



President's Report

August 19

2015

To the 52nd Annual Session of
the Ghana Baptist Convention

Presented By Rev.
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President's Report to the 52nd Annual Session of the Ghana Baptist Convention

Introduction

We will like to express our thanks and appreciation to God for seeing us through another year and for the successful celebration of our Golden jubilee last year in spite of some challenges faced. I will like to welcome into office Pastor Washington Komla Darke, Vice President, Administration. He assumed office on June 1, 2015 after the affirmation of the Search Committee's report presented to us during the April emergency session at the Baptist House in Accra. As was done last year our report this year will follow the seven point strategic vision of the Convention approved by the house last year.

Convention's Strategic Vision

- Rebranding and visibility of the Convention
- Enhancing ownership of the Convention by member Churches
- Increasing the financial base of the Convention
- Human Resource Development (staff, Ministers and greater participation of lay professionals within the Churches)
- Supporting Pastors in rural and deprived areas and retirement benefits for Ministers
- Deepening the Spiritual base of the Convention
- Evangelism and Mission

1. Rebranding and Visibility

a) Social Media Network

The presence of the Convention on social media was sustained during the year. Traffic to our social media sites (facebook, twitter, Instagram, google plus, whatsapp and website) have gradually increased with greater participation and visits whenever postings are made about Convention's activities with pictures. Weekly traffic on facebook has been between 1600 and 8000 visits a week depending on what activities are reported on. I would like to express our appreciation to the brethren who have been behind the scene doing all that work for the last year and a half without any financial motivation.

All members of the Baptist family and friends are encouraged to visit these sites for daily updates and information. The book of reports for this session was posted on the Convention's Website about two weeks before annual sessions to be accessed by member bodies as required constitutionally. This choice was made to save cost and wastage as against printing and distributing over 2000 booklets when only a maximum of 400 churches attend annual sessions. We want to encourage all our churches and pastors to invest in information technology equipment to enhance information flow between the secretariat and our Churches and Institutions.

We were however not able to maximize our presence in the print and electronic media as anticipated in spite of all the programmes organized or participated in both at the secretariat and by local churches. I will like to emphasize that in the coming year our pastors should ensure that all programmes organized by local Churches, auxiliaries and Institutions are given adequate publicity in the print and electronic media to enhance our visibility.

b) Advertising and Signage

The presence of the Convention has now been re-enforced on the Accra Kumasi road with the planting of three churches and mounting of sign post at Anyinam, Osino and Bunso. These are additional sign

posts placed on the Accra-Kumasi road to augment the ones in Konongo and Odumasi to project the Convention.

Last year we proposed the use of a uniform signage by all Convention Churches. The proposal was referred to the Ministers Conference for further discussion. I am glad to report that some sectors and churches have adopted and implemented the proposal. We will like to appreciate the South West Sector Head and his team for the bold decision to adopt the new signage across the sector in the course of our reporting year. The South East Sector has also asked all Associations within the Sector to educate churches of the need for the usage of the new convention signage. We will also like to thank all our churches who have also done same. Our goal is to create a solid brand GHANA BAPTIST CONVENTION under which all our churches will fall instead of a situation where local churches appear to have been branded better than the denomination.

Works on the completion of the third floor at the Baptist House is almost done. We have installed acoustic ceiling and LED lights in the main auditorium. The auditorium is capable of seating about five hundred (500) people when completed with seats. Four (4) out of the eight (8) air conditioners have been installed in the auditorium. This was where the last emergency Convention session was held in April 2015. We are working on fixing comfortable seats in the place to make the auditorium fully functional.

The signage at the Women's Retreat Centre has been replaced, the roofing in this auditorium has been completed and the camp repainted to give this place a new image as part of our rebranding programme.

c) Strategic Document

Our strategic document has been completed and is attached to your book as an appendix. It is our hope that members will study the document and provide some input where necessary to help in its implementation. We will like to express our appreciation to Rev John Nkum who led this process and all other participants in the process to bring the document to this stage.

d) Affiliations

As part of the presidential initiative of rebranding and visibility of the Convention, the president in December 2014 held a meeting with 19 independent Ghanaian Baptist Pastors in London to find a way of bringing them into an affiliate relationship with the Convention. A follow up was done in June this year when the president again visited London. Contacts have also been made with other independent Ghanaian Baptist Ministers in Holland and Italy to bring them on board. The initiative is to make the Convention visible in Europe as we have already done in America.

This initiative has started yielding very positive results. Some of the pastors have already picked forms to register to become members of the Ministers Conference while others are getting ready to do same. Resource mobilization has started coming in from some of these churches and pastors which are captured under presidential initiatives in this report.

Ecumenical Relationships

The President was on April 15, 2015 voted into office as the Vice Chairman of the Christian Council of Ghana (CCG) at the Council's annual general meeting for a term of two years. Deacon Christian Sottie a member of the Denominational Board was also elected as the new Honorary Treasurer of the Christian Council. Rev. Dr. Fred Deegbe is the Chairman of the Board of Christian Community Mutual Fund

Limited of CCG. We will like to express our appreciation to God for the honour done to our Convention by these promotions within the Christian Community in Ghana.

At the just ended Baptist World Alliance (BWA) Congress in Durban South Africa in July, the President was installed as one of the twelve Vice Presidents of the BWA for the next five years. The President is also a member of the BWA Budget and Finance Committee as well as the Commission on Christian Education/ Nurture. The Vice President, Rev. Enoch Thompson, has been appointed a member of the Commission on Theological Education of the BWA. Rev. Dr. Fred Deegbe is the new Chairman of the BWA Commission on Human Rights Advocacy. Rev. Dr. Kojo Amo serves on the BWA Resolutions Commission as well as the Commission on Baptist Heritage and Identity and Prof Edwin Kwame Wiredu serves on the Commission on Religious Freedom. The new president of BWA is Rev Paul Msiza of South Africa. African now has four representatives on the Executive Committee of the BWA. It is our hope that these positions will promote the visibility of the Ghana Baptist Convention not only in Ghana but also on the international scene.

Nineteen Ghanaians attended the 21st Congress of the Baptist World Alliance in Durban and the Women's World Congress in Johannesburg, South Africa in July 2015.

The President held meetings with the Directors of World Vision International, Ghana Institute of Linguistics, Literacy and Bible Translators, Compassion International and GHAFES on issues of collaboration. The President was one of the speakers at the launch of Bible Week 2015. He spoke at the launching service at the Christ Apostolic Church, Osu on Sunday February 1, 2015.

The Vice President (Ministries) represented the Convention during the centenary celebration of the Nigerian Baptist Convention in Ibadan. He also represented the Convention during the Synod of the Global Evangelical Church and the Annual Meeting of the Church of Pentecost, Ghana.

2. Enhancing ownership of the Convention by member Churches

a) Presidential Visits

As part of our goal in enhancing and deepening local ownership of the Convention, last year the Presidency set a goal of visiting 200 churches, Associations, Ministers Fellowships and institutions of the Convention to promote the Convention and also strengthen secretariat and local church and institutional relationships. These visits were done by the President, Vice President (Ministries) and some Directors and senior staff at the head office. We are glad to report that in 2014 we were able to visit 196 Convention churches, Associations, Ministers Fellowships and institutions in Ghana and 6 churches in London who are been encouraged to affiliate with the Convention, making a total of 202 visits in the year.

From January 2015 to the middle of June, we had been able to visit 101 churches, Associations, Ministers Fellowships, and institutions in Ghana. The President visited 5 North American Baptist Association of Ghana Baptist Convention (NABA) churches and also participated in the NABA Ministers annual retreat in Chicago, USA in June this year. The President also had the opportunity to visit Trinity Baptist Church, London in July 2015 and used the opportunity to seek for more partnership with other independent Ghanaian Baptist pastors there. Some of the immediate benefits of these visits will be outlined later in this report under Presidential Initiatives.

Beside the visits by the presidency and Secretariat staff, the Ministers Conference leadership, Sector Heads, Association Heads and evangelists as well as auxiliary heads made several other visits to churches across the country. I will like to express our appreciation to our Pastors and Church leaders for the reception received across the country during these visits.

3. Other Activities of the Presidency

The President attended the All Africa Baptist Fellowship meeting in Kenya with the out-gone General Secretary, Rev David Ocansey and Mrs. Philomena Wiredu, the WMU Coordinator in February 2015. He also participated in the Ghana Baptist University College 6th graduation ceremony at Abuakwa and our Evangelism Consultation at Ejura.

The outcome of these visits have been a better understanding of the Convention's strategic direction by the groups, churches and institutions visited. This has resulted in better cooperation from ministers and churches and increase in the financial contributions of some of the Churches and places visited.

Sector and Associations

The Kumasi West Association organized Convention and Association Promotion Week to generate interest in Convention and Association activities. All churches in the Kumasi West Baptist Association honoured the "Promotion Week" in February this year to promote the work of the Convention and Association.

The Kumasi South East Baptist Association organized a day's training for all Pastors and church leaders on 24th January 2015 at Grace Baptist Church to educate participants on the Convention's New Structure.

Auxiliaries and NUBS

To enforce ownership of the Convention, members of the National Executive Committee of National Union of Baptist Students (NUBS) this year participated in all Convention programmes including the National Prayer Conference and Evangelism Consultative Meetings at Ejura. Leadership training and other local Church programmes were organized by the Women Missionary Union (WMU) to increase knowledge of the Convention among her members and also boost WMU Members' commitment to the union.

3. Increasing the financial base of the Convention

After last year's jubilee celebration, a lot of financial pressure was brought on the Convention due to our indebtedness to Unibank who financed the completion of our head office building. The Bank threatened on several occasions to publish the name of the Convention in the daily newspapers as a defaulter to the Bank. This resulted in the president and vice president (Ministries) doing a lot of funds mobilization activities during the latter part of 2014. This took them off their normal schedules as they sought to raise funds to meet the deadline of the Bank.

The presidency in consultation with the Denominational Board and with the approval of the Trustees decided to sell the old head office building at Tesano to free the Convention from the pressures of the Bank and also make money available for ministry. The old head office building therefore was sold for a total of Three million, three hundred thousand Ghana cedis (\$1.1 million US dollars). The purchasers have so far paid two million, eight hundred thousand Ghana cedis to the Convention. The remaining balance of five hundred thousand Ghana will be paid when all documentation processes are complete.

The Convention has therefore paid off a greater part of the loan with Unibank leaving a balance of four hundred thousand cedis. Out of the sale amount, two units of 4 bedroom houses have been purchased for the Convention. One is at Bastonaa on the Spintex road and the other is at old Ashongman all in Accra. These are the residences of our two Vice Presidents now. In addition we have provided 25kva generators in the houses of the presidency. We have also made part payment of the cost of a new Mitsubishi Pajero vehicle for the Vice President (Administration). A substantial part of staff end of service benefits which had been outstanding since 2010 have been paid. It is our hope that when the outstanding balance on the sale is paid, the Unibank loan will be totally paid off.

20% Contributions

In 2014 a total of 407 Churches out of the 2006 churches representing 25% of our churches contributed 20% of their tithes and offering to the Convention. The situation where only a few of our churches make contribution to the Convention is a worrying trend. However a total income of GHS4,738,437.39 was received in 2014 as against GHS2,754,78.52 in 2013. The percentage increase in total income between 2013 and 2014 was 72%. A total expenditure of GHS1,863,450 was incurred in 2014 as against GHS1,640,752.48 in 2013 representing 13.6% increase. The net income in 2014 was GHS2,874,986.46 as against GHS1,114,033.04 in 2013. This represents a percentage increase of 158.1%. Although this increase is substantial, we are still working at bring in more churches to contribute their 20% to the Convention while also finding additional sources of raising more money for the Convention.

Presidential Initiative

The presidency continued to introduce innovative ways of increasing the financial and assets base of the Convention. These included raising monies for some specific projects which hitherto our 20% contribution alone could not support. Some of the approaches included presidential visits to churches and soliciting support from individuals and churches to finance new Convention projects.

Vehicle and Other Donations

We received a donation of an 18-seater bus from an individual member donor. The bus has been assigned for Student's weekend evangelistic ministry. The same donor has given us a brand new pickup truck which is to be converted into a second cine van for the Evangelism Department.

Svani Limited donated one 3 wheeler motor vehicle out of the 2 promised last year to the Convention. The vehicle has since been assigned to the Baptist Vocational Training Centre at Frankadua.

We received donations of 4 motor bikes, roofing sheets, cement and 270 pieces plastic chairs from Trinity Baptist Church (London & Accra) in response to a proposal sent to them to support the Sefwi Mission field. They have also accepted to pay 16 pastors and church leaders in Sefwi Mission field for a period of one year. They have followed through with their promise and have honoured their obligation since April 2015.

During a visit by the President to Trinity Baptist Church, London in July an appeal for funds for the Sefwi Mission field yielded GBP2000 and \$630. This donation is aside their commitment to pay the pastors and Church leaders in the area.

Trinity Baptist Church, London also donated to the Convention 6 pcs 1000 watts speakers, 2 pcs speaker monitors, 3 pcs sub woofers, speaker stands, 32 channel mixer console, 2 sets of cordless microphones and their corresponding cables. All the equipment is to enhance our ministry at this camp

and this auditorium. I will like to take this opportunity to thank Rev Kingsley and Cynthia Appiagyei and the leadership and members of Trinity Baptist Church (London and Accra) for their support.

The Convention also received a donation of 250kva Generator set from a businessman and member of Trinity Baptist Church, Accra in April this year. This generator has since been assigned to the School of Theology and Ministry (STM) Abuakwa. The donor took care of the transportation from Accra to Kumasi and also the cost of installing the machine at Abuakwa. I will like to express our appreciation to him for this great support.

We received a contribution of three hundred Euros (300euros) from Berean Baptist Church in Italy. This is one of our International Mission Churches in Europe.

Ejura Generator Appeal

We are glad to report that due to contributions from Churches in response to an appeal to Associations and the WMU to help purchase a generator for this Centre, a brand new 76kva Genset was installed in September last year at this camp just before the national WMU conference.

North American Baptist Association (NABA)

This year a total sum of \$8000 was received from the North American Baptist Association (NABA) of the Ghana Baptist Convention to support the Early Childhood Development Programme in the Mafi area in the Volta Region. In view of financial policy regulations in the USA all monies coming to the Convention from NABA from now on are going to be tied to specific projects to ensure that due processes are followed to meet all tax exemption regulations in the USA.

NABA contributed an amount of \$2000 to the Convention this year for the re-painting of the Women Retreat and Resource Centre, Ejura in preparation for this year's annual session. We will like to express our appreciation to NABA Ministers Conference for this great support to the Convention.

All Nations Baptist Church in Columbus, Ohio donated 2 pcs of Video Projectors to the Convention this year. The projectors will be installed in this auditorium to complete the initial equipment needs of this place.

American Baptist Churches International (ABC) Ministries

A renewed partnership agreement was signed between ABC International Ministries and ABC Metro Chicago in March and May 2015 respectively. American Baptist Churches International Ministries donated a total of \$24, 326.00 to the Baptist Vocational Centre, Frankadua during the period. ABC Metro Chicago through Rev. Dr Joanne Lindstrom held a leadership training programme for the Sekondi/Takoradi Association in June 2015. She also donated \$500 to the WMU and \$500 for women's training at the School of Theology and Ministry.

Rental of Properties

This reporting year, monies from the rental of the ground floor of the Baptist House yielded a total of GHS 172,359.82. A substantial part of these proceeds went into the completion of the third floor of the Baptist House and the ceiling works in this auditorium. The third floor auditorium where the last emergency session was held in April this year is now almost complete.

A two bedroom guest house which is in advanced stage is under construction at the topmost part of the building. These rooms will serve as rest places for the presidency when they need a break from work and also as guest rooms for Convention guests on short stay.

Sector Activities

During the year under review the South West Sector set a target to ensure that at least 70% of member Churches contribute their 20% and 5% to the Convention and Associations respectively. They have therefore put some mechanisms in place to achieve this target.

The South East Sector has also charged Association Chairmen to check on Churches that are defaulting in the payment of their contributions and encouraged such Churches to be faithful in their payment of subscription during Association meetings.

Hospital Construction

Construction of the Baptist Hospital at Nvellenu in the Nzema area is still on-going. The project is being funded by the American Baptist Churches (ABC) International Ministries. The building is currently at the roofing stage of construction. A total of \$75,000 have so far been received for the project from ABC. We want to express our thanks and appreciation to ABC International Ministries for the commitment and support to this project.

4. Human Resource Development (staff, Ministers and greater participation of lay professionals within our Churches)

In collaboration with the School of Theology and Ministry (STM), three First class graduates from the February 2014 graduating class have been recruited to pursue Master of Philosophy degrees at KNUST and Central University to augment the teaching staff at the STM on completion of their programmes. Another graduate student at Mpakadan in the Volta region is also under training at the STM pursuing a Master's Degree. The goal is to upgrade the level of ministers in the Volta region. He is also supporting the staff at the Baptist Vocational Training centre, Frankadua. All these student are on tuition scholarship from the Ghana Baptist Convention. The Home Missionary in Hohoe is also being supported by the Convention to pursue a Bachelor degree at the School of Theology and Ministry.

Other assistance is being sought from Universities outside the country for the training of our Ministers and other personnel to augment the human resource capacity of the Convention. The GBUC STM has been mandated to start programmes that can enhance the capacity of the Ministers on the field now. Preparations for the take-off of the programme are far advanced. Adverts for the programme will be circulated at this sessions for the programme to begin in January 2016.

Three staff members of the Baptist Medical Centre (BMC) were granted study leave with pay by the Medical Services Council to pursue various programmes as part of staff development at the Hospital. They are:

1. Dubik Joshua Dindiok to pursue Masters in Nursing at the University of Ghana.
2. Medjida Rashidatu to pursue BSc. in Midwifery at the University of Health and Allied Sciences, Ho.
3. Shaibu Mahamudu to pursue Dental Surgery Assistant course at the College of Health, Kintampo.

Sector Head for the Northern Sector in the person of Rev Paul Rufus Kaleem has been appointed now. His official induction was held on 8th August 2015. It is our hope that the Ministers and Churches within the sector will give him the full cooperation as he assumes office.

A new Associational Head has been elected and installed for South Volta. He is in the person of Rev. Nicholas Nuwekpor of Denver Baptist Church, Sogakope.

40 Youth leaders attended a training session at the Grace Retreat Center in Kumasi from 5th-7th March, 2015. It was facilitated by Rev. Dr. Nii Amo-Darku on the theme "The Influential Leader". 40 youth leaders in the Dange Association had a training programme facilitated by Rev. Clement Kwame Addo on the theme "Role of Youth in church development" at victory community Baptist church, on 28th February, 2015.

Send-Off Services

Send off services were held for Rev Dr. Edward Osei-Bonsu and Deacon Jervis Djokoto on August 2nd and 17th 2014 respectively for their retirement from active service as Directors of Christian Education and Church Development and Baptist Relief and Development Agency respectively. The services were held in their respective Churches, namely Lifeway Community Baptist Church and Charismatic Baptist Church, Taifa respectively.

Mrs. Naomi Asante Agyei retired in March this year while Mr. Emmanuel Amoah (Wofa), the President's driver and Rev Yaw Ofori, Director of Evangelism and Mission's Department will retire at the end of August and September 2015 respectively. On behalf of the Convention I would like us to appreciate the services of these brethren and their commitment to the service of the Ghana Baptist Convention.

The send-off service for Rev. Yaw Ofori is scheduled for September 26, 2015 at Bethel Baptist Church, Dansoman. It is our hope that all our churches and members will come and support us to give him a fitting send-off. All those with gifts for the President's drive Mr. Emmanuel Amoah (Wofa) who has also meritoriously driven three past General Secretaries should send them to the head office by the first week of September to be passed on to him.

A send-off service was held for the out-gone President, Rev Dr. Steve Asante, Vice President, Rev. Dr. Nii Amo Darku, General Secretary, Rev. David Ocansey and the past Executive Committee in December 2014. We will like to express our appreciation to these gallant men and women for their services to the Convention.

Training Programmes

With support from the All Africa Baptist Fellowship (AABF) Western Region, the Children's Department organised a teacher training programme here in Ejura in June this year. About 120 participants took part in the programme. The resource person was the Director of Children's Department of the Nigeria Baptist Convention.

To help educate our members to own the Convention, the South West Sector Executive Committee organized training sessions on the "Basic tenants of the Baptist Faith and practice" as well as "Our understanding of the concept of autonomy and cooperation" in all the Associations.

The South West Sector was able to organise 4 JNUBS within the year in the Sector. On the 21st of March, 2015 the Kumasi South West Association held a day's seminar for its Ministers and lay leaders at

the Ascension Baptist Church on various topics to empower them for effective service. On the 11th and 12th of June 2015, the New Tafo Zone within the Golden Gate Association organized a two-day seminar for Pastors and church leaders dubbed "Fruitfulness Seminar" at the New Tafo Baptist Church. New Tafo Baptist Church has changed her name to Central Baptist Church.

The South East Sector set a goal to recruit and train 30 leaders for rural Churches at the Ghana Baptist School of Ministry in South and North Volta. 12 students have graduated at the South Volta centre and 15 from the North Volta Centre. To enhance the quality of teaching in the Children's Ministry, a target of training 100 teachers was set by the Sector. A five day leadership seminar was held from 10th-14th February, 2015 at the Cornerstone Leadership Training Institute, Suhum for Children Ministry Teachers. Forty (40) Children Teacher's attended the program.

Under the co-ordination of Mrs. Esther Nyako, the National Children's Ministry Coordinator of the Ghana Baptist Convention, a day's training was held on 21st March, 2015 at the Victory Baptist Church, Asamankese for Children Teachers in the Eastern Association. 68 teachers attended this programme.

The Nalerigu Association trained 23 leaders through the Ghana Baptist School of Ministry programme. Tahima Association also trained some Pastors and leaders.

Challenges

Despite all the above successes, there are real challenges in some of the Sectors and Association in the area of human resources. For example there are few trained Pastors in the Bolga Association. There are no leaders to man the existing churches in the Liberty Association. This situation is affecting the growth and commitment of the churches in the area. I will like to charge the Ministers Conference to look at these critical areas and provide the necessary support to the Churches there.

The auxiliaries in some of our Northern Churches are not well organized while others are not active. The Nalerigu Baptist Association has inadequate leaders to man existing churches and there are very few trained Pastors in the Association. Our auxiliary leaders should take note of these needs and plan to attend to them.

National Union of Baptist Students

Two new fellowships have been established and inaugurated at Twifo Praso Nursing Training College in the South West Sector and Mampong Midwifery and Nursing Training College in the Mid Ghana Sector.

Meeting Places for NUBS Locals

The Presidency with support from some of our businessmen are working on the provision of a permanent meeting place for NUBS at the University of Cape Coast. It is our hope that if all goes well UCC NUBS will have their own auditorium by the end of this year. It is our prayer that all campus groups will be able to have their own meeting places to forestall the situation where our students are tossed up and down just because they do not have a place of their own on campuses.

Appointment of Full Time Sector Heads

The appointment of full time Sector Heads for all sectors could not be implemented this year due to financial constraints. After a meetings with the sector Heads, it was agreed that we begin with the provision of sector offices to provide a place for sector operations while we continue to explore the possibilities of funding the project. Office space has been made available in the Head Office for the South East sector. It is yet to be furnished. The meeting agreed that recruiting a full time sector head for

the northern sector was much more crucial at this stage than the other sectors in view of the need to do more mobilization in that area. We have therefore gone ahead to recruit the Northern Sector Head.

A new Associational Head was elected and installed for South Volta. He is in the person of Rev. Nicholas Nuwekpor of Denver Baptist Church Sogakope. The South East sector is proposing that a new Association should be carved out of the current North Volta Association since those at the far north are unable to attend meetings at the south.

Ghana Baptist University College

The University College continues to make significant strides despite the numerous challenges facing it. On 6th December 2014, the University College graduated a total of 445 students in various programmes. This was the highest number of students graduated in a given year. So far a total number of graduates from GBUC stands at 1,294.

School of Theology and Ministry

There are currently 166 students and 15 lecturers at the school

School of Nursing

The University College has finally been granted accreditation by the National Accreditation Board to offer nursing programme at the university. A Dean has been appointed for the School of Nursing and has already assumed duty. The final hurdle is the professional accreditation by the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC). We are awaiting a visit from the NMC.

School of Business Administration

The three-storey lecture block including offices for lecturers, a Conference Room and Academic chamber have been completed, equipped and furnished with the exception of the Conference room, which is yet to be furnished. There are 1530 students pursuing various programmes in the school. The school has 38 lecturers now.

New Programmes

The following new programmes have been approved by the National Accreditation Board (NAB):

Bachelor of Education – French

Diploma in Education – French

Bachelor of Education – English

Diploma in Education – English

The programmes below are currently going through accreditation process

Bachelor of Science – ICT

Master of Management Information System (MIS)

MBA – Finance

MBA – Accounting

MBA – General Management

MBA – Marketing

MBA – HRM

Annual University Day

This year's Annual University Day yielded an amount of GHC 75,161 plus \$ 1,500.

Northern Ghana Baptist Theological Seminary

The Seminary continues to run Literacy, Certificate in Pastoral Ministry, Certificate in Theology and Diploma in Ministry Programs. A budget of GHS146,412.00 was set for 2014/2015 academic year. Out of the projection, GHS145, 228.00 was realized due to increase in Convention subvention and student intake. Student enrolment for 2014/2015 were as follows.

59 students were enrolled (56 males, 3 females)

Literacy-3

Certificate in Pastoral Ministry-2

Certificate in Theology – 8

Diploma in Ministry (Regular) – 10

Diploma in Ministry (Full Module) – 17

Diploma in Ministry (Top-up Module) – 19

21 students graduated in May 2015 (19 males, 2 females)

3 full-time faculty and 1 full-time Bursar/Administrator engaged

23 students took part in outreach and internship programmes

16 students took part in the mentoring programme.

CHALLENGES & SUGGESTED SOLUTION

Despite the achievements, the seminary also faced some challenges during its operation in the 2014/2015 academic year. These challenges are:

Lack of Transportation for outreach and other programs.

A generator to supplement the frequent power cut.

Lack of Computers and internet facilities for faculty and Students.

We will like to appeal to our churches, auxiliaries and individuals to help the seminary with transportation, generator and computers to improve our services.

BAPTIST RELIEF DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (BREDA)

Baptist Vocational Training Centre (BVTC)

In November 2014, twenty-three (23) girls graduated from the Centre including 9 ex-Trokosi victims and 14 less privileged girls. The ex-Trokosi victims were each given start-up equipment and seed money to enable them start their own businesses in their chosen vocation. 15 Trokosi girls were rescued from 4 shrine in October 2014 for the 2014/15 Academic year. This was made possible through the effort of Ps. Obani who visited 4 shines and negotiated for the release of the girls.

There are thirty-six (36) other less privileged girls from the surrounding villages being trained at the Centre (these girls pay a token fee for their tuition). The total number of students on roll is 51. 15 more ex-trokosi girls were targeted to be rescued in October for the 2015/16 academic year. The centre is also soliciting for support to admit and train boys of Trokosi women who live in the shrines.

The current staff strength at the Centre is eighteen (18). This is made up ten (10) teaching and eight (8) non-teaching staff.

Some of the challenges facing the programme is the high running cost of BVTC due to the current economic situation in the country. There is also the challenge of limited classroom space resulting in limited intake of students.

With the increasing cost of running BVTC, the centre is strategizing to generate income to support its activities. We will like to appeal to churches all over the country to continue to support this worthy cause in cash and in kind. We are also seeking both external and internal support for the completion of the classroom block for the school.

Several individuals, churches and organizations donated to the centre in the course of the year. These include:

Local (cash)

Bethel Baptist Church
First Baptist Church, Tema
Calvary Baptist Church, Adabraka
Calvary Baptist Church, Adenta
Adenta Baptist Church, Adenta
Deacon Isaac Addai (Triumphant Grace Baptist Church, Tema)
Mrs. Owusu-Koranteng (in kind) – food items
Mrs. Amihere (in kind) – food items
1st Baptist Church, Men’s Ministry (in kind) 2 desktop computers

Foreign (cash)

Everyday Ministry, USA
Karios Ministry, USA
First Baptist Church, Midland, USA
Southern Hills Baptist Church, USA
Shiloh Baptist Church, USA
Ms. Abney, USA)

Everyday Ministry, refurbished the dormitory and fixed kitchen cabinets at the centre. A total of GHC 6,660.00 was raised locally and \$ 15, 410.00 was raised externally during the year to support the centre.

Activities and Achievements

BREDA assisted a ten (10) year old boy, Edmund Tetteh to undergo a series of facial surgeries which were necessitated by Buruli ulcer infection. A canteen facility was constructed at Obom Health Centre near Amasaman to serve Buruli ulcer patients who visit the clinic. This facility was commissioned by the President of the Convention on 23rd March 2015.

A mechanized borehole was commissioned in June 2015 for the Mpakadan Community in the Asuogyaman District in the Eastern Region. This project was executed with funding from First Baptist Church, Raleigh, USA in commemoration of their 200th Year Anniversary.

Early Childhood Development Centres (ECDC)

Early childhood Development Centre project is handled by the First Baptist Church, Tamale on behalf of the Convention in the Northern Region of Ghana. One of the goals of this project is to improve the living standards of communities through the empowerment of vulnerable families. Intervention projects undertaken by the project include education, health and nutrition, Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

and Sustainable Livelihood Development (SLD). The project acquired a vehicle to facilitate its activities during the year.

Some of the activities and achievements during the year include the following:

- The Kunguri Early Childhood Development Centre was provide with a new block while its Primary block was renovated.
- Gburimani ECDC renovated
- Educational materials such as computers, text books and exercise books were provided for schools in project operating communities
- Capacity building programmes were held to equip trainees for teaching computer management
- Motor Ambulance has been provided for Kasuliyili Clinic
- Gbulahagu CHPS compound renovated and upgraded with solar lights and solar fridge for safe storage of medicines
- Three boreholes constructed in the operating communities
- Training in hygiene and environmental sanitation held in operating communities
- Awareness creation about child rights has influenced the release of about 100 children as livestock herd boys to the classroom
- The project operated loan scheme is growing and about 20 new groups have been formed.
- Through the loan scheme, groups are able to offer tractor services and provide other farm inputs throughout year.
- Contributed to the renovation of staff accommodation at Kasuliyili Clinic
- Provided hot lunch for six Early Childhood Development Centres. This has increased school attendance
- Held community sensitization on water and sanitation in operating communities
- Sanitation materials was provided for the operating communities
- Developed water project for Kasuliyili and Wantugu communities
- Community Child Protection members collaborated with Baptist Child Development Programme to get a girl back to school after she was removed from school when her mum died.
- More parents have benefited from small loan grants and the default rate has also been reduced
- Two rural schools provided with 20 desktop computers which has benefited 1,132 children
- Provided 4 schools with classroom furniture (40 dual desk , 16 ECD round desk and 80 chairs)
- A Three (3) classroom block with store and an office has been constructed for Gbulahagu community
- Kpachi Methodist School renovated
- Gbulahagu CHPS compound renovated and upgraded with solar lights and solar fridge for safe storage of medicines

Girl-Child Education Support

The Ghana Baptist Convention provide financial support for brilliant but needy girls in Senior High School with funding from the BWAid. BWAid approved an amount of \$10,000.00 to support the project this year. The programme was advertised through our churches. A number of applicants did not submit their applications on time before the beginning of the academic year. 11 girls were supported to pay their school fees for the 2014/15 academic totalling GHC 5,220.00.

Advocacy against Trokosi Practice

The Convention through BREDA has signed a renewed four year partnership agreement with the International City Baptist Church, Denmark and the Baptist Union of Denmark. These two bodies have been in the forefront of assisting BREDA secure funding for the Trokosi Project. Representatives of the partners were in the country for a week and carried out site visits to the Trokosi Project areas after which they led Convention officials and BREDA staff in a partnership workshop which culminated into the development of a partnership document that was signed in May 2015.

Education Unit

The process of establishing an educational unit for the Convention is on-going. Rev George Osei Owusu is assisting in this process. We will like to request all our Churches with schools to submit detailed information about the school, the stage in which they are, facilities available at the school at the moment and the projections for the school to the head office as soon as practicable.

5. Supporting Pastors in Rural and Deprived Areas / Retirement Benefit for Ministers

Further to the resolution of the 51st Annual Session and subsequent approval of the Denominational Board, monthly support for past General Secretaries of the Convention who have retired began at the end of September 2014. Rev. Dr. J. A Boadi and Rev (Dr.) Kojo Amo are currently on monthly stipend of the equivalent of 10% of the sitting President's basic salary. Rev David Ocansey will be included as soon as he retires from his local church.

With assistance from Trinity Baptist Church, Accra, 16 ministers in the Sefwi Mission field are now receiving monthly support from the Convention. A proposal has been sent to a Church in Holland seeking support for Ministers in the Dangbe Association. Keep us in prayer as we await their response.

I will like to propose that 20 churches within the Convention commit to give between GHS500 – 1000 a month to a fund to take care of Ministers in some of our deprived areas. If this is done, we will be able to take care of a greater number of our ministers in the deprived areas who are struggling to survive in ministry.

Pastors Remuneration Package

The Ministers Conference was given the responsibility to consider the possibility of proposing a remuneration package for Ministers of the Convention. The resolution of the Conference on the matter will be presented during this session.

The South West Sector is looking at the possibility of setting a minimum salary of GHS500 for pastors within the Sector. A lot of work is going on in this direction but the proposal has not been finalised yet.

Four Pastors within the Golden Gate Association are being supported by the Association. Five Pastors and church leaders in Kumasi South-East are receiving monthly allowance from the Association. The Kumasi North Association is supporting two Pastors and a Church leader with monthly allowances.

The South East Sector has committed to support financially, families of Ministers who have passed on and those who are incapacitated. Rev. John Nyarko and family are supported monthly by the Tema Central Baptist Association. Pastor Abraham Messenger of Messiah Baptist Church, Wangara is

supported monthly by the Accra North Baptist Association. Some ministers in the Dangbe area are supported every month by the Tema Central Baptist Association.

During all WMU quarterly association meetings, items are collected for the resident Pastor/s of the church in which the meeting is held. During the year support was given to the pastors at Grace Baptist Church Pakro and Mpoase Church in Accra. Food items, money, new clothing etc collected from the women were given to the pastors in these areas. The WMU has adopted the following three Pastors in the Nzema mission field to supplement their incomes. These

1. Rev. Nicholas Achampong.
2. Deacon Antwi Francis.
3. Deacon Simon Musah.

The Men's Ministry raised a total of GH¢5,000.00 to support the mission activities at the Sefwi mission field. The Convention provides monthly financial support for 5 churches planted at Osino, Anyinam Bunso, Nsawam, and Aburi. The churches in these areas are growing remarkably in almost one year of their establishment.

6. Deepening the Spiritual base of the Convention

a) National Prayer

The National Week of Prayer and Fasting 2015 took place at the beginning of this year. Baptists nationwide observed the week. Some churches extended the duration to 14, 15, and 21 days. We produced 1500 pieces of A2 posters for publicity during the period.

National Prayer Conferences were held at Ejura in October 2014 and in April 2015. About 400 participants including the Presidency, Denominational Board members, and secretariat staff, Pastors and members from the prayer ministries in various churches across the country attended. We will like to encourage all our pastors to promote and also attend these programmes.

For the first time in the history of our Convention, standing prayer forces have been established across the country. The Accra North & South Association's Prayer Warrior Ministry has been established. They meet the 2nd Saturday of every month at the Baptist house from 6am-8am. It started with only two churches coming together to pray but it has now grown to an average of 15 churches with an attendance of about 50 people each month.

The Tema Central Association Prayer Team has also been established. The inaugural meeting took place on the Saturday 4th July, 2015 at First Baptist Church, Tema. 20 prayer coordinators from 8 out of 24 churches in the Association were represented. The Eastern Baptist Association Prayer Warriors Team was set up on Friday 17th July, 2015 at the New Creation Baptist Church, during an all-night session for all Prayer warriors. The WMU has also set up standing prayer teams across the country praying consistently for the Presidency and the Convention. I will like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have committed to this course for our Convention. It is your prayer support that has help our Presidency and Convention to come this far. Please keep the fire burning.

In Kumasi West Association, retreats were organized in all the seven zones of the Association from the 3rd to 5th of April 2015 during the Easter festivities for spiritual uplifting.

b) Christian Education

Rev. Dr. Dora Bortey in collaboration with 1st Baptist Church Nalerigu, organized the NALERIGU 2015 - Children's Rally program. The National Children's Coordinator was invited to supervise the teachers and coordinate the activities. 3,200 children attended the rally from 20th - 27th April, 2015. This included 900 teens and 128 Muslims

The Baptist Book Store

The Bookstore/Publications department of the Convention has a five (5) member Management Committee, which is responsible for supervision and coordination of the activities of the Bookstore/Publication. They are:

Rev. Robert Asante	-	Chairman
Deacon Joseph Boison	-	Member/Secretary
Deacon Joseph Albert Quarm (Prof. Quarm)	-	Member
Rev. Akwasi Addo Domfeh	-	Member
Deacon Samuel Busumuru	-	Bookstore Manager/Member

One of the core functions of the Bookstore/Publications department of the Convention is for the production, distribution and sale of Sunday school materials to Convention Churches. The production of the Sunday school materials covers both adults and the children's departments. Currently, the production of these Sunday school materials has been limited to English and Twi to reduce operational cost due to low patronage of publication in other languages which were previously on sale. A total of 5,000 and 3,000 books are produced for the English and Twi respectively within every quarter. This represent about one-third of Churches that patronize the Sunday school materials. The department would have sold an average of about 15,000 copies if all Churches of the Convention were to patronize these materials.

Currently, the Bookstore/Publications department has a total stock of books estimated at GH¢200,000.00 (Two Hundred Thousand Ghana Cedis) in Kumasi, Cape Coast and Accra offices. As a means of diversifying and expanding sales, the Bookstore has added the sale of textbooks and stationeries to meet the needs of students, especially at the Kumasi office which is surrounded by second and tertiary institutions and Baptist Churches.

The department has set up an adjunct office in Cape Coast at Tantre Station. This has been a major boost to our expansion programme, and we are very hopeful that the Cape Coast office will be able to make enough sales to meet our annual target. The department intends to establish similar offices in other places.

Two major challenge facing the bookstore has been lack of patronage of materials produced by the Christian Education department and also the need for an operational vehicle to move wares from one location to another. Even though some Churches do not appear to have any problem regarding the content of the materials produced, it is still a mystery as to why some Churches do not patronize our own Sunday school materials and also do not offer any suggestions as to what we could do to satisfy them.

7. Evangelism and Mission

At the last Evangelism Consultation at Ejura in January 2015, seventy (70) stakeholders resolved to plant 85 churches nationwide in 2015. As at the close of June 2015, two hundred and sixteen (216)

churches have so far been planted. Out of this number one hundred and eighty (180) churches have been planted by the Yendi Mission field.

a) Students Holiday Outreach Programme (SHOP) 2014

A total of 400 Students participated in SHOP this year as against the projected figure of 330. Students who participated in the programme were from the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST -160), University of Cape-Coast (UCC -70), the University of Ghana (UG -120) and University of Education, Winneba campus (50)

The students ministered in over 40 locations in the Ashanti, Volta, Central, Western, Northern, Brong Ahafo, and Eastern regions of Ghana and planted 26 new churches. ABBEX contributed a total of GHS70, 000. 00 to this year's SHOP. We will like to express our appreciation to ABBEX for their continuous support and commitment to the Student's Holiday outreach programme.

Sector Church Planting

The South West Sector set a target of planting (10) Churches within the year. The Sector was able to plant four (4) within the reporting period. Sekondi-Takoradi Association planted two churches in Akyempem near Tarkwa and Benso near Manso. Resurrection Baptist Church Agona Asafo planted a church at Agona Bobikuma and First Baptist Church Agona-Swedru planted a church at Ajumako Ochiso.

The Golden Gate Association set a target of Planting 10 churches and supporting 15 weaker churches. In Kumasi South-East, three new churches have been planted since the beginning of the year. The Kumasi South-West Association assisted six local churches with 100 bags of cement towards their building projects.

Two new churches have been planted within the Kumasi North Association this year by the Prince of Peace and Asomdwoe Baptist churches. The Association made a donation of 80 bags of cement to assist two local churches in their building projects this year.

Messiah Baptist Church in the Golden Gate Association planted a Church at Bosofour, near Mampong. As part of its Mission endeavour, the Association made various donations to three different member churches. These include 1500 pieces of cement blocks, 20 cement bags and 4 packets of roofing sheets.

The Adom Association raised funds to purchase equipment for evangelism and church planting.

Tahima Baptist Association in collaboration with the youth planted a church at Nantong Zoo, a suburb of Tamale. Tamaligu and First Baptist Church have planted two churches in the Kusogu traditional area in the East Gonja District.

Eleven Churches were planted by the South East Sector. Two Churches were planted in the Central region. Other Churches were planted in Mallam, Nsawam, Aburi, Cornerstone Baptist Church, Dome Pillar 2, Calvary Baptist Mission, Adzen Kotoku, El-Shaddai, Ascension Baptist Church, Insakina Tesano Baptist Church, Dankyera, Charismatic Baptist Church, North Taifa.

The South East Sector also assisted 4 Churches financially with minimal amounts in their Church development activities.

- a. Liberty Baptist Mission. Asofan --- GHC 2,800.00
- b. Tongues of Fire Baptist Church, Mayera ---- GHC 2,000.00
- c. Calvary Baptist Mission, Aburi--- GHC 7,000.00
- d. Love Community Baptist Church, Pokuase---- GHC2,000.00

A 10 days Operation Andrew programme was held in collaboration with International Commission. In all seventeen (17) churches participated and two thousand three hundred and fifty-eight (2,358) souls accepted Christ.

Children's Ministry

The following groups managed to organize children's rallies during the year: Accra North and Sekondi/Takoradi Associations, Calvary Baptist, Awoshie and First Baptist Church, Tema. Report from Tema indicate that 1,560 children attended the rally. There were 452 teens, and 12 Muslims. 425 children including 7 Muslims gave their lives to Christ.

The Men's Ministry has constituted a National Evangelism and Missions Committee to facilitate the missions and evangelism drive of the Ministry.

Cine-Van Ministry

Through the Cine Van Ministry, two thousand and seventy six (2076) souls were won during the year. Thirteen (13) Churches were strengthened and three (3) churches were planted through the Cine Van Ministry.

MISSION FIELDS

a) Nzema

A new church has been planted at new Nzulazu with the help of the Students Holiday Outreach Programme (SHOP). The Hospital being built with support from our Mission Partners from the USA is at the roofing level. Funds are available to complete the roofing.

b) Yendi & Navrongo

The 10 years anniversary of the Yendi Mission Field was celebrated with over 2000 delegates in attendance. Over 180 churches have been planted across West Africa through this mission field. A total of 60,000 mosquito nets have been distributed since the inception of the "More Than Nets" programme. Approximately 300 volunteers have been trained to work on the project.

Two (2) buildings projects are near completion. The Trinity Women's Resource Centre has now been completed. The Missionary's former residence has been converted into a nine bedroom Guest House. It is left with painting to complete the total project.

Two major programmes were organized during the reporting period. These were Women and Youth Conferences. The Women Missionary Union's Conference had 200 women attending, while the Youth camp had 1050 participants. A team from the Mission field came south and planted two churches in Accra. These are Victory Baptist Church, Agbobloshie, Accra and the Bethel Baptist Church, Kasoa, Central Region, to reach out to the Kokombas in these areas. A total of 2,050 souls were baptized over the period under review.

c) Sefwi Mission Field

Seven (7) churches have been planted, two of them in partnership with the SHOP students and the Bethel Association, and the remaining 5 were by the Missionary.

d) North Volta Mission Field

Three (3) churches were planted this year. Two (2) were by the Home Missionary and 1 was by the SHOP students.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY

The Ghana Baptist Convention now has 2,008 churches across the country with a total membership exceeding 200,000. The Convention is growing at 25% annually in terms of church planting and membership. Though this is an encouraging trend in Ghana’s dwindling mainland churches, more could be done to reach the 40% growth target set by 2018.

In the past one year, over 200 churches have been added, partly owing to the work of our Mission fields and the President’s direct initiative through the Evangelism and Missions Department. We have been able to form a Missions’ Team which is helping in discipleship, church growth, and supporting our church planting initiatives.

The SHOP program has also contributed massively to these feet.

Categories	Our Current 2015 Statistics
Number of Churches	2,008
Organized Congregations	950
Number of Members (Baptized Believers)	180,000
Estimate of Total Baptist Community including children and non-member adherents	500,000

Baptist Health Services

The office of the Baptist Health Services has been re-located from Kumasi to the Head Office in Accra. They have been allocated the Partnership Development office on the 2nd floor. One of the Health facilities provided funding for a computer, printer and scanner for the service. We now have a full time personnel managing the office.

Baptist Medical Centre (BMC)

In October 2014 the International Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention officially turned over the ownership of the Baptist Medical Centre at Nalerigu to the Ghana Baptist Convention. The ceremony was attended by the President, Rev Ernest Adu-Gyamfi, Vice President (Ministries), Rev Enoch Thompson, Chairman of the Denominational Board, Rev. Dr. Fred Deegbe, the two past General Secretaries, Rev. (Dr.) Kojo Amo and Rev David Ocansey and Mr. Isaac Donkor, the Director of BREDA.

A new Medical Council under the chairmanship of Dr. Gabriel Sekyi Kwoffie has been constituted to oversee the activities of the hospital and the Baptist Health Services. Effort are being made to refurbish the infrastructure at the hospital such as the private ward for staff, creating of toilet facility for staff at the OPD, creating of a recovery ward for patients from theatre who need to be monitored before moving in to the main wards. Support was solicited from the District assembly for the expansion of the maternity ward

and the project is currently at the roofing level. The new OPD/Administration block construction is ongoing.

BMC Activities

The total staff strength at the hospital is 370. The hospital attended to a total of 83,363 out-patients in 2014 and admitted 11,440 patients. There were 1820 major surgeries and 875 minor surgeries. There were 2995 pregnancy deliveries during the year at the hospital. The hospital procured two new pick-ups to support the hospital's transport system and established a catering facility for patients and staff.

The hospital experience a lot of financial pressure during the year because of the inability of NHIS to reimburse the facility for services rendered. As at May ending NHIS was indebted to the BMC to the tune of GHS1,468,398.91. This affected the supply of drugs to patients as supply were not met adequately as anticipated.

An amount of Fourteen Thousand Five Hundred and Sixty Four dollars (\$14,564), the equivalent to forty three thousand, six hundred and ninety two Ghana cedis was received from the International Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention. The said amount was used to procure Anaesthetic Machine for the theatre at a cost of GH¢32,000 and part was used to support the purchase of uniform for staff.

Other Support

The Samaritan Purse donated assorted personal Ebola protective equipment to the hospital during the Ebola outbreak. The Philips Company donated an ultrasound machine to enhance service delivery. Assorted medical equipment were received from Ghana Baptist Convention courtesy Ghana Baptist University College. The hospital also received donation of non-drug consumables from the Faile foundation and the first lady of Ghana.

Ministers' Conference

A new dress Code for all Convention ministers was approved at the 2014 annual Ministers Conference for immediate implementation. The Presidency, former Presidents of the Convention and Ministers Conference and all past General Secretaries will now use purple clerical shirt. Sector Heads, Association Heads and all Senior Ministers as per the Ministers Grading system will use the grey clerical shirt. All other Ministers with the exception of newly ordained or those who have not attained more than two years after ordination will use blue clerical shirt. All newly ordained ministers and those who have not obtained two years post ordination experience will use the black clerical shirt only.

All Ministers may choose to wear colours below their levels if they so wish. However no minister can wear a colour above their prescribed rank. Anyone who does so will be breaching the Ministers code of dressing.

In line with the Ministers' Code of Conduct the Ministers Conference is recommending that the names of the following dismissed ministers be expunged from our register as Ministers of the Ghana Baptist Convention and a notice to that effect published in the Daily Graphic:

Rev Dan Seidu	-	God's Glory Baptist Church, Wa
Rev Ahmed Israel	-	Royal Baptist Church, Bibiani
Rev Emmanuel Brenya Amoah	-	Calvary Baptist Church, Adabraka

LANDS AND BUILDINGS

IMB Guest House

Discussions are ongoing between the GBC and the IMB about a possible offer of the IMB guest house on the Switchback Road to the Convention. This information has been placed before the Convention Trustees. We have already sent the IMB a proposal about what we intend using the property for when it is handed over to us.

The IMB has asked that:

- We provide evidence that on expiry of the lease in 2017, the GBC will be able to pay for its renewal. Currently it is estimated to cost the equivalent of \$100,000.00.
- That GBC should show evidence of having funds to maintain the property and staff for three months at the time of handing over.
- That we consider partnering with Brackenhurst Hotel (Kenya) to manage the facility for a period while they train Ghanaian locals for its future management.

A copy of the lease document on the property has been given to Her Lordship Justice Becky Sittie to check on the renewal cost and the possibility of going for an early lease renewal. Further information has been sent to IMB which is before their trustees. We anticipate to hear from them sometime in September when negotiations will continue.

Proposal

We have received promised support for the construction of ten church buildings at any location of our choice. Drawings for the building which can seat between 100 to 120 people are complete. We advertise for contractors to bid for the project. So far only one contractor from Legon Baptist Church has come for the document to put in a bid. If his bid is satisfactory, the project will commence.

We will like to propose that these new church buildings will be completed and furnished before putting in a pastor. The church so established will contribute 80% of their income into a specified Bank account. 25% of the amount will be deducted for the Convention and Associations and out of the remaining 55% the pastor will be paid and the accumulation of these monies will help build other new church buildings.

The church will use the 20% retained to run their basic bills. It is hoped that this project will eliminate the initial problems start-up churches face and also help resource the Convention easily. The church will have the right to have special fund raising programmes for special projects.

International Missions

There are currently sixteen (16) churches in the North American Baptist Association of The Ghana Baptist Convention (NABA) in the USA and Canada. There are ten ordained Ministers handling these Churches. The chairman of the Association is Rev. Patrick Amo Amoah and the President of the Ministers Conference is Rev. Dr. Robert Owusu.

This year NABA made a total contribution of \$8,000 to the Ghana Baptist Convention. This is made up of 3% contribution of their tithes and offerings.

It is sad to report the death of Rev Ossei Mensa Sarpong one of the senior Ministers serving on the International Mission field and pastor of Word and Spirit Baptist Church in Alexandria, Virginia. The

funeral is scheduled for 5th September 2015. We will like to encourage all our members to join us mourn with the family and also give our brother a fitting burial.

Conclusion

I would like to express my sincere thanks to my colleagues in the Presidency, Denominational Board members, Sector and Association Heads, Staff, Institutional and Auxiliary Heads as well as all our members for the support given us during this reporting period. It is our efforts together that has helped to bring our Convention this far. I will like to encourage all our members who are still sitting on the fence with a wait and see attitude to join hands together to move our Convention forward.

God bless Ghana Baptist Convention.

Submitted by
Rev Ernest Adu-Gyamfi
President