



## 22 | A MODERN-DAY LYDIA – A POEM IN HONOR OF PROF ELIZABETH AMOAH

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### **Introduction**

Lydia is a disciple in the making whom Paul and Silas met in Philippi when they went there to share the Good News of Christ. A purple cloth dealer, Lydia is believed to have been a wealthy woman who was not associated with any man but oversaw her own household. She was a ‘seeker’ searching for liberation, the way to God, and she is remembered as Paul’s first European convert. After she believed, Lydia immediately directed her household to be baptized. She understood her new faith and immediately took practical steps to make it applicable (Acts 16:14-15). The author imagines Prof Elizabeth Amoah, a compatriot of the founder of the Circle of Concerned African Women Theologians like this. Prof Amoah, known as Grandma by some was instrumental in the planning and organizing at ground zero (Legon, Ghana), that led to the formation of the Circle. This is a poem to honor her primarily as a founding matriarch of the Circle.

*Grandma!*  
*All her children call her Grandma -*  
*She has a huge oikos,*  
*Just like Lydia.*

*Lydia...*  
*Who presided over her household,*  
*With grace and so much love.*

*Lydia...*  
*A God-fearing woman before she heard the Good News*  
*What ability to discern and read the future!*  
*Lydia...a woman ahead of her time*  
*For she was no ordinary woman:*  
*A woman who defines herself,*  
*She is one who takes charge,*  
*And commands her household after her.*  
*Who discovers, ventures into,*  
*And directs her household after her.*  
*A woman who organizes,*  
*Builds up structures,*  
*And calls others into her rest.*

*Like Lydia...*  
*Elizabeth Amoah, Grandma*  
*Commands a household of her own.*  
*Grandma knows who she is,*  
*She understands her worth,*  
*She looks into the future,*

*And discern what next steps.  
Grandma fears no hard ground to break.  
Indeed, she has broken grounds  
So the seeds of others might be sown  
And grow to become giant trees.*

*The giant trees are there for all to see;  
...all whom she has mothered,  
...who have been mentored by her,  
...who have had courage because of her,  
...who have dared because of her,  
...who have been shielded because of her,  
...who have found their way because of her.*

*Prof Elizabeth Amoah  
A pioneer in many ways  
You lead in the formation of a safe space  
For women in religion and culture.  
You blaze the trail for women  
In the Study of Religions.  
You lead in softening the ground  
For women in academia.  
Your name will always be mentioned  
Whenever we go back in time  
Sankofa  
We have a lot to learn from you.*

*Matriarch, we greet you!  
Grandma, we salute you!*