

## Oral History of Mahana Kodzo

Interview One, October 24, 2020

In this Oral History, Mahana Kodzo describes her growing up years with her sister and parents in the Accra region of Ghana. She shares her interests, joining the Cadet Corps, and doing an exchange program with the Duke of Edinburgh. She relates her University years and her year in Togo studying French. Her family was active in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints and she describes her activities growing up in the church. She describes college sports and winning a Silver medal in Badminton at the GUSA games. Mahana served in the National Service, teaching French and eventually became a Regional Secretary for the region. She was sealed in the Ghana LDS Temple, had two children and describes her devotion to her children. Her grandparents' homeland is explained.

Interview Two, November 10, 2020

In this second interview, Mahana talks of her faith, how COVID-19 has affected worship and her faith. When the lockdown was instituted, it was difficult for her little children because they enjoyed seeing their friends. The lockdown was enforced between March and September. She relates Sacrament Meeting on the porch with friends and her worry about contracting the virus.

Mahana Kodzo, another Ghanaian, has historically been an integral member of her LDS ward; teaching Primary each Sunday. She is raising two small children as a single mother and feels her responsibility deeply. Mahana admits it has been tough to maintain her spirituality during COVID. She attributes this to her loss of involvement in the church. Without a church responsibility or spiritual devotionals at work (she was working from home for a time), she struggles to find the motivation to study her scriptures. When the lockdown was finally lifted, she was reticent about returning to in-person church, remarking, "I felt a little easy. It was a tug of war." She feels like her spirituality has declined significantly and has a great desire to "improve." Mahana is hopeful and resolved to continue to learn and live the way she feels she should and be a good example to her children.

Diane Livingston, Interviewer, Utah State University Graduate Student  
December 14, 2020

Dr. Patrick Mason, professor  
History 6420

## Interview with Mahana Kodzo

### Part One

October 24, 2020

#### Time Stamp

- 5:17 Birth and growing up years in Kotobabi with sister
- 10:16 Childhood activities
- 13:13 Cadets Club and Corps
- 14:09 Exchange student
- 15:58 School years and studying French
- 21:55 Parents' conversion to Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints
- 22:24 Standards and growing up Mormon
- 25:54 Testimony of Jesus Christ
- 29:51 Badminton successes
- 31:09 Togo study abroad
- 34:34 National Service
- 38:04 Elected Regional Secretary
- 40:13 Professional work and getting her current job as HR mgr.for the Ghana Area Seventy.
- 45:56 Value of education and her aspirations
- 48:45 Marriage
- 54:23 Children
- 57:26 Her hopes for her children
- 1:00:27 Desires to improve
- 1:05:20 Grandparents native land
- 1:07:46 Sister

### Part Two

November 10, 2020

- 1:21 Description of Church services pre-Covid
- 4:21 Her son's reaction to the lockdown
- 9:30 Sacrament Meeting on the porch with friends
- 14:42 Tough to maintain spiritual life
- 17:22 Hesitant to return to church
- 25:22 Being with others in church is a better learning environment
- 27:04 Surprised that Come Follow Me was preparing her for home church
- 28:28 Operations of Bishop during COVID
- 30:23 Ward care of needy and closer bonds
- 35:09 Experience that taught her to be selfless