

AGNES

DARKO 55A-C SIDE A

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(Please, we shall start from the first) Yes

(Please, what is your name?) Please, my name is

Agnes Darko. (Please, how old are you?) Forty

eight years. (Please, your can you give us your

adress?) Box 3814 Kumasi (Please, were ~~did~~

was you born?) Asonomaso (Asonomaso, in Ashanti?)

Mm. (Ah. Please do you have a husband or

not?) I have a husband ehe-he. (Please, how

many children have you?) I have none for

myself. (Yes. Please, what is your job? Now, I

am running a store. (Yes, so you are doing

your own job?) Please, I do my own job.

(What type of job?) (Please, I run a store,

which (yes) I sell all types of vegetables.

(Yes) Then ^{one for} white men and the one for black

men [local and foreing vegetables] (Yes)

And I sell all kinds of provisions in this

country. Even, I have add flowers, a couple

of days ago. (So?) Yes. (Thank you very much

much) Please, what kind of work did you

start in first as a young woman?) Eh,

please, I was a tutur at Kumasi Academy.

(Then you was a teacher?) Yes, I am a

teacher. (Yes, thank you. Please, how did

you start your present business?) Mm,

the way I started, it was a miracle. It

was about '78', when everything was very

very hard, when many people have left

the country to Nigeria, (Yes) (Yes) I also

decided to leave. (Yes) But I am a Christian

so, one night, I decided to pray to God that

I am going to Nigeria (Yes) So, while I was

praying, God told me that, you Christians, who)

Says you are the lights in this country, and people are watching you, you are all leaving this country, so, Ghana would become dark. (Yes) So, I should not go. And I asked myself that, I should not go, my salary, my salary salary also cannot feed me. So what shall I do? I heard a voice in my ears that, there is a portion of land in front of you (yes) rise up, go and plant something on it, vegetable, and use it to supplement your income. (Yes, and use it to support you money problems) Yes, I should support it to my money problems. Then, I started to talk to God that ----- why did I attended school to become a graduate? And I heard a voice that, if you go to school, it doesn't mean that, if you are an educationist, you should not do any hand-work, so, I made up my mind that, yes, then, I will cultivate that portion of land which is in front of my house or my Bungalow and grow something. So, I decided to grow many things. Eh, garden eggs, okro, many fruits, or vegetables (Vegetables) vegetables, (yes) So, about three months later, the vegetables bear many fruits, I grew local and foreign ones. The foreign ones, it bear many fruits, something like lettuce, (yes) and cabbage. So, I didn't know what to do with the lettuce. I don't know whom I should give it freely, because many people don't know it, but the local ones, I gave it out freely, so, I made up my mind that, I would search for people to buy it

for me. At that time, there was a restaurant at Adam, it was called, Golden Key. (Yes) So, I ~~send~~^{brought} few to them, and YMCA, and they bought it, I was pleased with the money, and I said, Oh, this thing, It doesn't take too much time to grow, especially, Salad (Yes) So, I will continue to grow it, and I would use the money from it to buy seeds and the rest, that I would get from it to ~~buy~~ support my income, So, I started little by little, later, I saw that, there was an improvement, (Yes) So, I started to extend it, I was extending it what I did was that, I built a fence, I built a fence, (Yes) Then, when I noticed that it was improving, at first, we used watering can to collect water from the house to water vegetables, but when I saw ^{a little} ~~the~~ improvement, I made up my mind that, I would connect ^{Pipe} into the farm. So, at first, ~~I~~ I went to water and sewerage and arranged with them, and they came and connected pipe in the farm for me. (Yes) Then I bought water holes (Yes) and I noticed that, it was not fast, So, one day, as I was walking, I saw that, they were selling sprinkler (Yes) and ~~its~~ I also bought one (Please, what is sprinkler?) Eh, (Yes) it is a machine, type of machine, which we use to fix ^{the} water holes (Yes) so that the water can flow quickly (It sprinkles everywhere) It sprinkles everywhere. (Yes) It sprinkles everywhere, so I started. Later, I noticed that, ~~it~~ It ~~is~~ was increasing. (Mm) So, I started to

find ^{more} restaurants to buy it, especially my salad for me. (Yes) So, One time, I went to city hotel and asked (yes) and they decided to buy it, so I should bring some to them, so I arranged with them, and I sent some of it to them. Later, they noticed that, it disturbs them, If I go to school and teach, (yes) so they arranged with me that, If I am not around, they would come to the garden by themselves and pick it, and If I return, I would go to city Hotel and see what they picked, so that I would stop carrying it and it will reduce. (Yes) Yes, so, Eh, about 1979, maybe, it was only city Hotel, that can they can give me about two hundred cedis (yes) it was a huge money, (yes, at that time, it was huge) At that time, it was very huge, little by little, the farm ~~was~~ extending. (Yes) It was extending, that there was a land ~~around~~ which there ~~was~~ ~~no~~ without weeds, so If I build the fence, and watering the farm, then the back of the fence was growing weeds, so I was extending it to the back of the fence (yes) it means that, you are extending it) yes, I was extending it, I was extending it little by little, because the land was there so I was extending it, so I was extending the fence, maybe, eight times, if you come to garden, now, I am following, I have leave the land to rest. If you come, you would see this tree there, and that tree there, the place where I shifted the fence to get a very large land to grow eh, my vegetables. Then, the)

goods became more, and I couldn't find a place to sell it, (yes) a white man will call it market (yes) so, I decided to sell it myself (yes) so, how can I sell it? What I will do is that, early in the morning, I pick up the goods from the farm, at that time also the farm has become big, (yes) so, I had a little money, so I have ~~used~~ employed two labourers, or two workers. So, if they come to the farm in the morning, I also would pick what is --- the vegetables especially, the lettuce. (Mm) Later, I added cabbage and carrots and everything, all the vegetables to it. (Yes) And I picked and carried it by myself (Yes) At that time, I was Principal Superintendent of Education (yes) (So?) Yes (did you teach at the same time?) Yes, early in the morning, (yes) because, these items, they collect it in the morning, the restaurants, they need it early in the morning about 6:30 - 7 am, so that, they can ^{start} prepare their foods in time (yes) so, the labourers start work, early in the morning and I also would pick it early in the morning and send it to them quickly. At that time, I was Head of Department (yes) so what I did was that, I arranged all my subjects to afternoons. (Mho-ho-) (he-he-he) I arranged it all to the afternoons, so, if I am doing anything, and in the afternoon I go and teach so, I started to sell my ^{vegetables} ~~good~~ by myself, so I searched for some place, in front of somebody's store (yes) and placed my little

table. That was the beginning of my forcing. When I sent my table to that place for a while, I noticed that, it was improving very quickly, for about six months, so, the owner of the store ~~enjoy~~ the goods, (yes) so, one day, when I returned from school, Kumasi Academy, she had told, --- I had employed somebody, I have employed a girl who was selling on the table. She had told the girl to move from the place, so, they had ~~collected~~ ^{sent} all our goods to, Eh, if the store is here there was a street between it, and she has placed it in the street, the land is for the city counsel, some empty space, so, I stood there quietly and said, I think that, what I am doing is good, (yes) myself, I always write down my aim, (yes) My objectives, (yes) every six months, I write down what I want my job to be, so, I had written down what I want my job to be, I have determined that, I am coming to open a very big grocier, that was my vision (yes) so, when I returned to see that, they have thrown away my goods, I became very sad. I stood there quietly, and I asked myself, that, who is the Regional minister in this city? I will go and tell him that, it is a good thing, so he must give me a place to stay and sell my goods, (yes) When I went there, it was Mr. M-H. Teboa (yes) who was the Regional Minister, then (yes) so I talked with him seriously, and I determined, that, if he did not give me

Some place to sell my goods, I will not go. Because, they are the people who have asked us to ~~do~~ do away with ^{the} middle men (yes) yes, if I send the goods to them, women, if they buy it for, one penny, they sell it at a very (high price) very high price, so, I will not ~~give~~ ^{sell} it to them, ~~so~~ I will sell it direct to the people, so, he must give me some place to stay, so, ~~he~~ because of this story, he ~~became~~ was disturbed, ^{if} he go this way, I go that way, if he go this place, I go that way, so, he ~~gave~~ ^{handed} me to the City Counsel that, they should find a place for me to stay and the city Counsel executive Chairman also asked me to search through-out Kumasi and choose a place, where I believe there is a land (mho-ho) so, I search at Adum, Unicorn house (yes) that place was formerly Tech taxi station (yes) there was a rectangle ~~that~~ at that place (yes) yes, if you saw that somebody was selling salad and cabbage and (true) vegetables, so, I went and stood on the land, and said oh, it will be good, if I come and sell my things. "Strangely enough" or miracle, they said, go and bring your table here and sell, myself, even, I couldn't believe that, I would get that land because, it ~~is~~ was very near the city center I haven't seen anybody, who is staying there selling his/her goods, so I went and placed my table there. When I sent it there, the sun was destroying my goods, the vegetables, and I know that, if I go to city counsel to,

(88)

ask them to allow me to build a kiosk, nobody would allowed me to do it, so, I did not go. So myself, one Saturday, when the men from city counsel came, I have built up my own kiosk, it was there, and I was waiting for the person, who would come and asked me. Nobody came to asked me anything. (Mho-ho) Nobody came to asked me anything, and I stayed there. And the business was improving, it was improving, so, I called my ~~my~~ real mother to come and take care of the job for me, and I employed three worker, three persons (yes) two girls, one boy and my mother, so they took care ^{of it} for me, at that time also, the business was out of hands. They buy the goods very quickly so, the goods from my farm were few, so my mother also, goes out to find some. He went to, Eeh, the towns around Kumasi, Kwadaso, Agric, Eem, Ohwim, Eem, Atonsu, everywhere, we went and bought some of it and add ~~to~~ it. So the job extended, and I asked one of my brother also, to resign and join my mother, my brother. And untill then, I did not stop my job, I still continued to teach, and it was about "88". It was at that time when they started ~~to~~ destroying kiosk (yes) yes ^{during} "88" one day, I returned from school and Agyekum has marked my kiosk, that they must pull it down. And I made up my mind that, even, if they destroy everybody's kiosk, they would not destroy my kiosk (Mho-ho) because, I believe that, what I am)

doing is right, and it would help this country in future. And myself, I believe seriously in God, so if there is any problem, I shut myself ~~inside~~ indoors and pray seriously, so the day they destroyed ~~the~~ kiosks, I did not come ^{to that place} at all. When I came, I prayed continuously, and God told me that, when the Israelites were going leaving (yes) He told them to kill a Lamb and use the blood to make signs on their doors, so that, if the Angels are coming to destroy the Egyptians, and they see the blood, they would pass ~~by~~ over (yes) So, I told that, my kiosk also, He has covered it with His Blood, so, if Agye Kum and his followers see it, they should pass over (yes) and I believed it. So when I came, they have destroyed everybody's ~~kiosk~~ table, but my was there. (Mho-ho - Oh, God has done well) it was there, (yes) So, when I came, Agye Kum told me that, I must remove my Kiosk from that place, and I also asked him that, where should I placed it? I have no-where to place it. So, the then executive Chairman told me that, I should go and search for a place, which I believe is good for me by myself, so that they can help me to remove my kiosk to that place. So, I saw some place, near the Post office (yes) And Agye Kum and his men helped me (He asked you to removed it?) He told me to removed it ~~the~~ Himself and ^{all} the workers, so they removed the kiosk nicely and placed it, somewhere, near the Post Office, and they arranged

the kiosk for me. And I have determined that, Eh, I don't mind, whether I moved from place to place, I will run the groceries. And during the time, ^{that} they were arranging the kiosk I became sick. So, when I became sick, I left it there for so many months. And I asked my mother to bring the kiosk to me at home, it is at South Suntreso (yes) So I moved the kiosk to that place, and said, if I get well, I will start my work again. So, when regain a bit of strength, (mm) I went and search for Eh, Regional Town Planning, and they gave me a site at Bekwai round - about, (yes) opposite Jofel, (mm) (yes, where you come and pick me, (yes) where you park your car, there was a restaurant called Jofel (aka) (there was a restaurant) So, I got a land at that place and moved my kiosk to that place again. When I moved my kiosk there, I started selling my goods and I was ^{also} working in my garden and I have employed labours, the work and brought the good, and they bought it, and it started to improve again. Again, I supplied some of the goods to City Hotel, and I supplied some to Atlantic Hotel, Takoradi (Mm?) Yes, it was improving, again, the law came again to destroyed kiosk (mho-ho) and the owner of Jofel Restaurant was the engineer, he has arranged that, they must remove all of us. And I also determined that if they did not destroyed Jofel, I would not understand them to destroyed my kiosk. (Mho-)

(yes) So, I ask all of us to do something like structure, so that it can help him to stay or overcome the economy, (yes) yes And you, because you have money, you have run a big restaurant, and if I ~~have~~ get money, I shall also do it big. Then it was very serious. So, one day, it became very serious, I went to City Council, when I told them my story, nobody took it serious. I went to Regional Office, then Mr. Ansah, the Deputy Regional Minister and told him my story. He also didn't take my story seriously, so, I went and attacked the executive Chairman, then Enock Mensah, (yes) I told them my story, I went to meet all the, what do we call them? Eh, Assembly members (yes) at Prempeh Assembly Hall. I told them all my story, I wrote all my story, my story, even, if you need a copy, I will give it to you. (Yes) I wrote it all, and gave it to them, then, I noticed that, I will not get any good ~~answers~~ result, so I decided to go to the Head of State, to Rawlings at Accra. (Ehe-he) and tell him, so one day, Eeh, the Deputy Town Planning, who was at Post, who draw my plan of my land for me, came and told me that, because of my land, they want to transfer him, because, people have worked underground, (Aoi) why he gave that place to me, (yes) and the boy was crying. The boy, also, I taught him at Kumasi Academy. So, I asked him that, Asare, Do you believe in God? Remember that, my work

would not destroy. You ~~would~~ also, would not be transferred. So I asked him to go and see whether the plane has take off. So, he returned and told me that, it would take off at eleven. So, I didn't went home at all. So, I took my bag and went to the market, and I bought one or two things and put it in. So, as soon as I arrived, the plane also has arrived and it has left few minutes to take off, and I was panicing, I don't know what to do. So, I run to where they sell the tickets, as I looked, I saw a boy, whom I taught him at Kumasi Academy, he was the Manager (Yes) (He-he-he- ~~this~~ is the profit of a teacher Ofori Newman. And I told him my story, he said, wait, Miss. So, he went and gave them a sign, so that the plane don't take off. So, he bought the ticket and prepare everything quickly for me and see me off. And they salute, and the plane took off. I was going, but I don't know the castle, (Mho-to!) I don't know what to do, I prayed continuously I sat near a certain chief, not knowing that he was also going to the castle area, (mm) So, he ~~showed me~~ directed me, and ^{when} I reached the castle, I met the secretary for information first, he asked me that, what do you want I said, I am going to see Rawlings, Chairman Rawlings (Mm) ~~As soon as he listened to my story, he told them to sent me to his wife at 31 December (EET?) Yes, that area, so they sent me to~~ (Mho-to - ha-ha) He asked, what is your

mission? I said, it is personal (ha-ha-ha) so, when I was talking to him, finally, I reached Eh, Chairman Rawlings. (Mm) So, as soon as he listened to my story, he told them to sent me to his wife at Eeh, 31st December (Eeh?) Yes, that area, so they took me to West African Exam's council (yes) at 31st offices (mm) so, his wife also handed me to Emmy Johnson, her secretary (yes) yes, so I told all my story to Emmy Johnson, and she asked ~~me~~ for the letter which contains all my story. I gave the letter to her, and she said, go, for you will get your reply. So, when I returned in the following morning, Kwasi Agyemang run and search for me, and told me that, Agyemang Rawlings has asked me to find a place for you to stay (mho-ho) (because, you are special) (he-he-he) So, the will bring me to Kingsway store (yes) At that time, there was nobody at that place? The women were there (Aaa) All the women, all the women who sells vegetables^(yes) were there. So, I told Nana Kwasi that, I will not go to that place, Kingsway, the women from the North, they are very wild (yes) so, I can't. (The Northners, they are very wild) The Northners, they are very wild, so I cannot stay with them at that place. But Nana Kwasi, he helped me a lot, he talked to me very seriously, so I decided to go^{even} in this, I didnt want to go Because of this, I told Nana Kwasi that, I have no money to remove my kiosk to Kingsway, Nana Kwasi ~~re~~ replied, the Counsel)

will remove it for you (he-he-he, ei, then it was very serious) So, when ~~do~~ would you move?

And I said, Thursday, I remember the ~~day~~ ^{date} very well. He said, I will bring people to help you to gather all your belongings. So, when I was leaving on Thursday morning, Nana Kwasi had brought ~~about~~ Northness or City Counsel worker about thirty, to my kiosk, they came to help me to pull the kiosk down. They didn't pulled it down. They ~~it~~ put it on a truck, (on a truck) They packed all my belongings ~~and~~ in a car. They brought all ~~my~~ my belongings, they brought the kiosk to Kingsway. When we were coming, Nana Kwasi bossed me that, they will place my kiosk in front, so, I believed that, they would place it in front, so that I could get many people to buy my goods more, customers. As soon as they placed my kiosk, the women, the women from the North, they picked rods, if this one throw it to this end, we will not agree, we will not allow her to place it ~~to~~ here, they threw it here, and they threw it there. So, Agyekum looked at the scene quietly. But God bless me through Agyekum. He said madam, place it at the end, and even, there is a mango tree there, which will give you ~~shade~~ ^{on} your vegetables, because of the shade that will protect my vegetables, that gave me a lot of customers (yes) So, I removed the kiosk from that place, and I placed it there and I arranged the kiosk and started my business. And, ever since I went there, "89" the end of '89' up to this time. When I went

to that place, the problems are too much, you will ask, so, if you reach on the problems, I will tell you. Eeh, I was in the kiosk, it didn't take long, and the Government decided to built stores for us (yes) So, when I went to that place, it was after two years that the Government, or city Counsel, built the new shops, when they were also building it, they handed all the building and everything to me, I was the Eeh, aviation officer between city counsel and the women, infact, I was their Secretary (yes) So, they allowed me to built all the stores. I settled in my store for about six months, but the women still stayed in their kiosks, I rose up again and went ~~to~~ up and down to the Regional Minister, before they gave the rest of the stores to the women. That was how I started my business, and (yes) little by little, again, when I started my business also, many people came to buy my goods, especially those who worked on Cape-Coast - Takoradi road, (yes) Some Japanese Company, infact, they were the people who helped me to get improvement in my business (so?) Yes. They come and buy the goods, they buy different types of goods, maybe, three hundred thousand cedis at once (so? - where did they sent it?) Eeh, they sent the goods - and they have built a camp at Dompase (ah) they were working on the roads (yes) so it was the food that they eat (yes) yes, I ~~taught~~ thought that, you will asked about the

business again? (yes) yes, so let us go on.
 (We thank you very much. You started very very well. Please, what difficulties or problems did you have in your business?) When I started I ~~got~~^{had} many difficulties, when I started. I had ~~physical~~ physical problems (so?) social problems, economic problems, moral problems, I had a lot of them, let me explain it, especially, social problems. As ~~go~~ soon as I started to cultivate my garden, (yes) it did not take long, I was staying at South, all the people around that area said, look oo, the tutor who lives here, she is going mad (yes) she is going mad (yes) (yes, she understand) yes, why? When she gets up, she would stand in front of her house and grow flowers. The lettuce which I was growing, (they thought it was flowers) yes, it was flowers. She is going mad o, oo, a nice person like this, she is going mad. A person who teaches at a secondary school, when she gets up, she is ~~growing~~ growing flowers, but they did not know what I was growing, the rumor about the madness was increasing (That means, if you are a teacher, you must not do farm work.) That means if you are a teacher (if you are educated) if you are a teacher (farming) you must not do eh, farm work (yes) (yes) yes, so, if I go to the farm and doing the work at the farm, they feel that, I am going crazy. (Yes-) (Mm) Do you understand it? (Yes) They said I am going mad, so in fact, it was so embarrassing)

Everywhere I go, people will look at me. (Aha-ha, -ha) Especially, early in the morning if I picked my goods and carry it on my head by myself, and going to supply it to the restaurants, before I go to school, they say ooh, this madam, she is going mad. (Ehe-he-he-) And it worried my mother, so they wanted to know, whether it is true, maybe, they send me to a place like Ankarfo (Ao, sorry - yes) and I told my mother that, they would know, if I am really mad, or they have rather go mad, time will tell (yes) So, I ~~was~~ returned back and prayed to God that, what you told me to do, when I am doing it, people say that I am mad. And God also answered, My son Jesus Christ, they told Him that He was a drunkard (yes) they said that He ~~was~~ eats too much, He was^a mad-man, - a mad person. If you call yourself a Christian, and I have shown you something which would be^{come} something big, and in ~~the~~ its beginning, they say you have become mad, why don't you wait (yes) So I prayed to God that, in future, He must allow all my neighbors come to my house and buy some of my Sabaal (mm) So that, they may know that, a mad person has worked (ehe) and they are coming to buy, do you understand that? (Yes) Mm, So, EEm, that the first problem I had, this is social problem. In the country, everywhere, ooh, the woman, what is she doing? I am going mad,

So, Eeh, director of Education called me, and told me that, if I did not stop carrying the goods I used to carry (Ehe-he) and ^{the} selling, at that time, I was Principal Suprentendent of Education, they would demout me (So?)

(yes)

(Ao) And I told them to demout me, I will carry my goods (Ehe-he) because, it was better for me to do my own job like this, than to become a prostitute (yes) Its better that way (yes) So, I didnt mind anybody, and I continued. Economycally also, I saw that the job was good, (yes) but, if you want to expand, you have no capital (yes) and you have no capital to use - or you have no money to do the work, so sometimes, I face economic problems, sometimes, I go to prisons and hire labours (yes) mm, and work in the farm for me, Eeh, If you go and hired them to work for you, it involve a lot of money. Sometimes, I dont get, Economic Problems. Again, I also believe that physical problems, EEM, I have already told you that, I became sick very seriously (ah) on and off - on and off for about four years (So?) and I believed that, it was that hard work which I did, and ~~mixed~~ combined teaching to it. It was tiredness. (It was too much of tiredness) Yes, it was too much of tiredness. Because, the Doctor told me that I got a desease called coliatese (aa, its true) they told me that, Coliatese, its major course ~~was~~ is Streach, (true) tension and tiredness. So, when I started the job, if it were now,)

maybe I could not do it, because, if you grow a bit old, and do hard work, you cannot do it, but when I started ^{almost} about fifteen years ago (yes) I was very strong. So, I had so many problems, that is problem of marketing, if you place your kiosk here, they would ~~not~~ tell you to take it away, my kiosk, in Kumasi here, I took it from place to place, one by one, - seven times (mm?) If I placed it here, they say, take it away, if I placed it here, they say go away, if I placed it here, they say, take it away, but I was ^{never} not discouraged. I had some confidence that, I will open the biggest groceries of its kind (yes) in the whole of Kumasi, and in fact it would come before I die. (Yes) Yes, so, Eeh, these are some of the problems I faced (yes) (Please, your business is somehow hard, has your husband ever objected to your business activities or helped you in your business?) Eeh, please, at the time I was doing all these hard work, I had no husband so, (yes) there was no man, who helped me (aa) or anybody who objected to my business (O.K.) At the time I started my, - should I say it like that? (Yes) At the time, I started my business, I was not married (aah, O.K.) So, there was no man, who helped me. (You had no husband) Yes (And you have said that, you would not allowed you to do) or (and problems and so on) marriage. (Thank you very much. Please, what helped you to move forward in your business?) Determination,

Em, I have read about

I believed that, what helped me was determination (yes) determination, Em, I have read about many people in the history, who determined, and their jobs were prosperous (yes) in the whole world. I have read about somebody like Ellen White, (yes) the founder of the SDA Church (aha) Yes, though, I am of a member of SDA, I am a Presbyterian (yes) but that woman, determined very seriously that, she will do something for the SDA church, (yes) and I read about her life-history (yes) It helped me a lot. Determination, and again, when I read the Bible also, some people's ^(Em) characters, some are like Joseph (yes) yes, in fact myself, my life is like Joseph, I am like him in my family so everyday, I compell my life to Joseph, and my life is exactly like Joseph. I will tell ~~the~~ everybody in Ghana (yes) that, everyday I remember Joseph, how his brothers sold him, how they disturbed him, what they did to him, Joseph, how he went into prison. I am doing my business, I am doing it, I am lifting it up and it is falling down, they say I am mad, they say, I have done this, and I am doing it, I am going up. And one special thing, after all his disturbances, later he got married and had two children, they are called Efrain and Manaseh (yes) So, Joseph God promised me ^{that} in ^{all} my crisis and problems, last minute, He would give me a husband, I will also have two children, Efrain and Manaseh, (yes) so, Joseph is a person, who

gives me courage seriously, and Hannah. If you read the story of Hannah, if you at Hannah, They say, Hannah prayed that, She said, God! He lift a very very poor person from from garbage, and He lift him up and place him/her at a place where Kings and Queens eat! Halleluia (Amen) (Yes) God has done something for me. How God arranged, and suddenly gave me a Judge to marry (yes) I am sure, if we reach that portion, its a mystery (~~Thank~~ Thank you very much) I will tell you the whole story (Thank you. Please, in your business, by the grace of God, have you been able to acquire any property because of your business?) Yes, Eh, this very store, it belongs to me. (yes) The whole store, the items would be over ten million and above. My own capital (That means there is nobody's money included?) Nobody's money is included, because I retired on health grounds, (yes) ~~when~~ ^{since} I retired, nobody have given me half penny, I have not recieved my entitlement (yes) (Have you not recieved it?) yes, I haven't recieved it, so I have nobody to do what? half penny, but now, in my business the wealth and the items in it, it would be worth over ten million, and all of it, is what? It is my own money (Ehe-he) My own capital, again, also ££m, I dont know, that one would come, Eh, because, I don't have children of my own, my ^{sisters} children, what ^{do} they called it? Nieces, (yes) yes, I have looked after all my sisters children (Have patience, we will reach that portion ~~£~~ yes, lets finish this one first) Yes.)

(Thank you. Please, in your business, Eeh, Has the business enabled you to help family members or other business?) (Like your nieces) Yes, the first one is my brother, he is a graduate in agric (yes) I have asked him to resign from his post, he is at the store now I have team up with him (yes) As I am sitting here, he is also at the store --- Eeh, I take it like, I am the ~~managress~~ (Mm) --- he is the accountant, (yes) of the business, and I am also, I take it like, I am the Managress (Mm) --- Again, Eeh, also, the children of my sister are with me, (yes) (are they staying with you?) They ~~stayed~~ with me, and I ^{used some of} ~~used~~ the money in my business to look after ^{at} them. Now, two of them are in Canada. (True) Canada, (yes) and the business also look after my mother, and it also looks after my father, Infact, it is the business that looks after ~~the~~ almost the whole family (OK. Thank you. Please, your children whom you are talking about them, your brothers/sisters children, your children whom you are talking about them, Eeh, have any of your children joined you in your business?) The last one was with me (yes) but he has left for Canada, Eeh, he ~~went~~ left for Canada about two years ago, one ~~of~~ them was with me in the business, but he has gone to Canada, two years ago. (Please, have you trained any other woman in your business?) I have trained about nine girls (yes) I have trained about nine girls, Eeh,)

some of them were in the business (yes) even, one of them is doing the same work at * Takoradi (yes) (thank you very much) (Are they growing lettuce?) Eeh, no, they sell (Do they sell?) Mm. (At this time, how can a woman grow and sell at the same time? Because of the crisis, maybe, she would buy and sell) Eeei, do they buy it and sell?) (Thank you. Please, if any young woman come to you for advice about starting this kind of business, what would you tell her?) The first advice I would give to her is that, if she is very serious, and wants to do this kind of work, and wants to be prosperous, then she must be like a dumb person about what the public would say (Mm) (Yes) like as they said that, Eeh, I am going mad, Eeh I am going mad, educated person who is doing this, ~~that~~ infact, she must be a deaf to human. That means, deaf to public opinion (She must not listen to what people would say) She must not listen to what ~~every~~^{any} body would say, rather, she must be serious about what she has made up her mind she would do, and what she has determined to do. Again, advice I will give to her is that, she must be very humble so that, if she mix with them, she can do the business. (Thank you very much. Please Eeh, how does your life differ from that of your mother and grandmother?) I believe that there are more difference (Mm) Because, my)

grandmother (yes) first, she never attended school, again, she was an ideal worshipper (yes) so, she was living, I take it like, ⁱⁿ a different culture (yes) But now, also, myself, I have attended school. You see? Again, I don't worship ~~ΣEh~~, Idols (yes) I am a Christian, you see? So, the way, -- and Christianity also is a way of living (yes) yes, and Ideal worshiping also or worshipping of Idols also is a way of living. So, the way they used to live, I believed that, it is very different, from how I live. ~~ΣEh~~, my grandmother, even she had a problem, what is the meaning of problem in Twi? (Maybe, she was in crisis, tribulations) If she had ~~Σ~~ some problems, she would go and worship a stone or ~~ΣEh~~, in front of a tree (or mud) Yes, or in front of some mud and tell it. Myself also, if I had any problem or something else, I will kneel down, I will pray through Jesus Christ and tell God. (Yes) This is the very way or the difference between me and my grandmother. And my mother also, ~~ΣEh~~, my mother did not attend school, but my mother was a Christian. Her father or my grandfather was a Christian, so she was trained as a Christian, so my mother has trained us, as Christians up till this time, so my mother, I have one character with her seriously (Yes) But she never attended school, but she attended night school (yes) so, she can read, she can read her Bible (OK) (yes)

Basil

If she takes the Hymn book, she can sing. (Yes) (She is my church Basil member) (yes) mho-ho- (Please, thank you very much. And in your business also, what is the difference between them, what is the little difference?) About the business of my mothers and mine? (Yes, your grandmothers time-past life, we want to say something little about it. What How does their business differ from yours?) Yes, my grandmother was a farmer (yes) (Yes) Yes, there is a difference. She was eh, cedentary farmer, I am sure, if they grow the food, they eat it by themselves, maybe ^{it is} only one day that they sell some of the goods from the farm to buy salt or something little, which they need, cloth (yes) yes, my mother also, she used to travel to the North and buy yams (yes) she travels, she buy yams from North and bring it to Kumasi market (ah, bode?) Bode, yes, she come and sell it yes, my mother did this business continuously even, I have written a book about it, when I was writing my teases, (yes) yam production in Ejura area (So, eei?) Yes, ehe-he. (Please, let me ask this, Please, is your mother still alive?) Yes, my mother is still alive. (Does she sell yams in the market?) Yes, but we have stoped her, we have asked her to rest for a while. (Yes) (Please, when did she stopped?) Eh, my mother, even, she has not stopped at all, we dont want her to go --- NO - FAKK - ---)

(Would a young woman today be able to start as you started?) Eeh, (Today's young women?) I believe that, if somebody can start, myself, what helped me to start, was my Christian faith, (yes) I believe that, in this present days, some of the young women also, have the same faith, so the same God, who helped me, He is still alive (yes) I believe that, if somebody have strong faith in God and ~~the~~ determination (yes) she also, can start (true) ~~the~~ as I started. (Aed) Thank you very much. Why the change / difference in this present society?) Hmm, as at now? (Yes) I feel that, at first, Eeh, if you have any story in Ghana, it cannot reach anywhere, but now, Mass Media have improved very very good (yes) Communication System, television (yes) If there is a case here now, the whole world would hear it with in five minutes (yes) So, no society is isolated as such (yes) We are inter-related (yes) so so, each one of us hear his/her brothers' story, so Eeh, -- again, at first we would say that, everybody has his/her own culture (yes) maybe, Africa have her ^{own} culture, European have her own culture, but now, it is not like that, Culture is inter-related (yes) yes because, we are going up and down in abroad the white men also are coming to us, exchange programme, so Eeh, there is Eeh, Communication System have changed, the mass media have changed, modern equipment like video, television,

If something happens now, you can see it. If they are playing football now at, EEM, maybe at Brazil or in other country or any where at Abroad, and if I am watching, I can see it live and give comment, so many things has changed, EEM, "Please, ask your question again" (Please, what has brought^F the change?) yes (what difference in this present society?) yes, what has brought the differences is the change of in mass media (yes) yes, and the change^M communication also has improved (yes) yes. Somebody can pick a telephone^{now} and talk with somebody in Canada, or somebody in America. It was not like that at first, even, if you put your letter in a letter box at Post Office, maybe, for one month, the person may not received it, so, the communication system was not good. Again, also, infrastructure (yes) infrastructure means that, EEM, roads (yes) have improved, hospitals have improved, EEM, infrastructure hospitals, (yes) roads, EEM, (education) education is not infrastructure (ae) yes, so infrastructure also have changed very very good, so many things also have changed. I believe that, changes in infrastructure, or, let me keep it like that, they would understand by themselves, (yes) That also has brought many changes^M, EEM, our country. (What are your regrets in life?) EEM, yesterday, I was talking about this question with my husband. In fact, if somebody is a very good Christian, he/she have no regrets in life, (which - is) yes --- The Bible says, those, who rely on God, Romans "8-28")

Those who loves God, all things go well with them, (yes) so ^{maybe} myself, maybe, I thought that I want to marry at a very young age (eh) but I did not have the marriage (yes) Σ Eh, I prayed, I started praying, I started praying about my marriage from "71" (yes) but if it did not come, I have ~~asked~~ ^{asked} God, Σ Em, if you ask something from God, He ~~do~~ gives you the answer at His own proper time, so, I feel that, I must not say that ^{oh} I have regrets that I did not get married, when I was young. (Yes) so women, you know that, our only problem is the marriage and even, if you never got married, and if you are not married, how can ^{you} think about how to get a child, (yes) do you understand? so to me, I have no regrets in life. (Yes, thank you very much. Please, ^{my} dear, what has been your happiest moment in life?) Please, are we in number six? (Yes, please, number five) (five) Aah, yes (Your happiest moment in life, somebody may say, that, the day that they put me through "bragors" somebody may say, the day that I brought forth, or the day I got married, somebody: - the # day that my brother returned from abroad, you see?) I am coming (remember it by yourself) I have two big days in my life (OK) (yes) ehe-he) The first big one is '1971' the day I was converted into Christianity (true) (yes) I was very very happy (yes) And three weeks just ^{the} Sunday, I got married. (Ha-ha-ha) (so?) (three weeks?) Only few days ago (Oh, fine) (Oh, fine) I got married to a Judge, and I very happy. (Oh-oh) a long awaited prayer (oooh) (ha-ha-ha-) (Oh, fine) (God was saving you)

for a Judge) (yes) (he-he-hm-hm) (Thank you very much. Please, the number six) Mm (Who has influenced you most in your life?) Yes, a certain lady, she is called Florence Yeboa, (yes) Garco Ladies, (yes) I mean, if you have heard her name before, (yes) Ante Florence, she is a Presbyterian (Eh, Florence Yeboa, Florence Yeboa, (yes) She is a very influential Christian, (yes) and in fact, she was the one, who helped me to stand in my Christian faith (Mm) (yes) yes, and sometimes, because of problems and difficulties; I remember, one day, I collected my Bible and throw it to her that, she must collect my Bible, (mno-ho) I would not serve God again, and this woman asked me why? I said, have no clothes, I have no dress, I have no shoes, I mentioned many things, she looked at me quietly, and she opened her wardrobe, and ~~toot~~ pick up a portament~~ant~~ from it, she pick this one, she put it inside, if she pick this, she put it inside, she loaded itⁿ full. When she finished, she said, you have no cloth, you have no shoes, you have no dress, if it is this, that you won't serve Jesus, I share all I have with you. (Ehe-he) This makes me come down, I knelt down and cried very ~~seriously~~ very loudly (You was surprised) and I picked up my Bible in shame, and I said, even, I don't like the items she has given me. (Ehe-he) but she forced me to take it, and I never turned back (yes) and I continued to serve God. (Ehe-he) And she gave me courage very seriously, because, she has a very inspiration, she have)

Something in her ~~mouth~~ mouth, which gives me ~~courage~~ courage. (yes) (Thank you very much. Please, we are on number seven.) Yes (Mm, Eem, do you feel fulfilled in life?) Mm, Eem, in my business, I have plans for----- The name of my store is Ebenezer Groceries (True) Every six-months----- I have long term don'ts and objectives (yes) Ee, fifteen years, (yes) yes, then I have short term don'ts and objectives. But of late, what I have realise is that, because of the economic inflation and problems and difficulties, sometimes, my aim are not fulfilled (true) because, formerly maybe I took one million to store to buy goods I can buy many things, but now, I cannot, I cannot, so, sometimes, I feel that, I am in crisis it seems to me like, the business is not improving as I like it to be yes. (So, now, you are not very sure that you are fulfilled as you like it.) Yes (Thank you very much. Please, How has the current economic situation affected affected your life?) Please, where are we? (Please I am in number eight.) - - - - -

- - - - - DISCUSSION - - - - -

Now, how my mother cared for me, in all my life, I made up my mind that, I wanted to built a house for my mother (yes) as you know the Ashanti women, what they like, (yes) If she die and we laid her in state, and become satisfied, that means, her child have done what? looked after her. (Mho-ho-) But now, my preparations, don't move's fast (yes) the price of cement has gone very very high (yes) you cannot know how,

you are going up, there is no improvement in the business, there is not much improvement. as I wanted it to be, yes (So, the economy, now, because of the high prices of goods, you have not been able to do what you have decided to do?) Yes, economy - Prices of goods are very very high, Eeh, inflation, everything has ~~become~~ gone bad. If you buy anything, the price is very very high, so, if you take a lot of money, even, if you want to buy cement, you buy only a few, so, if you ~~to~~ mould few blocks, it got finish. If you hired a mason, he would charge a lot of money, he would do a little work. If you go and buy woods for your house. If you buy few woods, Eeh, all the money got finished. So, what I wanted to do, it does not move fast (yes) yes. (Please, now, what has changed most in the community and the general society/ country for the past 10 years?) Mmm, I think that, I will talk about Pros and Cons, you see? I will first say something, EE, maybe, for the past ten years, changes that has come into this country first, example is - at first, most of the villages, there were some of the villages, many of them, there are no lights (yes) lights; but now, if you look at the villages, most of them have lights, or they call it what? Rural electrification, isn't it? (yes) yes, again if you look at most of the villages, they have ~~no~~ pipe water (yes) these are some of the changes that have come to the villages. But if you look into it in generally, also, Eeh, there are many problem in this country for the past ten

years (yes) Some of ~~them~~ them are, unemployment (yes) yes, many people walk around, and they have no work to do, they have deployed most of them from their jobs, these have resulted into these former strikes and many many things (yes) unemployment, again, if you look, Privatization Eeh, that means, nowadays, the Government have given ^{most of} the jobs to Private people, for example, now City Hotel, who are my costumers, they are my big costumers, the work base is shaking, because, the Government wants to sell it.

(So?) Yes, the Government wants to sell it (Even, they say that, he has already sell it) yes

(So?) The Government wants to sell it to the Private companies yes, this, it would bring more crisis, because it would increase the unemployment rate. (So?) Yes. Again, the population have increased, it has gone up very seriously, it was not like that at first. (yes) Again, in education also, there are many changes. In our time, we had no this JSS (Yes) But this educational system, it has changed totally, this also, EEm, because, the educational system has changed,

education ~~it~~ has become short age, so, because we want to change it, it has brought so many problems, for instant, last year, most of the children failed, this JSS drop outs (yes) they we don't know what they are doing, Eeh, there is a problem at ----- There are many problems, because, we don't know what we are doing ----- fit in. Again, also, this JSS and ----- Eh, the programme, though it is very good, but lack of equipment

also, it is not effective, (true) especially, if you go to the rural areas, I think that, yesterday, I read in a newspaper that, one of the towns ----- when I was awaiting to for this interview to come on, I read in a news paper that, there is a town at Kwaiwu area, there is only one teacher at that place (yes) (the whole school?) The whole school, only one teacher (What can he do?) So, how can the JSS, (You cannot teach) You cannot teach the subjects. How can the JSS goes up (JSS, and one teacher?) Yes, six schools, six classes, one teacher, (He would teach all the subjects - mho-ho) And he is in this school, how can it become good? So, there would be an educational changes (yes) And again, also, high prices that is coming, high cost of food, the prices of food has gone up very high for the past ten years, (yes) and the cost of living has gone up very very high, I am sure that they would understand, because I cant explain it in twi (yes, its nothing) and high inflation rate also has gone up very very high, and again, Eeh, low wages and salaries, (yes) ~~expe~~ especially, government workers, ~~the~~ the money they receive, they cant use it as chop money, even, chop money (true) So, how can you save some of it to build a house to stay in, and mass -----

END OF AGNES DARKO SIDE A

And mass unemployment, most of the people have no jobs, most of them, this one walks around, this one walks around, it is unfair, and again, the bills in the hospitals has gone up very high, now, if you go to the government hospitals, Eeh, they say we should pay for it, and we pay. (Oh, we pay) if you don't paid ~~yes~~, hospital fees has become very very high. If you go to the private hospitals, then you are dead, it is worst, so people die regularly, because, if he/she is sick, he/she cannot go to the hospital to pay medical fare, again, also, high poverty rate (yes) there is poverty in this country, very, very seriously, there is poverty here, Eeh, as if that, there was no poverty in this country for the past ten years ago. (So?) yes. Again, also, Eeh, if somebody is working as a teacher, you see that, he is very-very confident (yes)(yes) but now, he has no confident, because, even, if he is in the classroom, he/she is thinking about the chop money, ^{that} she/he would (ah) eat, her salary cannot satisfy her, if her husband add his salary to it, also, this also, -- I feel that these are some of the problems, that (yes) has come into this country (At what time did the poverty came seriously? You see that, ten years ago, it was "85" so "84-83" there was poverty) yes (So, at what time did the poverty came very seriously?) The poverty, nobody can say that, the poverty came here at once (true) It started little by little and later, it became)

more (yes) Mho-ho-ho (yes) (Thank you very much
 Eh, how have women's and men's views in the
 African context on marriage changed over the
 years? Which changes have been positive? What
 changes still need to take place?) I believe that
 about our marriage problems, it is changing
 Eh, to some extent, because, at first, you
 cannot hear that most of the women register
~~their~~ their marriages (yes) or, what is the meaning
 of registration of marriage? This means (I
 think, we would come to that portion, so
 take your time) (yes) (We would come to that
 place) Ah, yes, ah, I believe that, there are
 changes in our marriages, most of the women
 (yes) I believe that it has changed, so, if we
 reach that portion, I would say it (Yes, OK.
 There are changes; which one of them have
 improved, or there is something which we should
 add to it? Is the changes ^{very} good, and firm, or
 still, we must add something to it, before it
 become complete?) It has not stand very
 firm, (yes) I think that, Christianity is trying to
 help that, maybe, polygamy would stop, you see?
 But still, we had Eh, (We have not reached
 that place, we will come to that question) ah, yes
 (eh-he) It means that, Eh, here, it means
 that, our marriages, you see that, at first, even
 the Christians, ~~our~~ ^{their} marriages was not good.
 (Yes) He stays there, and he says, I am a christ-
 ian, but, even, he has two wives or three
 wives, but recently, most of the churches are
 helping the people to understand that, every-
 body must take one wife, and it is necessary)

(Yes) Yes. Thank you. Please, is polygamy a necessary evil? Mm, in some ways, at the time of our fathers, it helped them. (Yes) In a sense that, they have cultivated a big cocoa farm, and he needs people to help him, so if he married many wives, the children and the wives also can help him in his cocoa farm. But now, at our time, in this our present lives, Polygamy is not necessary at all, because, yourself, your salary cannot feed you as an individual, how can it extend to your wife, or maybe, you give birth to maybe four or five children with one woman, and again, give birth to maybe four or five children with another woman. So, presently, in our society or in our country, Polygamy is not necessary at all. (Yes) (Thank you very much. Please, what are your views on Family Planning?) Eh, I think that, the Family Planning is very good (yes) because, the Family Planning helps you to space your children (yes) and if you space your children, you become strong, the woman become strong. Again, if you try and space your children, your children don't grow together, so you, as a mother or the woman, you don't have many problems, you see? and you get time to train them properly. Again, also, if eh--- Family Planning also helps you, so that the few children you would have, maybe you had about four, two, four, you can give the children good education, or you can ~~give~~ look after the children to get good education. Again, if.)

the children are few, and you are training them or you are bringing them up at home you would not have many problems, and you get time; eye on every single child and correct ~~with~~ him/her as you like. (Thank you very very much.) Yes. (These questions; it is not very necessary for you.) Please, Pardon? (I take it like, you have nieces, so I can ask you this question) Yes, (If you were to be given another chance would you have the same ^{number of} children as you have now? I take it like your brothers and sisters children ^{is} yours. If you were to be given another chance, would you have the same number of children as you have now?) Two. (Ah, five - Ehe-he-he, why?) Eem, now, I believe that, I have grown up, so if God gives me a chance, I believe in impossible things (yes) like ^{EEn} what we call it? I believe in the story of Sarah (yes) and I am going to be another Sarah (yes) (aha-ha) In this generation (God did it) yes, and I believe that, if I have a girl and a boy, I would like it, very seriously. And my names Ephraim and Manaseh (Mm) Haha-ha-) (God will truly help you, He will give you glory, He will do it) Thank you (Eeh, as at now, what are your views on the current laws on intestate succession and the registration of marriages?) Eem, (These intestate of our time, at first, it was the uncle - - - Eh) I have understand. (Yes) It is it (yes) Mhmm, at first, if somebody dies, and if he prepared a will, lets take it like, you have married your husband for a very long time, and ^{if} his family boss him to prepare a will, and

maybe he did not gave nothing to the children and you did not received anything from the husband, that means, you, the woman, you have suffered for nothing. Your children also, you are coming to care for your children again. Again, you see that, the woman has become poor or somehow bad, the children also become something bad, but with this present inter-estate, if you didn't prepare a will before you die, it is very good. The woman receive ~~receiv~~ receive something from the man, if only the man have something, again, also her children also, receive something from the man, and thirdly goes to the family, in these, everybody is satisfied in his/her way (yes) (Hm, thank you very very much. Eh, Do you belong to any women's group in Kumasi or elsewhere?) Do you belong to any women's group in Kumasi? Please, I belong to --- RMC, I am one of the Regional members, Women's world Banking (ah?) I am one of their (yes) lets call us directors, Eh, how we will call Regional Management Committee (yes) I am one of them. (Are you one of these women?) Yes, I am, we are suppose to be the Board of Directors-Governess (yes) yes, we are about five in number in this city. Even, Mrs Prempeh also is among. (yes) (yes) Ehe-he-he (Please, is there any group again?) Again, also, I am a member of SEh, Basil women's fellowship at South Suntreso. (Are you at south?) Yes - he-he-he (Thank you very much. Please, now, what do you think women's group like yours are helping to nurture teach, support and train young females to)

help them to face and be prepared for the 21st century?) yes (so that face these standard of living? because...) He-he-he-yes, first, Eeh, I believe that, Women's groups, new members are joining them, so, they would talk about it very seriously and myself, also, I will talk about it at Women's World Banking seriously, because I believe that, we want to announce it, so that most of the women would hear about it. This Women's World Banking, it is a group which ~~work~~ aim is that, Eeh, we help women. Women, ~~is~~ who does something like; what a white man would call it micro-entrepreneurs, small small scales, like maybe bakers, (yes) maybe, traders, tomatoes sellers, plantain sellers, those, who, maybe they sells these vegetables (yes) you see? We want to help these women so that, they can save ~~they~~ ^{their} monies at Women's World Banking. (Yes) And if you save your money there for three months, how we help you is that, at the end of the three months we double the amount you saved, and we give the money to you as a loan, so that you can use it to help your business. You see? It is not like the Banks, if they are giving you a loan, they would asked you to bring something instead, intertexturer, bring something for deposit. (Yes) you see? But our Bank is not like that (yes) If you saved your money there, then you encourage or you tell your friend also, (you encourage her) you encourage her ~~so~~ to save her money there, so ^{if} after the three months, and you need the money to ~~do~~ ^{extend} the ^{business,} ~~work,~~ to improve (yes) your business, yes, then you call your friend

whom you introduced her, and you invites two friends of yours and stand by you; two of your friends, who have saved their monies there, to guarantee, and your money you have saved, maybe, you have saved five hundred ~~cents~~ thousand cedis, we would give you one million (yes) yes, to improve your business. (Yes) Yes, if you improve your business with it (Yes) Yes, if you and finished paying it, anytime you finished paying it, then you come for another one (yes) so that, the women would have money little by little, to support their business. (Yes) And this, ours, we do it as "susu form" daily cotee tax, ~~you~~ ~~ntrofo~~ bi a ~~EE~~

to We have some people EEh, they can can your place, at the market (yes) or store anywhere, they would come and collect the money and send it to the Bank for you (Daily?) daily, yes daily (yes) or weekly (yes) you see? and save it for you, if you ego, you would open an account like, (yes) as you open ^{an} account at the Bank. You send you picture and everything, everything, ~~the~~ Exactly as we do it at the Bank, but the aim of this one is that, we want to help women seriously, so it is something that every woman, who is in ^{the} Ashanti Region must know something about it, so that, if she is doing any business, she would get help from that Bank. (Yes) (Please, thank you. Individually or group of women?) Yes, group of women like yam sellers association also can save their money there, EEh,)

Plantain association can save their money there, hair dressers association can save their money there, individuals, like yourself also, you can save your money, but, especially individuals, are those who can save there money there, yes (So, if I allow you to finish your story,) yes (Please, you have just finished you see?) (Please, yes, I have told you that, about that womens programme, another people would say I talked about it. (Yes) yes (Thank you very much. Please, I am coming. Please, What do you think are the most important current ~~pre~~ womens groups should do to improve conditions of life for women and the family?) Discussion

What do you think womens groups should do to improve conditions of life for women and the family?) I believe that womens groups can help the lives of women in many ways, Eeh, first of all, what I have already said, Eeh, it is like that, Eeh, groups like Womens World Banking (yes) Eeh, Masu limited can help womens small scales to stand firm, so that it would improve for them, so that they can help their children, and lives at home, in their marriages yes, again most of the groups, their aims is that, they want to Eeh, have training about how to train children at home, these womens groups also can help, how to train children at home, like Busia said at first that, he said, you train a woman, and you train a Nation. (Yes) (Thank you very much)

Now, what do you think are the most important current problems of women?)

Mho-ho, as at now, I believe that women, our most important current problems is our marriages, divorce ~~and~~ (yes)(yes) and separation (yes) (Please, I am coming, I didn't finish with my question) aa, yes (What are the causes, what, can we do about it, ~~the~~ "remedies?")

Yes, it means that, you have combined it? (Yes, because, it is two questions) Yes (Because you would give one answer for the two, to become one, so that, ----- If I ask you, it would become one) yes, so that it would become one? (yes) Yes, I feel that the most

important current problems for women is divorce, (yes) in a sense that, this time, marriage is difficult ---- most of the women, --- even most children, it is very difficult for ^{most of} them. to get husbands (yes) to marry (yes) yes, the marriage problems (yes) And if she is lucky and gets a husband to marry, it would not last long, to separate, separation (yes)

Again, thirdly, you would see that, even they have divorce, "they-orce" (yes) and they divorce.

And again, women, ---- Eh women, if they get married, you would do the house work, and again, also you would go and work outside home keeping (yes) yes, you keep the home and at the same time also, you go and work out side, again, also, yes I feel that, these are

most important current problems of women, yes.

(Thank you very very much. Now,) yes. (Must a woman choose between a family and a)

career? Can she be successful at both?) Yes
 (Yes, Please, must a woman choose between
 a family and a carrier? Your job and the
 family, can you combine ~~the~~ both? and
 would it be successful? If I mention a family,
 we have ~~the~~ family, the marriage one, and the
 one at your home, "birth-place" Both the families
 Maybe, you have not get married and you are
 staying ^{with} ~~at~~ the family, "home family" Maybe you
 have got married, you and your husband and
 your children, can you combine these, your
 business, can you combine these and it be
 successful?) Eh, I believe that, with very ~~care~~
 careful planning, to some extent, it would be
 successful, and if I say the careful planing,
 in fact, our time budgeting is very poor (yes)
 We are in this country, if I mention that
 time budgeting, if somebody gets up, she gets
 up just like that. If she meets somebody
 and they are having conversation, she would
~~there~~ ^{stand} with her for ~~so~~ about one hour
 and talk and talk with her. She has no
 aim, she has no plans, she has no value of
 time (yes) And if you are budgeting your time,
 you see? you can marry, at the same time,
 you can work. Especially with these modern
 equipments, refrigerators (yes) If you close in the
 evening, you prepare your meals, if you are
 lucky to have fridge and maybe, deep freezer
 (yes) you see? Eh, if you prepare your meals,
 you place them in it, you see? And you plan
 your time, so, you would not ~~get~~ have time to
 go and sit here and there or gossip here)

and there, as infact, as most women do.
 (Yes) Please, do you understand what I am saying? (Yes) (Yes) We ~~waste~~^{waste} most of our time especially, where we usually ~~waste~~ our time is at the funerals (yes) (he-he-he) we go to the funerals, we waste most of our time at the funerals, I ~~don't~~ am not saying that we should not attend funerals, you see? There are some funeral, which we must attend, but there are some women in this city, if she gets up on Saturdays, she ask for where there are funerals (Yes) Yes she walks, just like that, so I believe that, if we plan our time properly, and do everything properly, we can marry and work at the same time. Please, is there no sense in what I have said? (It is very good, thank you. Please, What do you imagine or know are the disadvantages of being the only woman in a profession or office eg. law, medicine, engineering and military which are dominated by men?) First of all, any woman who has practice law, medicine, engineering, or she is in the Army, or to the top, the leader, if he is a, 'one' a wise person, yes eeh, if you are in this profession, maybe you can be promoted to the top (yes) but the problems that you would face is that, they would ~~not~~ never allow you to get to the top, because the men are too much, (yes) The men have been donated into the society, so eeh, if they are going to decide on you, the men are going to ~~plan~~ about it, you are only one person,)

you would never get to the top, we are few, you see? Like education, I have never heard that somebody is director general, a woman had never been a Director General. Because, anytime, the women are few, you see? Like, you are a Doctor, you cannot go up to Director of Medical Services, never. Because you are few. Eeh, again, also, we resign and get married and look after the house and the family, sometimes the men feels that, if we are not effective (yes) yes, again, also, you are a woman, whatever you are, if you are a lawyer oh, even, who-ever you are, still the men, they look down upon you (yes) Yes, looking down upon ~~us~~ us (yes) (It means, it is fear) Fear! It is like, they are threatening you, so you cannot say all your mind, it is like they are suppressing you, if they go and make a law which is against you women, yes - yes (Yes it is ^{the} place, that I want - - - - - If you are the only woman, and they are making a law) you, you cannot say tell your mind because, you are the only person with them always, the men would be against you (They would control you) Yes, they control you. If they say we should vote for something, every day, ^{some of} the men would be against you, so, you cannot stand very very firm for women. (Yes, thank you. Please, in history, can you give us an example - - - - -)

- - - - - Discussion - - - - -

Please, what examples in history can you think)

of where women's contributions have been overshadowed?) - - - - - In fact, when I was thinking about this, all that I was thinking about it is, - - - - - I picked up one from our country, (yes) because, I did not want to pick something from somebody's country (It is nothing, anything you can say) So, I was thinking about Yaa Asantewaa very seriously (yes) everyday, you hear about Yaa Asantewaa, Yaa Asantewaa, but they don't teach what Yaa Asantewaa did (Yes) Her bravery, you see? how she became very brave is - - - - - It doesn't mean that, there was a time that a woman did what men cannot do you see? to show the society that, if there are many things which are going on, and the men cannot change it, a woman had ~~changed~~ changed some before (yes) like Yaa Asantewaa (mm) and this should encourage women, we can also effect change in the society like what Yaa Asantewaa did, when the men are running away, she rose up and took a gun and shot to effect change (Yes) Yes, I have forgotten all my history, I was thinking of some women (mm) But eeh, tell me ^{of} some of the women (I cannot remember, last time, it is this she talked about - - - - - (We hear about Yaa Asantewaa) (We have heard about Yaa Asantewaa, Yaa Asantewaa, she is only one woman) and we don't know, whether there was a place that they did not) (they did it but maybe they did) (but they don't mention it)

(but we mentioned, we have mentioned this one, somebody did it, but they never mention it, they have overshadowed it. Yaa Asantewaa did it, we have mentioned it) yes (So, all the children have heard about Yaa Asantewaa, somebody also have done something, but they never mention it. It have been overshadowed or they never mentioned it properly like Yaa Asantewaa) Mm (Have any woman done something like that? Do you understand?) Ah, in Ashanti Region? (Yes, yes, anywhere) Or the whole world? (Any where) Or the whole world? (~~So~~ Any where, some are there, but they couldn't mentioned it, it have been overshadowed, you cannot hear her name properly) Definately, there are lot of them, there are many of them in the history (yes) yes. (Please see, What do you think are the oppressive structures that keep women in position of powerlessness?) Yes, first of all, I believe that women, we have ~~no~~ support: we don't have the same financial support like the men, like if a woman is doing some business, and she is asking for a loan with a man, the man will receive it first than the woman (yes) you see? They would not give a big loan to the woman, then what they would give it to the ~~woman~~ man to improve his business. I believe that, it is because of this Women's World Banking (true) has come find ^{some} way of assisting women you see? Again, I feel that, even, educationally women are oppressed. When I was thinking

about it, if you ^{look} through-out Ghana, we have more boys school (yes) more secondary schools, but ^{look} at girls secondary schools, it is not enough. If you look at the good ones, Aburi Girls Secondary School like what I attended, Wesley Girls High School, maybe Holy Child, it is finished. But if you look at boys schools, Achimota, Eh, mixed, Eh, let me take it like, Meanstepem, Saint Augustine, many (yes) this one, and again, culturally, (yes) at first, education of women in this country, they don't respect it (mho-ho-) They take it for nothing, you see? a woman, what are you going to school for? You are going to school and come to do what? So, if you are with your brother, and they have to send both of ^{them} you to school, they would say, oh there is no money, you should stop and let us send the boy, and they would ~~allow~~ ^{leave the} the girl, you see? So, if you look in education also, if you look properly, the women are left behind. (Mho) The men are oppressing us (they oppressed us) They oppressed us, you see? Again, if you look in this country, Eh, especially, in our marriages, in Ashanti Region or Akans, if somebody is going to get marry, we tell the man that, if you get money debt, take it away. It means, when you are in debt, don't bring it to us. (Yes) But when you get pence, bring them to us. You; this thing, this story, is it good? So the man, if the man and the woman get married, they would ~~on~~

not have one mind, you see? Eh, there is no give and share, the man feels that, Eeh, he has bought the woman, you see? So the man don't give any respect to the woman you see? So, everytime, he oppres, - Oh stop that, am I not the one who care for you, am I not the person who does everything for you, you see? Eeh, how we ~~get~~ marry in our society, it gives way for the men to oppress us, it means, we have leave it to the men, and the men do everything (yes) So the man also, he feels that he is doing everything, he have contro~~l~~ over you. (Yes) But it was, you contribute, we say it NCNC, no contribution no chop. This person give a little help, and (aha-ha-) It is like, ^{if} the left wash right and right also wash left. Then, ~~maybe~~ maybe, we women, the man cannot control us too much. Again, also Eeh, even if you look ~~at~~ the Assembly, Eeh, the candidate who stand for Independent in the North, we heard from the first time that, she talks a lot, later, they say that, if she rise up to talk at Parliament, they shout, Oh, sit down! - - - - -

- - - - - Yes, what I want to hear ~~rise~~ things that oppress women, like if you look, Eh, the woman who stood for Independent Candidate at North, yes, she can talk properly, that woman, but nowadays I cant hear about her. When I asked about her, what I heard is that, if she ~~rose~~ rise up to talk at Parliament, then, the men, sit

down! Oh come down! Sit down, (yes) and they would shout her down, and they would make fun on her, so, she feels shy you see? Because the women are few at that place, so we cannot hear about her any more, she cannot talk (But if the women were many) If the women were many (maybe, they would support her) maybe they would do what? Support her, (yes) yes.

(Thank you very much. My last question, Now we have had a lot of conversation, Please, is there any question you think we have left out or more to be added?) Mmm,

I believe that, I want to carry this message to the whole Nation that, a journey of a million miles start with a step. So, we should not sit down and grumble and complain so much. Everybody in her own little way, in her own little way, a little lamp she is holding, in that corner, she should brighten that place (yes) and you would never know when that little light will be shining. Now like me, I never knew that, one day, I will rise ^{up} from madness to Grace (yes) I have written a book like that, entitled from madness to Grace. (AO) That is why I have named my store Ebenezer Groceries, Ebenezer means God have help us to this ~~the~~ time, Helper. (Yes) I started my work very very little. A-mist laughing, people were laughing at me, I have gone mad. Now, it is through the work (yes) little by little, I have got a shop, a big shop (yes) Through the work, I feed all my

relatives, through the work, I have helped two children to travel Abroad (yes) through the work, last year, I was able to mount exhibition at Cultural Center (yes) when Saint Monica's were having their trade fair (yes) Through the work, I have been counselling people on diet (yes) In this Society, there are two big killers, hypertension and diabetes (yes) and, it is through this work, I realised that, every person, you are ought to eat and drink (yes) so, you don't wait to become sick before you find a cure to it, and you must be very careful with what you eat (yes) and because of the work, I deal "or" because I sell vegetables, I am always researching about vegetables (yes) because I use my aim ^{on} the whole local and foreign (yes) Eh, God have open my eyes, and I have seen many many things about diet, that, if somebody had or suffers from hypertension now, I can counsel that person (yes) and through the food he/she would eat, it would help him/her to reduce the hypertension (yes) again, also, if he/she is a diabetic patient, the food that he/she should eat, so that it can help bring the diabetes down. Again, also, it is through the work that I started very little, I want to build a counselling hall to counsel people on diet (yes) Yes, helpful diet, diabetic diet, hypertensive diet and diet in general (yes) you see? Now, if you are at Abroad, in the advanced countries, a lot of people have stopped medication (yes) yes, these people, they think of what they would eat, so

I feel that, the work I started very little, and people were saying that, oh, look at woman, she is going mad, the work has become very big, (yes) and finally, do you I have got a husband because of the work? (Yes) (Ahaa - o.k.) Yes, my husband is a Judge sitting in front of me at the court. (Yes) Watching me carrying things up and down everyday (Mho-ho-) And this is where I met him (oh, yea) (Praise - God. It is through the work, women's major problems, through the work, God have solve it for me. (Yes) yes, so my advice to women is that, every little thing that you are doing to help this country, if you sells baobao "dawadawa" oh, if you sells "koobi" salted fish, everything you are doing, do it well (yes). and it is not very surprising that some time to come, that salted fish will bring you into lime light. (Yes, Yes) (Thank you very very much) (Thank you very much) (Thank you very much.)

END OF AGNES DARKO SIDE B