he had smoked his last cigarette. He stopped, and he never returned to it. That determination was characteristic of the man we knew.

Yet beneath that strength was a humble and caring person.

Papa was quiet and often unassuming. He did not need to advertise himself or demand recognition. He was comfortable simply being who he was. Those who knew him in the community came to love and respect him for precisely that reason. He was approachable, dependable, and deeply connected to the people around him.

As a husband, he was my companion through decades of change. We grew from the young people who met in Bakebe into parents, grandparents, and

eventually great-grandparents. We experienced hardships and joys, watched our children grow, saw them leave home to pursue their own paths, and lived long enough to witness another generation of the family emerge.

The photographs of our later years together tell a story that words sometimes cannot. After so many years, after raising a family and enduring everything that life placed before us, we were still walking beside one another.



Papa and Mama Sarah, Columbus, Ohio, 2024

To our children, Papa was a source of strength and continuity. Each child will remember him differently. Each carries private conversations, lessons, sacrifices, and moments that belonged uniquely to them. But there is one inheritance that belongs to all of us: the knowledge that our father wanted us to succeed and worked hard to make that possible.

Today, we mourn the absence of the man whose presence had become part of the rhythm of our family.

We will miss his voice.
We will miss his concern for his children.
We will miss his questions about our well-being.
We will miss the quiet strength with which he carried himself.
And we will miss simply knowing that Papa was there.

But even in our grief, we recognize that his life continues through us.

The name Akoson, which he himself created from the legacy of his father, has become more than a surname. It has become the name of a family, carried by children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. Through them, a part of Papa continues into generations he helped make possible.

Papa, you came from humble beginnings and built a family whose branches now extend far beyond the village where your story began.

You served your country.
You served your community.
But above all, you served your family.
For your sacrifices, we are grateful.
For your discipline, we are grateful.
For your guidance, we are grateful.
For the home and family we built together, I am grateful.
For the father you were to our children, I am grateful.
And for the many years God allowed us to share, I will always be grateful.
The house will not feel the same without you.
The family will not feel the same without you.

But the values you planted, the children you raised, and the name you established will remain.

Rest now, Papa Akoson.
Rest, Army Man.
Rest, Old Soldier.

You have fought your battles, completed your journey, and left your footprints in the lives of those who loved you.

May you rest in perfect peace.

◆

Sarah Bechem Tarh Akoson

Your loving wife, on behalf of our children, grandchildren,
and the entire Akoson Family



THE AKOSON FAMILY

Celebrating a Life of Service, Family and Legacy

LIMBE & BAKEBE · 4–6 DECEMBER 2026

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