

# PERSONALITIES OF THE MONTH



## Francis & Charity



*February  
Edition*

**NUGS-RUSSIA**



**Bemah:** Welcome, everyone, to this thrilling and romantic edition of The Nugs-Russia Personality of the Month. Today, we are delighted to have a charming couple with us. Please, let's begin with introductions.

**Charity:** Hello, I'm Charity Effah, and I want to express my gratitude for inviting both my husband, Francis Gyan, and me to be your featured personalities for the month of February.

**Bemah:** February is a month of love and I'm glad to have you both here. Now, I'm familiar with each of your names now – Francis and Charity. I have a question for you both: how did you first meet? What was the initial encounter like when you arrived here? This question is open for anyone to answer, as it revolves around the first time you met.

So, please share how your paths crossed.

**Francis:** We initially met as students, both pursuing our studies here. I had already been studying when Charity arrived, and our paths crossed in the academic setting. If you could, please describe the first time you saw each other.

**Charity:** The first time I saw Francis was when he, along with others, came to pick us up from the airport. I had seen his pictures before, as he was the president of the student association. However, meeting him in person, I couldn't help but notice that he was even more handsome in real life than in the pictures. That was my first impression.

**Bemah:** Now, Francis, could you share your perspective on that moment? How did you feel when you first met Charity?



*The first time I saw Francis was when he, along with others, came to pick us up from the airport.*

**Francis:** Communication was key. Seeing her for the first time, especially having seen her pictures, I was struck by how well we communicated. It set a positive tone for our relationship.

**Bemah:** And, considering you were already here, Francis, what were you studying and why did you come to Russia? How has your experience been living here, both before and after Charity arrived?

**Francis:** Before Charity arrived, I was already here pursuing my first degree. The experience of living in Russia has been quite positive.

“  
*I was struck  
by how well we  
communicated.*”



*“Ghanaians, in general, were friendly, always checking in and helping. Francis was exceptionally kind. He would invite us to enjoy local food like banku, and it created a positive atmosphere.”*

**Bemah:** Now, considering the changes and challenges, how do you think newcomers can establish the same social support you both had when you first arrived?

**Francis:** It's true; the dynamics have changed. With everyone scattered across different schools and regions, maintaining that social support has become challenging. Perhaps finding ways to connect despite the distances, as they are matured individuals, and fostering a sense of community could help.

**Bemah:** Charity, could you share your experience since you arrived, what you came to study, and whether you're still studying or have transitioned to work?

**Charity:** I arrived in 2018 to study petroleum engineering, also known as oil and gas engineering. I completed my first-degree last year and have since begun my master's program. Despite differences in weather and food, everything seems normal to me. When we first came, the Ghanaian community was substantial, but now, most have completed their studies and moved on. Our numbers have reduced, but we are managing. It's just a few people coming now, unlike in the past when a lot joined every academic year. Currently, everything is also okay, and I'm hoping to finish and explore better opportunities for myself. So, for me, there's nothing particularly special or a big difference from then to now.

*“It's true; the dynamics have changed. With everyone scattered across different schools and regions, maintaining that social support has become challenging. Perhaps finding ways to connect despite the distances, as they are matured individuals, and fostering a sense of community could help.”*

**Bemah:** Now, moving to the story of your relationship – from the first meeting at the airport to when things became official – could you share how your relationship developed? I'll direct this question to Charity.



**Charity:** From my recollection, right from the start, it felt personal. Ghanaians, in general, were friendly, always checking in and helping. Francis was exceptionally kind. He would invite us to enjoy local food like banku, and it created a positive atmosphere.

Over time, our friendship grew from casual visits to becoming close friends. We eventually explored business ideas together and transitioned from friends to business partners and, ultimately, to a couple. It was a natural progression.

**Bemah:** That's a beautiful journey. Now, Francis, I'm curious about your perspective.

When Charity arrived, did you have any ulterior motives, like wanting to be more than just business partners? What was the turning point for you?

**Francis:** When Charity came and we started working together, there wasn't an initial plan to be more than business partners. As our collaboration progressed, I saw an opportunity to express my feelings. However, I was considerate of her commitment to completing her bachelor's degree. I didn't propose directly; instead, I shared the idea that if everything went well, I envisioned marrying her after she finished school. It wasn't a formal proposal, but more of presenting an idea to gauge her comfort with it. Finally, I proposed to her when she graduated, and the story went viral.

**Bemah:** That's a heartwarming story. Now, moving on to your wedding, where and how was the planning? Charity, perhaps you could start, and Francis can add his perspective.

**Charity:** Our wedding had different components. We had a traditional Ghanaian wedding in Ghana, a registration in Tyumen, and a white wedding with a church ceremony. All these ceremonies took place in the month of October 2023. The planning, especially dealing with documentation, was challenging. We faced delays in obtaining the necessary documents, and it created some stress. However, by God's grace, everything came together perfectly.

*Finally, I proposed to her when she graduated, and the story went viral.*

*I didn't propose directly; instead, I shared the idea that if everything went well, I envisioned marrying her after she finished school.*







**Francis:** The preparation was one of the challenging aspects. The wedding itself wasn't as difficult as the preparations leading up to it. Dealing with documentation, especially being foreigners, posed some challenges. I recall being stressed while trying to gather the required documents. However, in the end, everything fell into place. Our wedding included the traditional Ghanaian ceremony the registration in Tyumen, and the white wedding with a church ceremony. It was held in a different hall, and we had support from friends and family.

“  
*Our wedding included the traditional Ghanaian ceremony the registration in Tyumen, and the white wedding with a church ceremony.*  
”

**Bemah:** It sounds like you overcame the challenges and had a beautiful wedding. Congratulations once again! Now, as a married couple, how has life been for you both, especially considering the distance and the time Francis spends away for work? Charity, could you share your perspective first?

**Charity:** Initially, Francis used to be away for two months and come home for one month. Now, it's more balanced, with one month away and one month at home. While it can be challenging to be alone sometimes, it also creates space to miss each other and appreciate one another more. As a young couple managing studies, work, and family, it's been okay overall.

“  
*While it can be challenging to be alone sometimes, it also creates space to miss each other and appreciate one another more.*  
”





**Bemah:** That's nice to hear. Francis, how do you feel about the current situation?

**Francis:** Personally, I'm adjusting to the change from a two-month to a one-month rotation. It's better, and I wish I could be there all the time. However, circumstances don't permit that. I still must work and provide for the home, as that's what I was trained to do. I need to take on the responsibility and work for the sake of our family. With the help of social media, we can keep in touch.

**Bemah:** That's very understandable. Now, moving on to the next question about strengths and weaknesses. What makes your marriage work? Are there specific strengths or weaknesses that complement each other?

**Charity:** In my opinion, we are just a normal couple doing our best. We rely on prayer and strive to live according to the plan God has for us. Our journey started with counselling, and we know our goals and purpose, especially in creating a family. Now, I can't pinpoint any specific difficulties or extraordinary efforts on our part. It's by the grace of God that we are managing, but we must not forget our vows.

**Bemah:** Francis, your perspective on this?

**Francis:** The two of us coming together understand that we are now a unit. What works for us is appreciating one another, complementing each other's strengths and weaknesses, and understanding that we are individuals developing each other's potential. Trust plays a crucial role, and we appreciate each other in every passing moment. And, before we conclude, I'm curious about the business ideas you mentioned. Did any of them materialize into an actual business?

**Charity:** Let me share an interesting story. When I first arrived in Tyumen, some Ghanaian ladies approached me and asked if I could do hair. Although I wasn't a professional, I agreed to try. After styling one of the ladies' hairs, she loved it and wondered why I had doubted my abilities. Later, Francis suggested that I could start making braids and earn money, not just from Ghanaians but also from Russians. It's inspiring to see how opportunities arise from unexpected skills. Thank you both for sharing your journey and insights with us.



*The two of us coming together understand that we are now a unit. What works for us is appreciating one another, complementing each other's strengths and weaknesses, and understanding that we are individuals developing each other's potential.*



