

Honours

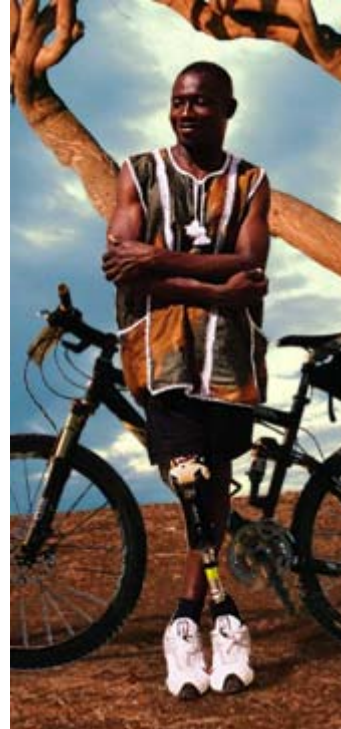
Emmanuel Ofosu Yeboah

“You’re Being An Angel”

In 1976, Emmanuel Ofosu Yeboah was born in Koforidua, Ghana with a deformed right leg.

The disabled in Ghana, at that time, were considered cursed and would be hidden by relatives or killed. Fortunately, Emmanuel’s mother carried him everywhere and gave him confidence. However, his father abandoned him after his mother died. Instead of becoming an orphan street beggar as was the norm, he found a job shining shoes for \$2 a day. He yearned to be more productive. Then he heard about the *Challenged Athletes Foundation* in Del Mar, California and contacted them to ask if they could send him a bicycle. After they did, and he learned to ride with one leg, he set a goal to bicycle across his country to raise money and change stereotypes of the disabled.

In September 2001, Emmanuel did bike across his homeland. He proudly wore a T-shirt that said *The Pozo*—slang for a disabled person! His journey, reported nationally and internationally, has changed the way his fellow two million disabled are treated in Ghana. A documentary titled *Emmanuel’s Gift* made by twins Nancy Stern and Lisa Lax has garnered him, and his cause, more, well deserved attention.



Poster Photo: *Emmanuel’s Gift* was released October 21, 2005 by *First Look Pictures*; narrated by Oprah Winfrey.

*Angels inspire things that are good and true. They show the way to heaven.
A person’s life really is his love, and the nature of his love determines the nature of his life,
and in fact the whole person.*



Emmanuel Ofosu Yeboah, by your bold, courageous example, you are showing others that people (angels in the making) are what they are made of inside, not by their material bodies.

Thank you!

Candace Frazee

Candace Frazee - Madam Chair of *SILA*
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