

## TRIBUTE TO THE LATE LESLIE BECKETT BY MFANTSIPIM

*“Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the Lord your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you”*

*Deuteronomy 31:6*

Leslies Becket joined Mfantsipim School on 13<sup>th</sup> September 1955 as a Senior Physics Master, a post which he held until the end of his contract in September 1961. As one of a staff of thirty-four (34) with a responsibility for five hundred (500) boarders and thirty (30) day-boys, including ninety (90) boys of sixth form, he was a helpful member of the Mfantsipim community. Leslie was the housemaster of Schweitzer house.

He was hardworking and had the student interest at heart. From 1955 to 1961, he kept the work of his department under constant review and completed the re-writing of the syllabuses for the teaching of Physics for the third year upwards. Leslie maintained an effective and efficient Physics laboratory and made invaluable suggestions for the lay-out of the new block of laboratories. He helped to lay a firm foundation for the teaching of Physics in the school; and produced outstanding results in the Cambridge Higher School Certificate Examinations.

Leslie was one of the first expatriate non-missionary teachers to come to us under Government scheme to strengthen the staff of secondary schools in Ghana. Unfortunately, he had to leave us. Nationalist feeling mounted as the supply of African graduates from the University College of Ghana increased and the programme was fraught with some challenges. Hence the contract was not renewed for the third time.

He was gifted with a good sense of humour, tolerant and was eager to promote good human relationship. This made him stand tall.

Leslie Beckett contributed effectively and meaningfully to the success of the experiment (i.e. The Government Scheme to Strengthen the Staff of Secondary Schools in Ghana). He used all opportunities that came to him by virtue of his membership of staff committee or as a housemaster as well as in activities outside the school. He introduced the study of Astronomy and Electric construction work for the first time at Mfantsipim. Leslie had oversight of Student Christian Movement, Newton’s Club and Photographic Club. He was a member of the Chapel Committee. Outside the school he was a member of Advisory Panel on the teaching of Physics for the Ghana Association of Science Teachers. Moreover, he was the Conference Secretary of the Methodist Church Committee for Evangelisms of Northern Ghana.

We have lost a great man, a physics teacher par excellence. Leslie, your memories still remain with Mfantsipim. Your life was a blessing, your memory a treasure; you are loved beyond words and missed beyond measure.

We thank you for your part in our journey as school.

Leslie Beckett Due! Due! Damirefa Due! Due! Rest in Perfect Peace. Amen.

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*Leslie Becket was admitted to the Watford Peace Hospice a week before Christmas and died there in the early hours of Saturday, 23<sup>rd</sup> December, 2017. At a Thanksgiving Service held on Friday, 19<sup>th</sup> January, 2018 at 1.30pm at the Bushey and Oxhey Methodist Church, Watford this tribute was read on behalf of Mfantsipim.*