

GHANA BAPTIST CONVENTION



THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO THE 55TH ANNUAL SESSION

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

We are grateful to the Lord for seeing us through another year despite the challenges we went through after last year's session. We will like to express our thanks to the Denominational Board, Trustees, Past Presidents, Vice Presidents and General Secretaries of the Convention and the Ministers Conference for their counsel and support throughout the past year. We also express our sincere gratitude to the Search Committee for their unrelenting commitment to the course of Christ despite the difficulties, to bring us to where we are now. To all staff of the Convention, who remained devoted, despite the challenges during the year under review, we are grateful. You dedicated yourselves to execute the mandate given us by the Convention. Finally, we thank all our Pastors, Church leaders and members of our Churches for their prayers, contribution and faith in us to lead this Convention. Our report this year will follow the format we have used for the last few years based on the Convention's strategic plan.

2.0 VISIBILITY AND REBRANDING

1. Local Visibility

To enable us achieve our goal of enhancing the visibility of the Convention, several activities were carried out throughout the year. The NUBS was established at the University of Health and Allied Sciences, Ho, to bring the Convention closer to our students and make the Convention visible on the University campuses. Brochure for the Baptist Women Retreat and Resource Centre was printed and distributed through Christian Bookshops including Challenge Enterprise, Baptist Bookstore, Presbyterian Bookstore, Bible Society and some popular Super Markets, like A-life, to enhance the visibility and rebranding of the Centre. Because of that exercise, there has been increased patronage of the Centre since 2017, with new clients including SDA, Apostolic and Anglican Churches.

The Ghana Baptist Convention is working on an MOU with World Vision-Ghana to promote joint actions and projects for the well-being of children and young people in communities within World Vision's operational areas. The Presidency has signed our part of the MOU and are waiting on World Vision to sign their portion to finalize the agreement.

2. Change of Name

Buokrom Baptist Church of the Golden Gate Baptist Association has changed its name from Buokrom Baptist Church to **Kingsway Baptist Church, Buokrom**. The Convention has duly updated its records and requests that the church should therefore be known and called by its new name in all correspondences.

3. Broadcasting and Social Media

During the year under review, the Convention's website was revamped with updated information. Our presence on social media was made stronger than previous years. Our average weekly reach on Facebook was 7950 people.

a. Radio Programmes

To promote the Gospel of Christ and enhance the visibility of the Convention, some churches in the Mid-Ghana Sector used the medium of FM stations and information centres in their areas to spread the Gospel and in the process made the Convention visible. They include the following:

i. Adansi Association: on Sikapa FM.

In Adom Baptist Association the following Churches have radio programmes:

- * Temple of Fire is on Adars FM 107.7
- * Adom Baptist Church, Techiman is on Asta FM, 103.9 and Classic FM 91.9, Techiman
- * Glory Baptist Church, Techiman: Asta FM, 103.9
- * The Gospel Baptist Church, Techiman: Asta FM, 103.9,
- * Grace Baptist Church, Akumadan: Cuz FM 96.9, Akumadan
- * New Life Baptist Church, Nkroanza: Dero FM 99.9, Nkroanza
- * Disciples Baptist Church, Wenchi: Royals FM 100.4

ii. In the Kumasi South East Association, the following Churches have radio programmes

- * Grace Baptist Church, Amakom is on Luv FM and Sunsum FM
- * Living Fountain Baptist Church, Asokore Mampong is on Ash FM

iii. In Sunyani Baptist Association the following Churches have radio programmes

- * Calvary Baptist Church, Sunyani - Ark FM
- * Abundant Life Church, Goaso - Nananom FM

iv. In the Golden Gate Association, the following Churches have radio programmes:

- * Global Deliverance Baptist Church
- * Faith Community Baptist Church

- v. Nzema and Hope Baptist Associations broadcasts on local FM Stations at Azuleti and Dunkwa-On-Offin respectively.

b. Television Station

We will like to announce the establishment of Shalom Broadcasting Network (SBN) a new Television station to support our evangelism activities and the agenda of visibility and rebranding. This project was fully funded by Evangelist Extraordinaire, Deacon Daniel Ofori of Tesano Baptist Church and it is a partnership between the Convention and Him. He has donated a house and ensured the completion of the project. The station is in East Legon, Accra. This project will serve the Christian Community in Ghana, but the Ghana Baptist Convention is to operationalize it. We are working on an MOU to finalize the details of the partnership.

The satellite hosting fee per month on the K-Network is about \$8,700. This is the equivalent of about GH¢42,000.00 excluding VAT. I will like to propose that a special fundraising programme be instituted among our Churches and members to raise about GH¢50,000.00 every month for about a year until the station stabilizes and has enough advertising to cover these costs.

Our appreciation goes to Rev. John Nkum of Tesano Baptist Church, for writing the project proposal and seeing to the registration and licensing of the station.

We will also like to appreciate our Media Consultant, Matrix Design Team (Bernard Adu-Gyamfi, Robert Antwi-Boasiako, Mary Anna Coleman, Richard Torkonoo, Prince McSamuel and Adrian Neizer Aboagye, all of Baptist International Worship Centre (BIWC), Accra, Francis Adu-Gyamfi, Stephen Amponsah and Victor Mensah Adu-Gyamfi of Charismatic Baptist Church, Taifa and Ayikan Doblo respectively who worked tirelessly to make this project a reality. They did the leg work, concept designs, developed Station Identity and found the right persons to procure and install equipment at the cheapest cost and without sacrificing quality; at no cost to the Convention. This team has also been responsible for all Convention Social Media activities including paying for website hosting at their own expense for the last four and half years. On behalf of the Convention, I will like to say a big thank you to you all.

The Children's Ministry Co-ordinator organized a National Toddler's Conference during the reporting period. He used the opportunity to participate in ZOE TV Morning Show to showcase the Toddler's Conferences, the Teeny Tykes and Tunes manual for Toddler Teachers and also the Convention on television.

4. Church Signage

Promotion and erection of our Church signage project continued during the year. Ninety-four (94) Churches in the South-West Ghana Sector (i.e. 61% coverage) have so far mounted the recommended signage. The coverage as the time of this report was as follows:

Association	% Churches Mounted
✓ Hope Baptist Association	93
✓ Swedru Baptist Association	83
✓ Cape Coast Baptist Association	95
✓ Sekondi Takoradi Baptist Association	37
✓ Winneba Baptist Association	48
✓ Nzema Baptist Association	17
✓ Adansi Baptist Association	79
✓ Kumasi South-West Association	90
✓ Kumasi South-East Association	95
✓ Golden Gate Association	70
✓ Adom Baptist Association	90
✓ Sunyani Baptist Association	30
✓ Kumasi North Association	9
✓ Accra North Baptist Association	95
✓ North Volta Baptist Association.	5

Several Churches in the Northern Ghana Sector have erected the approved signage in their areas. The New Life Community Baptist Church, Tamale has done a good job by erecting some large billboards in their area and has also erected some conspicuous ones at the main entry roads into Tamale.

5. Sector Offices

To ensure that our Sector Heads operate effectively and to enhance the visibility of the Convention, Sector offices were set up during the year. Trinity Baptist Church, Kumasi donated a two-room apartment to the Sector for use as offices in 2017. At the time of writing this report, renovation and setting up of this office was 95% complete.

The Northern Ghana Sector has rented an office space in the Christian Council of Ghana's building in Tamale. The South West Sector is working on a new office space in Cape Coast. The Sector has identified a 3-bedroom facility which we are working on to house the Sector Head. The South-East Ghana Sector Head's office is in the Baptist House, Accra. Sector activities and supervision was greatly enhanced by the establishment of the Sector offices.

The induction service for the newly appointed full time Mid-Ghana Sector Head was held at the Trinity Baptist Church, Pataasi Kumasi on the 16th of September 2017. The President, Rev. Dr. Ernest Adu-Gyamfi graced the occasion and Rev. Stephen Asante was the Main Speaker. Many Senior Ministers of the Convention attended. Among the dignitaries were the Kumasi Mayor, representatives from Manhyia and the Kumasi Council of Christian Churches.

A Special Send-Off service was held in honour of the former Mid-Ghana Sector Head, Rev. Raymond Antwi-Fredua on 12th November 2017. It was officiated by the Vice-President, (Ministries), Rev. Enoch Thompson. The nine Associations were represented.

6. Ecumenical Relationships

The President completed his second term as Chairman of the Christian Council of Ghana in May 2018. The period of his two-year term gave him opportunities to showcase the Ghana Baptist Convention at different fora that enhanced the image of the Convention and where possible created opportunities for the Convention's ministries.

The WMU hosted the Christian Council of Ghana Women's Ministry prayer meeting on 28th September 2017 at the Tesano Baptist Church. This created an opportunity for some women in other denominations to interact with the Convention.

7. International Visibility

BWA/AABF

The President continued to showcase the Convention within international corridors through his position as President of the All Africa Baptist Fellowship and Vice President of the Baptist World Alliance. The President attended the Executive Committee and Annual Meeting of AABF in Malawi in February 2018, where he presented three (3) papers highlighting the good practices of the Convention in evangelism, cooperative autonomy and fundraising. He also attended the BWA Executive Committee meeting in March 2018 and the BWA Annual Gathering in Zurich in July 2018. The Convention was represented by a delegation of eight (8) persons at the just ended Baptist World Alliance Annual Gathering in Zurich. The President led part of the worship service in the Anabaptist Cave while the Denominational Board Chairman, Rev. Dr. Fred Deegbe preached in one of the morning devotional sessions. Rev. Samuel Otu-Pimpong and Prof Edwin Kwame Wiredu have been charged to present papers at next year's BWA Annual Gathering in Bahamas.

Mrs. Victoria Adu, the National Vice-President of the Youth Ministry, was elected an Executive Member at large of AABYF Western Region. The NUBS/Youth Co-ordinator

attended the All African Baptist Youth Fellowship Conference in Togo. The National Youth Secretary was selected to be part of the Committee that will be developing a Constitution for the West Africa Region.

The Vice-President (Administration), Rev. Komla Darke, led a delegation to attend this year's All Africa Baptist Fellowship, Western Region (AABFWR) Conference in Molete, Ibadan, Nigeria from 23rd to 27th May 2018. The delegation comprised Rev. Kojo Amo, the Immediate Past President of AABFWR; the Northern Sector Head, Rev. Rufus Paul Khaleem; the Mid-Ghana Sector Head, Rev. Charles Oppong-Poku; the WMU Co-ordinator, Mrs. Anowa Boison Ochire; the National WMU President, Ms. Beatice Amui; the National President and Secretary of the BMM, Messrs. Collins Boachie-Yiadom and Uche Chinye respectively and Mr. Michael Yirenskyi-Larbi of Living Streams Baptist Church, Atomic. Rev. Kojo Amo received an award for his meritorious work as the Immediate Past Head of the AABFWR. The Vice-President, Administration led a Revival Prayer Session at the Conference. Deacon Anthony Montford of the Divine Baptist, Church, Anyinam-Kumasi, was elected as Men's Ministry President of the AABFWR.

8. Baptist Women Union of Africa (BWUA)

The Baptist Women's Union of Africa (BWUA) Conference was held in Lusaka Zambia from 23rd - 27th August 2017. Twelve (12) women from Ghana attended the Conference. The 40th Annual Conference of Baptist Women's Union of Sierra Leone took place from 3rd - 6th October 2017. The National W.M.U. President, Ms. Beatrice Amui was the Main Speaker at that Conference. The new WMU National Co-ordinator, Mrs. Anowa Boison Ochire and National President, Ms. Beatrice Amui participated in the All Africa Baptist Fellowship (Western Region) Conference in Nigeria.

Up-coming Events: Ghana will be hosting the 10th Bi-Annual Baptist Women Union of West Africa Conference in October 2018. The Conference will take place at this Centre. All efforts must be put in place to give our foreign delegates a good feeling of Ghana to enhance our visibility in AABF to the glory of God.

9. NUBS Congress

Baptist youth from Nigeria, Uganda, Burkina Faso, Sierra Leone and Mali attended the 2018 NUBS Congress, at Ejura. In all, 25 foreign delegates attended this year's Congress.

3.0 ENHANCING OWNERSHIP OF THE CONVENTION BY MEMBER CHURCHES

1. NGBTS Graduation & Induction of Pastor of Tamale 1st Baptist Church

As part of the goal of enhancing ownership of the Convention by member Churches, the President attended this year's graduation ceremony of the Northern Ghana Baptist Theological Seminary in Tamale on 23rd June 2018 and charged the graduands to commit to the vision of the Convention. The Vice-President (Ministries) officiated at the induction service of the Head Pastor of Tamale First Baptist Church. Rev. Stephen Asante, the Immediate Past President of the Convention, preached at revival services and inducted Ministers in some churches in the Northern Ghana Sector.

2. Special Programmes to Enhance Cooperative Autonomy

To enhance our Baptist distinctive of Cooperative Autonomy, Easter Conventions were organized in all the nine Associations of the Mid-Ghana Sector at Zonal levels. Indeed, Easter Conventions were held at various Sectors of the Convention during the Easter season. The Vice-President (Ministries), Rev. Enoch Thompson was the Guest Preacher at the climax of the joint Zonal Easter Convention at Koforidua. Association Promotion week was held in most of the Associations in the Mid-Ghana Sector and the period was used to educate member Churches on roles and commitment to the Association and Convention. Kumasi South-East Baptist Association introduced a programme dubbed "One Baptist Family" which was initiated by the Association's WMU and adopted by the whole Association. It was aimed at fostering a common fellowship (togetherness) among member churches to promote the Convention's agenda. This has further enhanced leaders' and members' show of practical concern and support for one another and the Convention.

3. Church Visits

To help bring the Convention to the door step of our local Churches, several visits were made during the year by officials of the Convention. The South-East Ghana Sector Head visited 9 Churches during the reporting period. He also participated in various Association gatherings.

The Northern Ghana Sector Head visited all the Associations in the Sector during the reporting period. He attended meetings of three Associations (Tamale, Tahima and Nalerigu) and held a meeting with the Executive Members of the Nakpanduri Association. He also visited several local Churches and preached at revival services of the Cornerstone Baptist Church, Nalerigu and the Easter Convention of the Tamale Association.

The Mid-Ghana Sector Head visited eight out of the nine Associations within the Sector during the reporting period.

The National Children’s Coordinator visited the following Churches during the reporting period and in some instances, spoke at their Children’s Days celebrations. They are Grace Baptist church, Sakumono, Triumphant Grace Baptist Church, Community 18, Tema, Tesano Baptist Church, Tesano, Calvary Baptist Church, Adenta, Jubilee Baptist, Anyinam and Legon Baptist Church, Legon.

The NUBS Co-ordinator visited NUBS at UPSA, UHAS/Ho Polytechnic, UEW, Winneba, and University of Cape Coast. He also visited the following Youth Fellowships: Calvary Baptist Church, Ho; Hope Baptist Church, Chantang; and Bethel Baptist Church, Odorkor- Accra.

4. Ministers’ Conference

The Ministers’ Conference elected new Executive Committee members to steer the affairs of the Conference for the next three years. The members are:

NAME	POSITION
Rev. Charles Owusu Ampofo , Senior Pastor of Victory Baptist Church, Ayigya, Kumasi.	<i>President</i>
Rev. Texman Tandoh	<i>Vice-President</i>
Rev. Victor Brew , an Associate Pastor of First Baptist Church, Tema.	<i>Secretary</i>
Rev. Ebenezer Agyepong , Senior Pastor of Providence Baptist Church, Kisseiman, Accra.	<i>Assistant Secretary</i>
Rev. Eric Mfum , Senior Pastor of Triumphant Baptist Church, Apatrapa Kumasi.	<i>Treasurer</i>
Rev. Gabriel Sekyi-Yorke , Senior Pastor, Bethel Baptist Church, Odorkor Official Town, Accra	<i>Welfare Officer</i>
Rev. David Ababire , Senior Pastor of First Baptist Church, Nalerigu	<i>Northern Ghana Sector Representative</i>

A Send-off service was organized for four former Executive Committee members of the Ministers’ Conference. The Conference appointed Mr. Richard Kodjo Siabi as the Conference Administrator effective April 1, 2018. He had been the Finance Officer of the Conference since May 2013.

Implementation of Annual Renewal of License of Ministers started in 2017. It is hoped that all Ministers will comply with the required criteria in order not to disadvantage themselves nor the churches they pastor.

The Ministers' Conference has successfully revised the *Church Guide* to be abreast with the new structure and Constitution of the Convention. All local churches should endeavour to procure copies.

4.0 INCREASING THE FINANCIAL BASE OF THE CONVENTION

1. Payment of Contributions

There has been a remarkable improvement in the payment of contributions to the Convention and Associations. The Dangme East Baptist Association is worth a special mention as it witnessed a 70% improvement in the payment of subscriptions to the Convention and Association during the year. The Association has resolved that contributions should be paid on weekly basis. Visits to defaulting churches in the Dangme East Baptist Association by the Association leadership has reduced outstanding arrears by 75%.

Also, more Churches in the Northern Ghana Sector are paying their subscriptions to the Convention either through the Sector Office or directly into Convention Bank accounts at the designated Banks. Northern Ghana Sector NGBTS Fund Raising Day was observed during the period. Funds raised amounted to GH¢3,195.30. This was used to complete the septic tank at the students' Hostel and procuring of eight (8) ceiling fans for the student dormitories.

2. Fundraising and Income Generation Projects

As part of the goal of making the National Prayer Conference self-supporting, the Evangelism and Mission Department raised GH¢56,813.50 towards the first 2018 National Prayer Conference through special appeals to churches and individuals as well as offerings taken during the Conference. The Department is working with the Centre Manager to establish a convenient shop at this Centre to reduce the frequency with which delegates go to town during sessions to buy some basic items.

To ensure the sustainability of the Baptist Vocational Training Centre in Frankadua, all departments of the school were resourced to produce more items for sale and provide better services to enhance revenue generation. An amount of GH¢8,798.00 was given to

the departments to that effect. At the close of the year, an income of GH¢9,810.20 was received that represented an income surplus of GH¢1,012.20.

The Centre received external donor support of \$13,500.00 from Southern Hills Baptist Church, OK, USA, First Baptist Church, Midland, MI, USA and International Ministries. Internal support totaling GH¢16, 987.00 was received from the following churches, groups and individuals during the year.

- Redeemed Baptist Church, Madina
- Mt. Olives Baptist Church, Ashaley Botwe
- WMU National
- WMU of Tesano Baptist Church
- The Youth Ministry of Charismatic Baptist Church, Taifa
- Women and Children without Limit Mission
- Rev. Evelyn Amihere
- Dr. & Justice Sittie of Tesano Baptist Church

To ensure the sustainability of the Association and enhance its activities, the Adom Baptist Association acquired a thirty (30) acre land for cashew plantation as an income generating project. Fifteen (15) acres of the said land has already been cultivated. The Temple of Fire Baptist Church has acquired and cultivated eight (8) acre farm-land for cashew plantation as an income generation project for the Church.

5.0 HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (STAFF, MINISTERS AND GREATER PARTICIPATION OF LAY PROFESSIONALS WITHIN THE CHURCHES)

1. Enhancement of Academic Capacity

To enhance our human resource capacity and sharpen the effectiveness of our ministries, the Convention is sponsoring 2 persons for Doctor of Philosophy programmes, 7 in Master of Arts in Ministry, and 1 person for Master of Philosophy in Religion.

2. New Appointments

We are glad to notify you that Rev. Charles Asante (former Children’s Ministry Cordinator) and Mrs. Anowa Boison Ochire of Grace Baptist Church, have been appointed as the Acting Director for Christian Education and Auxiliaries Department and WMU Coordinator respectively. Their appointment followed the retirement of Rev. Isaac Asante-Agyei and Mrs. Philomena Wiredu, who were Director of Christian Education and Auxiliaries Department and WMU Co-ordinator respectively. Also, a full-time Sector Head has been appointed for the South-West Ghana Sector, in the person of Rev. Alfred Walter Afful of Believers Baptist Church, Tarkwa. His appointment takes effect from September 2018.

3. Training Programmes

Several training sessions were organized by the various Sectors, Associations and Departments. We outline a few of the key training sessions done during the year.

A total of 178 persons were trained in various evangelism and discipleship strategies within the first quarter of 2018, focusing on the use of the Four Spiritual Laws Video, GodTools Mobile App for personal evangelism and Picture Booklets to share their faith.

To help resource our members for effective ministry among Muslims, eighty-three (83) persons were trained during a Muslim-evangelization Conference organized in the South-East Ghana Sector. This Conference will be replicated in all the Sectors.

As part of our goal to prepare leaders for the next generation, 9 students participated in the Student's Ministerial Training Programme in June 2018.

Some Sunday School material for the Children's Ministry was procured from Kenya to resolve the challenge of materials for the Children's Ministry. This has been distributed at training sessions that were organized in Accra and Kumasi.

A Basic Course in Child Evangelism and Education was organized in the following locations: South-West Ghana Sector (41 participants), Mid-Ghana Sector (107 participants) and South-East Ghana Sector (141 participants). The programme was held in Sunyani from 3rd-4th August 2018 and in Tamale from 9th-11th August 2018. The Children's Department is working on a Guide for Baptist Children's Ministry.

In collaboration with resource persons from OmniBank Koforidua Branch, the Eastern Baptist Association organized a Financial Management Week under the theme: "Make Financial Independence Your Goal." The Seminar was used to educate members on the need to manage their finances and to faithfully support God's work financially. Participants were taken through the role of the office of Pastor and Deacon, Job Duties/ Responsibilities of Pastor, Church Management, and Relationship between Pastors, Deacons, and Church Council.

The maiden retreat of the Eastern Baptist Association of Deacons and Deaconesses was held at Aboritum, Bunso under the theme: Empowering the Deacon for Action. Participants were educated on the role of Deacons and Deaconesses in the local church

With the help of “The Living Seed Team” from Accra, some Eastern Baptist Association members are going through a discipleship training programme in the Association. This programme takes place every two weeks.

The Administrative/Account Officer of BVTC attended several workshops and training programmes to improve his administrative skills. In-service trainings were organized for the staff of BVTC during the period under review.

Kumasi South-East Baptist Association organized a leadership seminar on Church Growth for Pastors and church leaders during the reporting period. Seventy-four (74) Pastors, Church leaders and delegates from the Churches attended this seminar.

4. Northern Ghana Theological Seminary

The Northern Ghana Baptist Theological Seminary (NGBTS) enrolled 99 students for the 2017/2018 academic year. They comprise of 92 males and 7 females. Programme divisions students undertook during the years are Certificate in Theology -5, Diploma in Ministry (Regular) -10, Diploma in Ministry (Full Module)- 61 and Diploma in Ministry (Top- up Module) - 23. 36 students graduated on the 23rd June 2018. Out of this number, 18 students were from the Tema Campus and 18 students were from the Tamale Campus. They were made up of 32 Males and 4 Females.

A nine (9) member NGBTS Board was inaugurated on the 17th of February 2018 to oversee the activities of the School. There is an on-going discussion to transform NGBTS into a Tamale campus of the Ghana Baptist University College.

To enhance the quality of Ministers in the Northern Ghana Sector, twenty-nine (29) Pastors participated in a refresher course funded by the Convention in Tamale from 11th to 16th June. Rev. Alan Locke of IMB facilitated the training.

6.0 SUPPORTING PASTORS IN RURAL AND DEPRIVED AREAS AND RETIREMENT BENEFITS FOR MINISTERS

1. Support to Various Ministers

To achieve the goal of supporting our Pastors on the field and those on retirement to have a decent living, several activities were deployed at the Associational level during the year. Three financially needy Ministers of the Nsawam Zone received monthly allowances from the Accra North Baptist Association.

The North Volta Baptist Association is supporting some Pastors with GH¢50.00 a quarter. The South Volta Baptist Association has instituted a fundraising programme in April every year on zonal basis for Pastor's support.

The Baptist Men's Ministry donated GH¢1,600.00 (One Thousand Six Hundred Ghana Cedis) to the Home Missionary in North Volta, Rev. Timothy Wilson and his family during a period they had health challenges.

The Tema Central Baptist Association continued to take care of Rev. John Nyarko and his family. Some Ministers in the Dangme area and some other areas were supported financially every month by the Association. Families of deceased Ministers are also supported from time to time.

Tamale First Baptist Church continued to pay thirteen Pastors in the Tahima Baptist Association monthly salaries. Other Churches like the New Life Community and Solid Rock Baptist Churches also supported their daughter Churches. Calvary Baptist Church, Adenta is supporting six Pastors in the Tamale Baptist Association. To ensure that there is no duplication in support payments, all Churches who are supporting Pastors should submit the name of the Pastors and their Church to the office of the Vice-President, Ministries for proper monitoring.

During the year, the Pastors of Diisa and Salugu in the Liberty Baptist Association, their members and communities lost their houses, foodstuffs and valuable items to fire when they were attacked by some people from Daboya. The Sector made an appeal for support and out of that appeal, 27 maxi bags of maize, 120 bowls of beans, 120 bowls of rice, 30 sleeping mats, some assorted cooking utensils and several bales of used clothing were delivered to the Association for the affected Pastors and their members.

The Adansi Baptist Association subsidized the salaries of four (4) Pastors of some financially weak churches, Preaching Stations and Preaching Points. The Adom Baptist Association supported the Pastor of Faith Baptist Church - Tanoso and raised funds to support one retired Minister in the Association during their Easter Convention. The Kumasi South East Baptist Association is supporting 9 Ministers with salary top-ups. The Association also supported two Baptist Ministers with their medical bills to the tune of about GH¢12,000.00. Kumasi North Baptist Association supports four Pastors and one lay person with monthly salary top-up. The Sunyani Baptist Association supported the Theological training of one Pastor and is now helping with his monthly salary.

The National WMU Executive Committee led by their National President visited the Eastern Baptist Association on 14th October 2017 and presented to the Pastors suits,

shoes, shirts and clothing for their wives. Miss BYL accompanied by the five Associational Presidents in Kumasi paid a visit to the Pastors in Tamale. They presented 60 half pieces of cloths, 120 sets of sewn Kaba & Slits, 20 (3yds) pieces of cloth, new dresses and shoes to the Pastor’s children. WMU sent different kinds of items ranging from food stuffs to clothing to Tamale and its environs when some houses were burnt down. The WMU sent suit, shirts and trousers to some Pastors in the Mid-Ghana Sector. The WMU is supporting a Pastor at Twedee in the Kumasi West Baptist Association.

2. The Human Resource and Salary Scale Documents

To meet the goal of better remuneration for our Pastors, the Ministers’ Conference was tasked with the responsibility of providing some guidelines to that effect. The Ministers’ Conference has completed *The Human Resource and Salary Scale Documents*. The proposed Salary Scale will be laid before this Session for approval to be adopted by our churches as a guide, subject to their ability to pay. It is recommended that in situations where churches are doing or could do better than the proposal made in the Salary Scale Document, the Ministers concerned are not to be disadvantaged in any way.

The Ministers’ Conference at this year’s Annual Refresher Course, Retreat and Business session unanimously approved a proposal for funding Ministers Welfare needs and Retirement benefits. It included upgrading the quantum of retirement benefit for Ministers. The proposed figures as against the previous retirement benefits are presented in the table below:

MINISTERS’ RETIREMENT BENEFITS

PREVIOUS POLICY		APPROVED POLICY	
YEARS OF SERVICE AMOUNT TO BE PAID (AMOUNTS IN GHS)		YEARS OF SERVICE AMOUNT TO BE PAID (AMOUNTS IN GHS)	
20 years and above	- 4,000.00	31 years and above	- 8,000.00
16-19 years	- 3,000.00	26-30 years	- 6,000.00
13-15 years	- 2,500.00	21-25 years	- 5,000.00
9-12 years	- 2,000.00	16-20 years	- 4,000.00
5-8 years	- 1,500.00	11-15 years	- 3,000.00
		5-10 years	- 2,000.00

PAYMENT PLAN BY CHURCHES ACCORDING TO THE NEW CATEGORIZATION

CATEGORY	CONTRIBUTION PER RETIREE (GHS)
A	3,000.00
B	2,000.00
C	1,000.00
D	500.00
E	200.00
F	100.00

The money realized will be used as follows:

- a. 80% of the total contributions is to be used to settle Retirees retirement benefits.
- b. 20% of the remaining contributions to be used for Ministers’ Welfare needs.

It is also proposed that the mode of collection would be done through the various Local Ministers’ Fellowship Centres using Conference receipt books only.

We trust that our Churches will endeavor to pay their allotments on time to enable the Conference pay the 19 retirees due this year promptly. The Conference has increased its dues to GH¢50.00/year. Proceeds from the Rural Housing fund will be used to start building houses for two outstanding rural Ministers to be chosen from the Sectors per year on rotational basis. The beneficiary Minister must have his or her own plot of land available at the time of construction.

3. Allowance Payment to Retirees by the Local Church

At the 51st Annual Session (2015) held at Calvary Baptist Church, Shiashie, Accra, it was resolved (Resolution 5) as follows; “That all Ministers of the Convention who have been in active ministry in the local church for fifteen years and over or served in the position as Chief Executive Officer of the Convention be given monthly stipend during their retirement for a life time. The Ministers’ Conference is therefore charged to work out the modalities for its implementation”.

In line with that Resolution, the 30th Annual Refresher Course, Retreat and Business of the Ministers’ Conference resolved as follow: “that retired Ministers who have worked for 10 years and above be given a minimum of 20% of the sitting Senior Pastors’ basic salary, and those who have worked for 20 years and above be given 25% of same”. This proposal is therefore tabled at this Session for your consideration.

The Presidency and the Tema Central Baptist Association are soliciting the prayer support of the whole Convention for Rev. Samuel Oware Dweteh and Rev. David N. Ocansey, our Immediate Past General Secretary who have health challenges.

Early this year the Presidency assigned, Rev. George Donkor (retired) to take responsibility of the First Baptist Church, Swedru from Rev. Stephen Okyere-Nkum, for six months to a year. He is working to ensure restoration of peace between the Church and clients of the defunct Credit Union which was being handled within the Church. He is also to prepare the Church to call a new Pastor within the period.

The Presidency appointed Rev. John Osam Doudu (Bible Baptist Church, Apremdo) on April 16, 2018, as an interim Minister of Solid Rock Baptist Church, Kwesimintsim, Takoradi, to oversee the Church for 3 months. The Head Pastor Rev. Texman Tandoh proceeded on leave to pave way for some disturbances in the Church to be resolved. He has since resigned from the Church.

a. Bereavement

The following Ministers of the Convention passed on during the reporting period:

1. Rev. William Acheampong of Providence Baptist Church at Abuakwa in the Kumasi West Association.
2. Rev. Maxwell Frempong of Redemption Baptist Church in Adansi Baptist Association

b. Discipline

The following Ministers were dismissed as Ministers of the Ghana Baptist Convention during the reporting period.

1. Rev. Stephen Okyere-Nkum, formerly of Swedru First Baptist Church, Swedru.
2. Rev. Nicholas Boateng, formerly of Senya Baptist Church, Senya Breku.

c. Report On Ministerial Interviews

Various Licensing, Recognition & Ordination Committees were formed under the auspices of the office of the Vice-President (Ministries) through the Ministers' Conference to interview applicants for Ministerial Recognition at the 55th Annual Session. In all, a total of 204 applications were received for interviews in all three categories this year. A summary of the results is represented in the table below:

SUMMARY INTERVIEW RESULTS FOR 2018 MINISTERS LICENSING RECOGNITION AND ORDINATION

CATEGORY	PASSED	FAILED	DEFERRED	DISQUALIFIED	ADONAI	TOTAL
LICENSING	64	8	2	5	17	96
RECOGNITION	44	9	-	-	4	57
ORDINATION	33	7	5	-	6	51
TOTAL	141	24	7	5	27	204

Interview of the candidates from Adonai Theological College was deferred pending the resolution of the standing of the School by the Ministers' Conference.

In 2017, fifteen (15) successful candidates from the Tema campus of the Northern Ghana Baptist Theological Seminary (NGBTS) were deferred for Licensing because they had not graduated at the time of the interviews. They have all graduated this June and will be presented for Licensing. Due to this, the number of successful candidates for licensing this year is eighty (80).

Police finger print vetting could not be done before the ministerial interviews. It will be conducted for all licensing candidates during this 55th Annual Session.

7.0 DEEPENING THE SPIRITUAL BASE OF THE CONVENTION

1. National Prayer Conference

To deepen the spiritual base of the Convention, a week of Prayer and Fasting was organized in all our churches in January 2018. The 8th and 9th National Prayer Conferences were held in October 2017 and May 2018 respectively, with a growing average attendance of 530 (five hundred and thirty) persons each. Monthly prayer sessions for the Convention by the prayer teams have been sustained in all Associations and we can testify to their impact in terms of breakthroughs.

2. Associational Prayer Activities

Accra North Association- The Prayer Warriors in addition to their monthly prayer sessions, held an All-Night prayer session in preparation for Ghana Baptist Convention National Prayer Conference at Ejura in March 2018.

Volta Baptist Association- Zonal prayer sessions by Pastors and Leaders were held at Ho, Hohoe and Nkwanta in the North.

Northern Sector Association- Prayer teams held several prayer sessions during the year for the Convention.

3. Auxiliaries

All the auxiliaries organized teaching and prayer meetings.

- a. **WMU** - The 2017 WMU Annual Conference was held at the BWRC in Ejura from 2nd - 7th August 2017. 1,560 women attended the Conference. The Kumasi North Association organized monthly retreat for the women and the average attendance per month was about 250 women.
- b. **Men's Ministry** - The Northern Ghana Sector Men's Ministry held their maiden rally at the New Life Community Church, Tamale in March 2018. A total of 148 men from all the Associations participated. The National President and other National Executive Committee members attended the meeting. The Sector Head was one of the Speakers at the rally.

The National Men's Ministry organized a leadership training programme for the South-East Ghana Sector. In partnership with the Convention Secretariat, the Men's Ministry organized a successful retirement service for Rev. Emmanuel Ato Abban on 10th March 2018 at Grace Baptist Church, Amakom - Kumasi.

- c. **Youth**- 600 students took part in this year's Annual NUBS Congress organized at the Baptist Women's Retreat Centre under the theme "At the Foot of the Cross". The Vice-President (Ministries) and the Vice-President (Administration) of the Convention were the key Speakers. The National Youth Conference took place from 26th to 29th July 2018 at the Baptist Women's Resource & Retreat Centre, Ejura, Ashanti.

JNUBS Rallies were organized by the NUBS in the South-West Ghana and Mid-Ghana Sectors. Zonal NUBS Inter-tertiary service for Southern Zone - B was organized at the University of Ghana. 5 institutions i.e. University of Ghana, University of Professional Studies Accra, Korle-Bu, University of Health and Allied Sciences and Koforidua Technical University participated. There were 310 students in attendance.

The Northern Ghana Sector Youth held its Bi-Annual Conference at the Bolgatanga Technical Institute from 27th December to 30th December 2017. 217 participants attended the Conference. The closing ceremony was addressed by the Northern Ghana Sector Head.

A successful Royal Ambassadors clinic was held at Christian Village, Santasi - Kumasi between 24th and 25th February 2018 under the auspices of the Baptist Men's Ministry.

8.0 EVANGELISM AND MISSION

1. Missions Week

Our Annual Mission Week was held across the country. A total amount of One Hundred and Forty-Six Thousand, One Hundred and Eighty-Three Ghana Cedis, Thirty Pesewas (GHS146,183.30) was realized. The breakdown for each Sector is as follows:

a. Mid-Ghana Sector	-	GHS86,992.70
b. South West Ghana	-	GHS30,282.70
c. South East Ghana	-	GHS23,287.50
d. Northern Ghana	-	GHS8,620.40

We are grateful to God for all Sector Heads and our Pastors for their efforts in this regard. The Mid-Ghana Sector deserves a special mention for excelling in this year's Mission Week Fund-raising activity. Two hundred and six (206) churches from the nine Associations in the Mid-Ghana Sector observed the Missions week and contributed a total of Eighty-Six Thousand, Nine Hundred and Ninety-two Ghana Cedis, Seventy Pesewas (GHS86,992.70). Sixty percent (60%) of the amounts raised were retained by each Sector purposely for its Church Planting activities.

Reapers' Summit, an evangelism training session was held on March 17, 2018 at the Baptist House. Member churches as well as Evangelism Teams/Task Forces of Churches and Zones attended. 120 members participated in the summit.

2. Vehicles for Home Missionaries and Sector Heads

With support from Svani Limited, part of the proceeds from this year's Mission Week fund was used as deposit to acquire vehicles for some of our Home Missionaries. The North-Volta and Nzema Home Missionaries were each given a brand-new Nissan Navara double cabin Pick-up vehicle in early July 2018 to support their work.

The Northern-Ghana Sector Head was also given a brand-New Nissan Navara double cabin Pick-up vehicle for his activities in the Sector. We are working to provide vehicles for the remaining Sector Heads and Home Missionaries as funds become available. All the Association Heads in the Mid-Ghana and South-East Sectors have agreed to mobilize funds in their Associations to support the purchase of vehicles for their Sector offices.

3. Sector Evangelism and Missional Activities

Our Evangelism and Missional activities continued vigorously over the period with concerted efforts at all levels to achieve our missional goal of reaching out to the lost.

a. South-West Ghana Sector

The Sector continued with the Great Commission mandate during the period to plant and strengthened Churches. Out of a projected 18 new churches to be planted, 7 have been planted so far during the year under review.

The Associations in the Sector also focused on strengthening existing weaker churches within each Association through church visits and provision of basic needs, such as, acquisition of lands, construction of meeting places, provision of musical instruments, public-address systems, plastic chairs and provision of some social ministries to some churches and communities.

With support from the Baptist International Worship Centre (BIWC) at the Head Office in Accra, as part of their Missional Project, “**Shelter for Worship**” the Convention released an amount of Gh¢11,700.00 towards the completion of the Pastorium for the Church at Elubo.

b. South-East Ghana Sector

The Eastern Baptist Association in partnership with Tesano Baptist Church planted a church at Kraboa-Coaltar. Harvest Baptist Church, Suhum has started another church at Aye-Obongolo No.2, a village near Suhum. New Creation Baptist Church, Koforidua has started another church at Kukurantumi where they received a donation of 2 plots of land.

The North Volta Baptist Association planted 3 churches at Ho-Sokode Lokoe, Bisivnand - Kpassa and Sibi-Kpassa. A piece of land has been bought for the Sibi Church.

The Aflao Zone in conjunction with the Baptist churches in Keta organized a crusade at Keta to revive the churches in that area. Redemption Baptist Church 2nd Low-cost has relocated to a new site.

In May 2018, Living Water Baptist Church-Okwenya in the Dangbe West Baptist Association was donated to the Convention by a Missionary. It has a membership of ten adults and 24 teens and children. So far, attendance is very encouraging.

c. Northern Ghana Sector

The Tamale Baptist Association in collaboration with an International Missionary Organization from Texas, US carried out a house-to-house and person-to-person

evangelism in Tamale and its environs. Ten churches and 29 missionaries were involved in this project. Koinonia Baptist Church Tamale, through some social intervention strategies has opened up Gbabshe and Guonaayili, hitherto difficult and hostile communities, to Christian ministry. With support from Lake Point Baptist Church in USA, Koinonia has provided the communities with boreholes to provide safe drinking water. The Church is nursing a young and enthusiastic congregation in Gbabshe. The Head Pastor, Rev. Dr. Isaac Wuni has taken personal responsibility for this young congregation. Gbabshe had earlier been provided with treated mosquito nets.

The Bolgatanga Baptist Association in conjunction with the Central Baptist Church, Bawku has planted a church in Pusiga in the Bawku Zone. Rev Joseph Adam has planted a Church in the Yagba which is a district capital in the Nalerigu Baptist Association.

The Wa Baptist Association has planted churches in four communities namely: Loggu-Sagu, Daffiama, Gbanko and Kyaangu. A partnership with the Great Commission Movement of Ghana, has resulted in the recruiting of 2 Baptist Pastors in the Nalerigu Baptist Association to lead in Church planting in the Nalerigu and Nakpanduri Baptist Association areas. These Pastors are fully paid by GCMG.

d. Mid-Ghana Sector

Nineteen (19) new churches were planted in the Sector during the year. While the Adansi Baptist Association planted 2 new churches, God's Love Baptist at Brofoyedru and Central Baptist at New Baakoyeden, Sunyani Association also planted two new churches; Calvary Baptist Church at Kotokrom and through the initiative of Mrs. Margaret Boateng, a Church has been planted at Kasapee near Mim. Kumasi South East Baptist Association planted two churches and Kumasi West Baptist Association planted three new churches: Kunpesee Zone planted three churches at Datano, Afede and Kwasiso.

In Adom Baptist Association, Temple of Fire Baptist Church, Kintampo has planted Temple of Justification Baptist Church at Nante in the Kintampo South District.

Golden Gate Baptist Association planted five new churches:

1. Beposo Baptist Church
2. Salvation Gate Baptist Church
3. Pure Word Baptist Church
4. Berea Baptist Church
5. Faith Community Baptist Church.

Whilst Students on SHOP planted two churches at Juansah near Agogo and Sefwi Asafo, Kumasi North Baptist Association planted one new church at Apagya.

The President, Rev. Dr. Ernest Adu-Gyamfi donated an amplifier and two speakers to New Life Baptist Church at Kajaji, which is under the supervision of the Sector Office. The Sector purchased four microphones and thirty plastic chairs for the church.

Kumasi South East Baptist Association has helped the following churches:

1. Emmanuel Baptist Church, Sawaba was given 30 bags of cement
2. Temple of Praise, Konongo received 20 bags of cement
3. Asakraka Baptist Church, Kwahu received 20 plastic Chairs
4. New Life Baptist Church, Adanwomase had 30 bags of cement
5. Full Life Baptist Church, Parkoso was given Roofing Sheets
6. Calvary Baptist Church, Abetifi was supported with GH¢5,000.00 to acquire a land.

Kumasi South West Baptist Association supported the following churches:

1. Seekers Baptist Church, Aduaben with 20 plastic chairs.
2. Disciples Baptist Church, Abenase had 20 plastic chairs
3. Amangoase Baptist Church received 1 block molding machine, 40 bags of cement and 4 trips of sand.
4. Divine Baptist Church, Apromase received GH¢4,000.00 for church plot.

4. Church Building Projects

As part of our goal to provide decent places of worship for our churches, with support from Deacon Daniel Ofori, a total of eight new church building projects were undertaken during the year. Two of them have been roofed while the remaining six are at the roofing levels. Materials for the construction of two PREFAB church buildings in the Nzema Mission Field have been moved to site. We hope that these projects will be completed by the end of the year to bring the total to 10 church buildings.

Revival Baptist Church, Sakyikrom, Nsawam, acquired and paid for a piece of land to build a suitable place of worship. Victory Baptist Church, Asamankese, in the Eastern Baptist Association received GH¢5,000.00 from the Convention to support the construction of their place of worship. Harvest Baptist Church, Suhum has erected a structure for a new church in the Suhum Zone.

Negotiations for the acquisition of Land in Strategic Places in the Dangme East Baptist Association have been made. An initial deposit of Ten Thousand (GH¢10,000.00) has been paid for the acquisition of eight plots of land. Negotiations are on-going at Tsopoli to secure some six (6) plots of land.

The Hope Baptist Association has constructed permanent offices on their plots at Dunkwa-On-Offin. The Sekondi-Takoradi Baptist Association has purchased land for the construction of permanent offices. Construction is yet to commence on the plot.

Kpene Baptist Church, in the Tamale Baptist Association is receiving help from Seed Ministry located in Tamale to build a worship place. All the block work and roofing have been done and flooring and other finishing works are in progress.

Dr. and Deaconess Mrs. Abogy-Otchere who hail from the Sefwi area bought a land, built an auditorium, and filled it with plastic chairs for the Heaven's Gate Baptist Church in Sefwi Ampenkrom near Sefwi Bakwai. The handing over and dedication service was held on 1st July 2018. We are immensely grateful to them and pray for God to keep blessing them.

WMU supported the Evangelism and Mission Department with GH¢5000.00 in 2017. They also supported the Nzema Baptist Association with GH¢3000.00 towards the renovation of the Elubo Baptist Church in November 2017. Additionally, the WMU supported Elubo Baptist Church with GH¢4000.00 for the renovation of the church premises.

Through contact with Pastor Antonio da Silva (Brazilian Missionary), Carlos Lenk, a Baptist brother in Brazil, provided GHS¢,000.00 to buy a piece of land for the Sandema Baptist Church. The Sandema Baptist Church contributed GH¢1,000.00 towards land documentation.

5. Home Missions

a. Navrongo Mission Field

One church was planted by the Home Missionary at Zondem during the year. The Mission Field needs Pastors and Church leaders specially to lead the newly planted churches. The Home Missionary is being supported the Di Silva family from Brazil.

The Brazilian Baptist Convention Missionaries (Di Silva family) currently working with the Ghana Baptist Convention are based in Tamale. They have started a church in Sirigu and are working on additional churches in Paga and Chiana. At Sirigu they are preparing the first set of converts for baptism. They are also nurturing church leaders at Sirigu and Paga.

Since last year they have been engaged in ministry to school children in two (2) schools in Tamale, Pinnacle Star Academy, and Zainzakuya Primary School (an Islamic school). They started a Bible study group with twelve teenage-girls, and by God's grace they have permission of their Muslim parents to bring them to Church services.

b. Nzema Mission Field

No church was planted in the mission field due to financial challenges. However, four churches were revived through organised week of revivals. These churches are Mangyea, Jaway Wharf, Ekpu, and Adusoazo Baptist Church. The Convention has made provision for the construction of two church buildings for the mission field. Materials for the construction of the churches have been moved to site, work will commence soon.

c. Sefwi Mission Field

One church was planted at Asafo by the Home Missionary during the year while Nine churches were revived.

d. North Volta Mission Field

Two churches were planted at Nkonya Ntumda and Sibi Central. With sponsorship from the Convention, five churches in the Kpassa area were revived by the Home Missionary. Through the support of one family in Tema, Nyame Adom Baptist Church, Hohoe was roofed during the year. Unfortunately, the roof was ripped off by a rain storm. The Convention took immediate steps to re-roof the church building.

e. Cinema Ministry

During the period under review, the Convention continued with the Cine-Van Ministry. In all eight (8) churches were planted during the reporting period. Twenty-four thousand, nine hundred and eighty-five (24,985) people were exposed to the Gospel while five thousand, nine hundred and sixty-eight (5,968) prayed to receive Jesus Christ. The following are the Sector Cine-van Ministry activities during the period.

i. South-East Ghana Sector

Some of the areas where Cine-van Ministry was carried out within the Sector during the year were: Tongues of Fire Baptist Church- Mayera, Adenta Baptist Church, Redeemed Baptist Church, Oyarifa, Calvary Baptist Church, Aburi, First Baptist Church, Juapong, Unity Baptist Church, Mkpakadan, Temple of Grace Baptist Church, Madina and Jubilee Baptist Church, Anyinam. In all, four thousand, four hundred and eighty-six (4,486) people were exposed to the Gospel and one thousand, four hundred and thirty-eight (1,438) prayed to receive Jesus Christ as their Lord and personal Saviour.

During the period, two churches (2) were planted at Akraman and Legon Hills through the cine-van ministry.

ii. Mid Ghana Sector

Cine-van outreaches were held with Victory Baptist Church, Ayigya, Disciples Baptist Church, Abenase- Edwinase, Berea Baptist Church- Atonsu, Resurrection Baptist Church- Okyerekrom, House of the Lord Baptist Church- Mowire, Kwadaso Baptist Zone and All Souls Baptist Church.

During the period, 9,866 people were exposed to Gospel through the cinema van ministry and 1,771 people made public decisions for Christ. Four (4) churches were planted through the various outreaches at Aduaben, Kajaji, Nante and Juansa.

iii. Northern Ghana Sector

The provision of the Cine-van and engagement of the Sector Evangelist, Pastor Ayuba Tahidu has enhanced evangelism within the Sector. Some other denominations are now employing the services of the van for their evangelistic outreaches. Many are coming to the saving knowledge of the Lord through the Cine-van ministry.

Some of the areas where outreaches were held were: Victory Baptist Church Sahakpalgu -Tamale, Bunlugu Baptist Church, Nyoglo Baptist Church, Kuboyili Baptist Church and Gumo Baptist Church, Gumo, all in Tamale, Sanga Baptist Church, Cheshegu Baptist Church, Dogushegu Baptist Church, Kpani Baptist Church, and Sunsong Community. Seven Thousand, Four Hundred (7,400) people encountered the Gospel and One Thousand and Two (1,002) received Jesus as Lord and Saviour. Two churches were planted at Balshee and Zugu.

iv. South West Ghana Sector

Outreaches were held at Gomoa Obiri Baptist Church, Effia-Takoradi, Effiakuma No 9- Takoradi, Anaji-Takoradi, New Site-Takoradi with Abundant Life Baptist Church, Apam Baptist Church-Apam, Alpha and Omega-Winneba, Simpa Baptist Church-Winneba, Sankor Baptist Church-Winneba, Peace Baptist Church-Winneba, Asomdwe Baptist Church-Winneba, Kweikrom Baptist Church-Kweikrom Gomoa, among others.

A total of Four Thousand, Two Hundred and Ninety-Five (4,295) people were exposed to the Gospel while one thousand four hundred and thirty-eight (1,438) accepted Jesus as Lord and Saviour.

6. Students' Holiday Outreach Programme (SHOP)

SHOP 2018 took place from mid-May to early June 2018. The goal of 2018 SHOP was Church growth. A total of three hundred and thirty-eight students (338) from seven (7) tertiary institutions participated in the 2018 Programme. One hundred and four (104) students came from Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, seventy-

seven (77) students from the University of Ghana, fifty-eight (58) students from University of Education Winneba and North, sixteen (16) students from University of Natural Resources and Renewable Energy, Fifty-three (53) students from University of Ghana Medical School, and thirty (30) from the University of Professional Studies The students were deployed to three Sectors within the Ghana Baptist Convention.

Activities at the various centres included, dawn broadcasts, school evangelism, hospital evangelism, one on one evangelism and cinema outreaches at selected areas.

An evangelism application developed by a KNUST student with support and collaboration from the Mid-Ghana Sector Head and his team was a useful tool in the pre-SHOP orientation sessions and subsequently on the Mission Fields.

BREDA together with the Evangelism and Missions Department held a medical outreach at Juapong on 28th July 2018. This was to strengthen the First Baptist Church at Juapong which was established last year through the support of Praying Pelican Group, USA. The Praying Pelican team who were in the country again this year joined in the outreach programme.

The NUBS in the Northern Ghana Sector undertook SHOP in the Navrongo Mission Field from 24th to 30th December 2017. The target area was the communities around Fumbisi. 602 persons were exposed to the Gospel and 137 people made decisions for Christ.

7. Chaplaincy Ministry

The Chaplaincy Department of BMC, Nalerigu, shared the gospel with client who visited the hospital through morning devotions, counselling and community visits. The department reached about 80,000 people with the gospel out of which 966 patients rededicated their lives to Christ and 670 patients were led to faith in Christ. The department also followed up on 360 patients in 26 communities. Regular Morning Devotions are conducted in all the Baptist Health services (BHS) facilities.

We will like to propose that the School of Theology and Ministry considers seriously training students specifically for Chaplaincy work in future as more health centres are being opened by the Convention.

8. Summary of the Number Churches Planted

A total of fifty-Nine (59) churches were planted in the period under review. The breakdown is as follows: Mission Fields- five (5); Cinema Ministry- thirteen (13); South West Sector- nine (9), South East Sector -Six (6), Northern Sector -seven (7) and Mid-

Ghana-nineteen (19). More effort was put into strengthening existing weak churches during the period.

9. Organization of Churches

During the year under review the following churches were organized.

Mid-Ghana

- i. Grace Outreach Baptist Church, Nyameso Obuasi;
- ii. Calvary Baptist Church, Anyinam Obuasi;
- iii. Faith Evangelical Baptist Church, New Nyamebekyere
- iv. Triumphant Baptist Church, Akaporiso Obuasi.
- v. Adom Baptist Church at Kenten, Techiman
- vi. Grace Baptist Church - Akumadan

We will like to propose that these Churches be accepted into full membership of the Convention.

10. International Missions

a. North America Baptist Association of GBC (NABA)

The 2018 NABA Convention was held in Chicago from 27th to 30th July 2018. It was attended by 17-member Churches' and 600 delegates. In March this year, the NABA EC met with the President of Ghana Baptist Convention, Rev. Dr. Ernest Adu-Gyamfi and the Chairman of the Denominational Board, Rev. Dr. Fred Deegbe in the USA to bridge and strengthen the relationship between Ghana Baptist Convention and NABA.

The NABA remitted \$10,000 to Ghana Baptist Convention in June 2018 to complete payment of the Children's Department Vehicle. The vehicle has therefore been fully paid through NABA subscription.

b. Europe

The President spoke at the Easter Convention of our Churches in Amsterdam and Belgium during the reporting period. The Grace Baptist Church in Amsterdam donated One thousand, five hundred (1,500.00) euros to the Convention this year.

9.0 SOCIO-ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES

1. Baptist Relief and Development Agency (BREDA)

a. Health Support

Baptist Relief and Development Agency (BREDA) has initiated a fundraising drive to support Franklin Awuah Okrah, who is to undergo surgery to correct a hole-in-heart defect. Approximately **GH¢26,000.00** is needed for the operation. Between April and June 2018, **GH¢2,700.00** has been raised toward this relief assistance.

b. Collaboration

17 Ghana Baptist Convention churches are currently partnering with Compassion International in their operative areas. About 4,000 children and their families are benefiting from this project through these Baptist churches. BREDA has collated information on all churches partnering with Compassion International Ghana. This is a major step towards situating such local partnerships as key social intervention activity of the Convention. The President of the Convention had a meeting with the newly appointed National Director of Compassion International Ghana in May 2018. The Convention is in a process of signing a Memorandum of Understanding with Compassion International Ghana to enhance collaboration of the two bodies at the national level.

c. Early Childhood Programme

To provide decent learning environment for Early Childhood Development Centres, the Tamale Baptist Child Development Project and Tahima Baptist Child Development Project with support from the Christian Children Fund of Canada (CCFC) constructed a two-unit Early Child Development Centre for Bongnayili community. They also provided furniture, learning materials and outdoor playing equipment.

A total of 170 dual desks was provided for schools in Central Gonja District that benefited 340 children. The total cost of the project was GH¢127,004.00. The project constructed a two-unit semi-detached staff quarters for the Clinic of Hope during the period under review. The facility has been fully furnished and provided with back-up solar lighting. This facility was inaugurated in February 2018. The Tolon District Assembly contributed GH¢40,000.00 toward the face-lifting of the Wantugu Clinic which was constructed by the project.

2. Baptist Health Services

The Baptist Health Services received accreditation for seven (7) facilities during the year from the Christian Health Association of Ghana. All the facilities have also been accredited by the National Health Insurance Authority. Completion of the Maternity block at the Tanoah Baptist Medical Centre, Opuniase is about 90% complete. We are in the

concluding stages of fixing fixtures and painting the facility. Construction of an out-patient washroom at the Nzema Baptist Medical Centre is about 50% completed. The superstructure has been raised.

Four out of the six functional hospitals have changed their signage to reflect the common identity of Baptist Health Facilities. Up and coming facilities are yet to conform to the new signage and naming of our health facilities.

a. Medical Centre- Nalerigu

BMC, Nalerigu has a bed capacity of 180 as at June 2018. The total number of birth deliveries from January to June 2018 was 1,616. Minor surgeries for the period were 961, while Major Surgeries recorded 647 for the period under consideration. There were 300 Caesarean Sections and 3 maternal mortalities were recorded during the year. OPD attendance for the six months from January to June 2018 was 36,083 while admissions for the period were 6,895.

i. Helmsley Charitable Trust Funded Project

In-patient Wards

Part of the \$1.2 million funds received from Helmsley Charitable Trust was for the construction of in-patient wards i.e. male medical, female medical and children's ward. As at the time of reporting, the roofing metal trusses for the buildings have been fixed and the roofing sheets are being fixed.

Construction of Mechanized Borehole

The borehole has been drilled but not mechanized. According to the contractor, the delay is due to changes in the design i.e. from overhead poly tank to hot press steel tank reservoir.

Office Equipment

Some of the office equipment like office chairs and tables have been procured and the facility has been connected to the internet. Arrangements are being made to procure the rest of the office equipment before the end of year.

Ambulance

The ambulance has been procured and it is currently in use at the facility.

Investment Returns on Funds

While waiting for the different phases of the project to commence, some of the funds were put into short term investment and the interest gained was used to construct a

phase II of the Hospital Laboratory complex. This project has been completed and is currently in use.

ii. 60th Anniversary Celebration

This year, the hospital is celebrating its 60th Anniversary with the theme: 60 YEARS OF PROMOTING GOOD HEALTH AMONG RURAL FOLKS: THE CHRISTIAN WAY (Mathew 4:23). Activities of the anniversary have already started. The climax of the anniversary in November 2018 will be used to commission various projects undertaken at the Centre. Projects to be commissioned include but not limited to the new administration block and the new in-patient wards among others. There are plans, as part of the celebrations, to build a new staff bungalow.

b. Baptist Medical Centre, Abuakwa

This facility started operations in July 2016. The facility was built and equipped by the Ghana Baptist University College. Additional maternity and theatre blocks have been constructed.

Whereas NHIS Credentialing was granted to the facility in April 2018, the scheme had not been rolled into operation as at the period under review. As a result, patronage for health care services has remained low over the period. General OPD attendance for the period was 1,463, while Eye Clinic attendance stood at 262. There were 187 Admissions over the period.

c. Nzema Baptist Hospital- Nvellenu

The construction and equipping of this Convention hospital is being carried out with funding from the Cuyahoga Valley Church (CVC) of Cleveland, Ohio USA. It commenced operations in March 2018.

General OPD attendance from March 2018 to June 2018 was 678. NHIS Credentialing was granted to the facility in April 2018 but it has not been activated during the period under review.

d. Baptist Medical Centre- Tanoah

This is a partnership facility. An MOU has been signed between Ghana Baptist Convention and the Chief of Opuniase who built this facility for the community. With support from the Lions Club International, additional buildings are being developed. Some hospital equipment has been supplied. Ghana Baptist Convention, through the Baptist Health Service started clinical operations in November 2017.

General OPD attendance for the six months to June 2018 was 540. NHIS Credentialing was granted to the facility in April 2018 but it had not been activated during the period under review.

The Chief of Opuniase, Nana Opuni Duah Oware, in collaboration with the Medico-Lions Group of France and Germany have shipped an assortment of Medical items to the Baptist Health Services, for distribution to the Opuniase facility and other health facilities in the Asante Akyem North District. The Chief is also in the process of securing Lab and Eye equipment from the Medico-Lions group, for the facility.

e. Kumasi Academy Clinic

The Convention, through the Baptist Health Services, applied to CHAG for an upgrade of the infirmary at Kumasi Academy (Kumaca) to the status of a Clinic with a Doctor. The Accreditation and upgrade was duly granted by CHAG in March 2018. The facility is therefore going to be run as a full-fledged Clinic by the Baptist Health Service, when school reopens in September 2018.

f. Other Facilities

The following facilities have received accreditation but are not fully operational because of some constructional works that must be carried out. They are: Charismatic Baptist Hospital, Gyinyase, Kumasi, Livingspring Baptist Medical Centre, Atasomanso, Kumasi: Calvary Charismatic Baptist Community Clinic, Atwima Mim. This facility was built by Rev Francis Sarpong of Calvary Charismatic Baptist Church, London.

g. Funding Support

George Faille Foundation donated over \$18,000.00 during the year to support the nutrition centre at the Baptist Medical Center at Nalerigu. They also provided funds to cater for the allowances of locally engaged doctors.

International Missions Board of the Southern Baptist Convention supported BMC, Nalerigu with \$27,139.00 for the purchase of a new Anesthetic machine and a Hematology Analyzer for the hospital. The CVC Group of Cuyahoga, Cleveland, Ohio, USA, has so far funded the construction and equipping of the Nzema Baptist Hospital. They have also rented and paid two years rent advance for accommodation for critical essential staff. They have also committed to paying staff remuneration and allowances until the Baptist Health Service is able to secure Posting of Health Professionals from CHAG.

As part of the equipping process, the Group has procured and installed an ultra-modern Laboratory and Diagnostic Centre that aims at serving all the three Nzema Districts, namely: Jomoro, Ellebelle and Nzema East. Currently, none of the major health

facilities in the three districts can boast of the full complement of Lab and diagnostic equipment we have at the Nzema Baptist Hospital.

The Group has also indicated its commitment to construct another block to house all the Wards and a Main Theatre; a special detached Lab, Diagnostic and Radiology Centre; and a staff accommodation block.

The Convention received a land donated by Abenkyiman Traditional Council (near Anwiakwanta) for the construction of a hospital. A cadastral survey will be conducted and final clearance from Manhyia will be sought before the project commences.

3. Education

a. Baptist Vocational Training Centre (Under Supervision of BREDA)

To help in the rehabilitation of ex-Trokosi inmates and provide space for the education of less privileged persons in the Mafi area, a total of 66 girls are being tutored at the Baptist Vocational Training Centre now. There are 27 ex-Trokosi girls and 39 less privileged girls. Additional 10 ex-Trokosi boys are being trained at the Centre. The total student population is 76. An International Ministries Missionary, Rovaughna Richardson has been at BVTC since November 2016. She teaches business skills and entrepreneurship training alongside her counselling session with the students.

Graduation was held in July 2018. A total of GH¢10,000.00 was raised toward the graduation. To improve the existing infrastructure at the Centre, work has resumed on the 6-classroom block with funding from the American Baptist International Ministries. The first tranche of \$16,573.00 has been utilized to raise the superstructure to the gable level. The delay in completion is due to the fact that funds from the donors, International Ministries have been staggered and therefore we have to wait until the next allocation of money comes in.

The WMU presented learning materials and GH¢2,000 to BREDA for onward distribution to the Baptist Early Child Development Centres. During the WMU Annual Conference in August 2017, the women donated food items, toiletries, clothing, sanitary pads etc. to the Baptist Vocational Training Centre.

b. Kumasi Academy

To ensure holistic Baptist education and strengthen our ownership of Kumasi Academy, Rev. Sylvester Osei Wusu of Tesano Baptist Church was posted to the school as the new Headmaster. He replaced Mrs. Eunice Appiah Nkansah of Asokwa Baptist Church who retired during the year. The school was once again hit by a series of death of students, but we are grateful to God that the situation came under control. We will like to express

our thanks to the government, Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Education, Headmaster, teachers and staff who stood with us during such challenging times. We will like to express our appreciation to some of our Ministers who went to the school to provide prayer and spiritual support during the crisis period.

A new Governing Board of the school was inaugurated during the year under review. The President of the Convention, Rev. Dr. Ernest Adu-Gyamfi who serves on the new board was elected the Chairman of the Kumasi Academy Governing Board.

The construction of a 37-seater toilet facility for the girl's dormitory by the Convention is about 85% complete.

c. ILA Kingdom Academy, Asokore

In November 2017, Mr. & Mrs. Isaac Amo of Woodbridge, Virginia, USA donated a school, ILA Kingdom Academy to the Convention. The school has facilities from KG to JSS 3. The Mid-Ghana Sector Head has been tasked to facilitate the re-opening of the school for the 2018/2019 academic year by September 2018.

d. Ghana Baptist University College

The current Schools and programmes of the University College are as follows:

i. School of Business Administration and ICT

Bachelor of Business Administration

- Accounting
- Marketing
- Human Resource Management
- Banking and Finance
- Entrepreneurship
- Diploma in Business Administration

ii. School of Theology and Ministry

- Master of Arts in Ministry (MAM)
- Bachelor of Theology
- Diploma in Theology
- Diploma in Ministry
- Diploma in Music

iii. School of Arts and Social Sciences Education

- Bachelor of Education - English
- Bachelor of Education - French

- Diploma in Education - English
- Diploma in Education - French

iv. **School of Nursing**

- Bachelor of Science - General Nursing

Faculty

School of Business Administration - 15, School of Theology and Ministry - 7, School of Nursing - 2, School of Arts and Social Sciences Education - 4

Student Population

School	Total Number	Number Graduating	Current Number
School of Business Degree Programmes	715	256	459
Diploma	79	52	20
STM	231	54	177
SASSE	59	9	50
SON	18	-	18
TOTAL	1043	371	724

GBUC is sponsoring 4 (four) lecturers for PhD studies at Sunny State University, Ukraine as part of a collaboration between GBUC and Sunny State University. They will be bonded to the GBUC after their studies. The beneficiaries are:

- Mrs. Agnes Odoi - Department of Human Resource Management
- Mr. Stephen Adu - Department of Accounting
- Mr. Wiafe Akenten - Department of Accounting
- Mr. Peter Sarpong - Department of Marketing and Entrepreneurship

The following from STM are pursuing their PhD:

- Rev. John Fosu - University of Hamburg, Germany
- Rev. Michael Aidoo and Rev. Dennis Ampofo - International Baptist Theological Study Centre, Amsterdam, The Netherlands

External Collaborations

GBUC has external collaboration with the following institutions:

1. Theologische Hochschule Elstal, Berlin, Germany for joint Conferences and publication, visiting professorship, exchange programmes, and training of STM lecturers
2. Oxford Brookes University (OBU), UK for Higher Education Diploma in Palliative Care
3. Sunny State University (SSU), Ukraine for lecturers at GBUC to pursue their PhD.
4. Texas A & M International University (TAMIU) for student exchange programmes

New Programmes

Sefwi-Wiaso Learning Centre

The University College has established a Learning Centre at Sefwi-Wiaso with accreditation from the National Board for Professional and Technicians Examination (NABTEX). Agreement has been reached between GBUC and Sefwi-Wiaso Senior High School to use their facilities for lectures. The Centre begun running the Diploma in Business Administration in the last week of July 2018.

CHALLENGES

The financial situation of the University continues to cause great concern. The current indebtedness of the school is as follows:

	GHS
Banks -	257,837.54
UCC -	273,036.00
Statutory Bodies (IRA, SSNIT etc.)-	204,408.04
OTHERS -	61,891.48
Outstanding salaries (June & July)-	309,270.51
	=====
Total	110,644,3.57

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4. Hospitality

a. Baptist Guest House, Accra

To facilitate hosting facilities for our guests and provide facilities for Christian recreation, the Accra Baptist Guest House continues to see a lot of improvement. A signage to make it easier for people to locate the place is under construction. The Painting of guest rooms and public areas is at about 60% complete. This is being managed around periods when rooms are vacant. All sanitary wares have been replaced and acid washing of the walls have been completed. The exterior fence wall has been painted but that of the main building wall will be repainted after the rains.

There are a total of 14 rooms at the facility. The facility provides meals for guests as well as laundry services. There is a prayer room available at the facility for Baptists within the Cantonments area to hold short meetings (home cell/sheepfold meetings) within 1- 1 ½ hours at no charge. Arrangements may be made at the guest house for such services.

b. Baptist Women Retreat and Resource Centre

Tree planting exercise has begun with an initial planting of Coconut seedlings along the front view of the Centre. Machines for spraying weedicides and pesticides have been acquired as the intermittent engagement of Zoomlion for this purpose has been rather too expensive. Water filters have been installed on the two main Poly tanks that store water from the bore holes. A new pipe-line has been laid (and a new metre requested) to increase the volume of water that comes to the Centre.

Delegates to the 2018 Minister’s Wives Conference donated GH¢2,000.00 towards provision of curtains for the dormitory buildings on request by the Centre Manager. Ironing boards have been placed in the White House, ABBEX and Small Chapel buildings to reduce the risk of fire associated with every guest ironing clothes in their rooms during programmes.

Construction of the WMU Jubilee House and the Men’s Ministry building is on-going. The apartment located between the White House and ABBEX which was previously used by Kwame Akurugu (the Labourer) has been renovated with new roof, new ceiling, new window frames, new doors and door frames and has been set up as a Laundry for the Centre with washing machines installed there. The White House has received considerable improvement as the floor and verandas to the rooms have been tiled and tables installed in some of the rooms.

Between September 2017 and August 2018, the center contributed over GH¢150,000.00 to the Convention. A greater part of this contribution went into the improvement of the Center. Aside of this, the WMU and Men's Ministry contributed about GH¢120,000.00 towards their project funding at the Centre.

One major challenge that faces the Center is the absence of a fence wall. This has exposed the center to a lot of hazards. Though a security firm has been engaged, the vastness of the compound makes it a daunting task for the current number of security personnel does their work successfully.

10.0 INFRASTRUCTURAL DEVELOPMENT

Some structural defects in the Hohoe Missionary residence will be worked on during the coming year.

Several legal issues over land and other properties presented to the Estate Department by our Churches have been forwarded to our Solicitors (Sam Okudzeto & Associates) and are pending the necessary action to be taken.

11.0 STRATEGIC PLAN

In view of the uncertainty during the period under review, implementation of the Convention's strategic plan which was approved last year was put on hold. We are working with the lead Consultant to revise it to begin operation in January 2019.

12.0 ANNUAL SESSION REPORT BOOK

In view of the high cost of printing and the corresponding effect on Annual Session registration fees, we will like to propose cutting back on some of the extra material provided in the Book of Reports and Financial Report books. This will mean having a combined Book of Reports and Financial report book that is smaller than what we are used to.

13.0 CHALLENGES

Despite the achievements of the year under review, there are some challenges facing the Convention

1. The issue of succession of retired Ministers continues be a challenge to the denomination. We will like to propose that going forward, each local Church must prayerfully consider choosing about 5 people to be groomed for future leadership.
2. The late and non-contribution of subscription to the Convention poses a challenge as this makes planning difficult for us at the secretariat. We will like to appeal to all churches to commit to early and regular payment of subscriptions.

3. The provision of the necessary logistics and resources to our growing institutions continue to be a challenge to the Convention. We will like to plead to all our member churches to take seriously the promotion of special days for collection of funds for Convention institutions like the University, Mission Week, Ejura Development Levy etc.

14.0 CONCLUSION

It is my hope and prayer that the Lord will lead us throughout this session in meaningful deliberations and that we will leave here with spirit-led decisions that will move our Convention forward.

Submitted By:

Rev. Dr. Ernest Adu-Gyamfi

President