

PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO THE 53RD ANNUAL SESSION OF THE GHANA BAPTIST CONVENTION

1.0 INTRODUCTION

We will like to express our sincere thanks to the Lord our God for His goodness to us and for leading us successfully through another year. We are indeed totally indebted to Him for how far He has brought us. On behalf of the Convention, we will like to express our thanks to all staff of the Convention both at the secretariat and in various institutions for their commitment to work during this reporting period as well as members of the Denomination Board who have supported us throughout the year. We will like to appreciate staff who retired during the last year and new ones who came in to replace them.

The President's report, as in previous years will follow the format of the seven-point strategic vision with which we have been working for the past two and half years.

2.0 THE CONVENTION'S STRATEGIC VISION

- 2.1 Rebranding and visibility of the Convention.
- 2.2 Enhancing Ownership of the Convention by member Churches
- 2.3 Increasing the Financial Base of the Convention.
- 2.4 Human Resource Development (staff, Ministers and greater participation of lay professionals within the Churches)
- 2.5 Supporting Pastors in rural and deprived areas and retirement benefits for Ministers
- 2.6 Deepening the Spiritual Base of the Convention.
- 2.7 Evangelism and Mission

3.0 REBRANDING AND VISIBILITY OF THE CONVENTION.

Social Media Network

Social Media platforms continued to play a major role in our rebranding and visibility efforts. The Convention website was remodeled at the beginning of this year to enhance the site and also give it a new image. We are working on the possibility of making payment on the website. The Vice President, Administration, our IT team and Ecobank are working around the clock to make this possible. Test runs are going on now and as soon as both parties are satisfied with the safety measures being put in place, the process will be rolled out. We will like to appeal to our churches to consider procuring Debit cards from your Bankers so that in future you can make your payments to the Convention in the comfort of your homes and offices.

Our facebook page, WhatsApp platform, Twitter, Google plus and Instagram sites have continued to disseminate information about the Convention. We will like to encourage all our members to continue to patronize the sites for continuous update on Convention matters.

This year's session is being live streamed on the internet and other social media platforms for all those who were not able to join us, especially our members outside the country to share in what is going on. Some of the activities will be beamed with live videos while sensitive discussions will be covered with only still pictures to ensure that sensitive information is censored.

We will like to express our appreciation to Bernard, Francis and Victor Adu-Gyamfi as well as Adrian Neizer Aboagye all of Metrix Designs who have over the last two and half years managed our social media at no cost to the Convention. The Convention website was hosted by them and they have not charged us anything up to this time for their services.

Radio and Television

We are currently working on the possibility of setting up a radio and TV station for the Convention. We want to express our appreciation to one family who have pledged to provide the funding to make this project a success. We also thank Rev. John Nkum for the hard work in getting the documentation done as well as doing all the leg work for us.

Some of our churches have continued to bring visibility to the Convention through their local radio broadcasting programs. Prior to his retirement service, the out-gone Northern Ghana Sector Head, Rev. John Napadow, was featured on the Bishara Radio in Tamale to give highlights of his ministry and the work of the Ghana Baptist Convention.

There are eleven churches in the Mid-Ghana Sector that are promoting Baptist work through their programmes on the airwaves. During the year under review, the Association head and the Home Missionary of the Nzema Baptist Association conducted weekly morning devotion programmes on the Ankobra and New Day F.M radio stations at Ankobra and Azuleti respectively.

Uniform Signage

In the course of the year the Ministers' Conference completed the assignment to provide a prototype of the new signage of the Convention. The colour codes and design were duly posted on the Convention website. And also circulated to all Ministers Fellowship Heads for dissemination to the churches.

The following have been achieved in the adoption of the new signage as reported by the Sector Heads in the reporting year:

Mid-Ghana Sector - 15 churches.
 Northern Ghana Sector - 2 churches.
 South-East Sector 65% of the churches in the Sector

Reconciliation and Other Services

During last year's Annual Session, some of our breakaway brethren and churches in the Northern Region were accepted back into the Convention. Following on that, a special reconciliation service was held in Tamale on June 19, 2016 at the Kanvili Baptist Church for the 5 churches that agreed to come back to the Convention. The service attracted a cross section of important people in the area to witness the new image of the Ghana Baptist Convention in the Northern Region.

A thanksgiving service was held in Tamale by the WMU for the election of Deaconess Samata Imoro to the high office of Vice President of the national WMU. This service drew a lot of attention to the Convention in the Tamale Metropolis.

Ecumenical Relations

In April 2016, the President of the Ghana Baptist Convention was elected the Chairman of the Christian Council of Ghana (CCG). He will serve a one-year term with a possible renewal for another year only.

The Annual Gathering of the Baptist World Alliance (BWA) was held in Vancouver, Canada from 2nd to 9th July, 2016. The President (Rev. Dr. Ernest Adu-Gyamfi), the Vice President – Ministries (Rev. Enoch Thompson) and the Women's Desk Director (Mrs. Philomena Wiredu) represented the Convention as General Council Members. Other participants were the Denominational Board Chairman (Rev. Dr. Fredrick Deegbe), Rev. Samuel Otu-Pimpong (Past President of Ministers' Conference) and Prof. Edwin Kwame Wiredu (Chairman of the Ghana Baptist University Council) who serve on various Commissions and Committees of the BWA.

The Vice President (Ministries) deputized for the President at the inaugural meetings of the bilateral relationship between the Christian Council of Ghana and the Ghana Pentecostal and Charismatic Council in May 2016.

Mr. Albert Aidoo, the new Coordinator of NUBS and Youth of the Convention was the resource person for the Ecumenical Youth Empowerment Summit organized by the Christian Council of Ghana in Accra.

A new partnership agreement was signed between the National Baptist Convention of America Incorporated (NBCA) and the Ghana Baptist Convention in October 2015. The NBCA by this agreement has offered GBC a school in Offinso in the Ashanti Region to be

used as another campus of the Ghana Baptist University College. The partnership involves cooperation in church planting, exchange programmes and the provision of medical services.

All Africa Baptist Fellowship

From August 21st to 27th the Convention will be hosting the All Africa Baptist Fellowship (AABF) in Accra. Participants will be staying at the University of Professional Studies Hostel and hotels around the area while the meetings will be held at the Trinity Baptist Church in Accra. We invite all our members to join us welcome Africa to Ghana.

Kumasi Academy

The President launched the 60th anniversary celebration of Kumasi Academy on July 15, 2016. He was supported by Rev. Dr. Kojo Osei Wusuh and Rev Steve Asante. The theme for the one-year celebration is: Sixty Years of Living the Dream of Holistic Baptist Education: Its Impact on Human Development. We want to express our sincere appreciation to Mrs. Eunice Appiah-Nkansah the Headmistress of the school and a member of Asokwa Baptist Church for lifting the image of our school. KUMACA is one of the Class A SHS schools in the country. Let us all support the anniversary celebrations.

4.0 ENHANCING OWNERSHIP OF THE CONVENTION BY MEMBER CHURCHES

The Presidential visits intended to create closer relationship between the Headquarters and churches, Associations, institutions continued during the year under review. From August 2015 to July 2016 the Presidency and other Head Office staff were able to visit 109 (one hundred and nine) churches, Associations and institutions.

The President undertook a working visit to the Northern Ghana Sector in June 2016. The trip took him to Wa, Tumu, Novrongo, Bolgatanga, Bawku and Tamale. He met with local Pastors, some local churches, Associations and church leaders in these areas.

The Vice President (Ministries) visited the Northern Sector twice during the period under review. He visited the Nalerigu Association in October 2015 with the Sector Head and the Sector representative of the Ministers' Conference for the graduation of 23 Ministerial Assistants. The team worshipped with 3 churches in the Association on the Sunday after the graduation. There was a lot of interaction with pastors and church members on these occasions.

The two Vice Presidents were in Tamale for the retirement and sendoff service of the out-gone Northern Ghana Sector Head and former Principal of the then Northern Ghana Baptist

Pastors' Training Centre, Rev. John Salifu Napadow on Saturday November 28, 2015. Each of the Vice Presidents preached in one of the Tamale Baptist Churches.

The Sector Heads, Association Heads and their Executives as well as Auxiliary leaders also made several visits to Churches or their respective fellowships in the course of the year. A summary of such visits are as follows:

Mid-Ghana Sector

- Golden Gate Baptist Association Head and members of the Evangelism Committee were able to visit twenty churches and three Zones.
- The Kumasi North Baptist Association leadership visited seven churches.
- Kumasi West Baptist Association Executive Committee visited all the local churches in the Manso Area.

The Northern Ghana Sector

- The Sector Head visited all the Associations except the Wa and Bolgatanga Baptist Associations due to constraints in means of transportation. He visited the Liberty and Nakpanduri Baptist Associations to robe an ordained minister and dedicate a church building respectively.

5.0 INCREASING THE FINANCIAL BASE OF THE CONVENTION.

The presidency continued with the goal of increasing the financial base of the Convention during the reporting year. Under the presidential Initiative Programme, some donations were received in the course of the year. Some of these donations were designated funds and as such were used as the donors specified. They include:

- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| 1. GHS100,000.00 | From a couple towards Missions |
| 2. 1 Pick-up Truck | This has been converted to a second Cine Van |
| 3. US\$15,000.00 | From NABA towards purchase of a vehicle for

Children's Department |
| 4. 1 Family Van | Given to Bepong Baptist Church, Kwahu of Kumasi West Association for Ministry to the Afram Plains |
| 5. 1 Mid-size Van | Given to Asokwa Baptist Church for Ministry in the Bekwai, Abodom area |

- | | |
|----------------------|---|
| 6. GHS42,000 | Given to Charismatic Baptist Church, North Taifa for purchase of land |
| 7. GBP2500 | From Trinity Baptist Church, London, for Sefwi Mission Field |
| 8. GBP100.00 | Donation to Hohoe Home Missionary's Wife |
| 9. 250 KVA Generator | donor transported the equipment from Accra and installed it at the Abuakwa Campus at his own cost |

Tesano Property

The final payment for the sale of the Tesano old Head Office building was received just before coming here. The outstanding principal balance on the loan for the Head office building with Unibank now stands at GHS96,102.71.

The balance on the sale should have paid fully for the principal of the outstanding loan. However, we had serious problems with erratic electricity supply to the Head Office building which required that we purchase our own transformer to service the building. Close to GHS80,000.00 (eighty thousand Cedis) was spent from the money received from the sale to acquire a transformer for the head office building to stabilize electricity supply.

Accra Guest House, Cantonments

Just before the close of last year's Session, I announced to the house that I had received an email from the International Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention notifying me about their intension to hand over the Accra Guest House to the Convention by September 15, 2015 if GBC was interested. The offer was to give freely to GBC the building housing the guest House but GBC was to pay for all the content of the house including the generator at the site. The total cost of all the items after negotiation came to GHS18,000.00 (eighteen thousand Ghana Cedis).

On September 15, 2015, GBC paid fully the GHS18,000.00 to IMB and took over the property. Mrs. Caroline Amoah of Calvary Baptist Church, Adabraka is currently the Manageress of the place. The Guest House has become one of our best investments since its acquisition in terms of the returns coming from the place.

In view of the returns on investment, we intend to expand the Baptist Guest House situated at Cantonments in Accra from a 36-bed facility into a 150-bed ultra-modern facility which will also have a 500 seating capacity auditorium that could be used as a church in that vicinity. We are in negotiation with some fundraising consultants to raise a total of US\$15,000,000.00 (fifteen million US Dollars) for the project.

Insurance

One of the decisions taken last year was that insurance cover be provided for Convention properties, the Presidency and Directors who travel extensively on behalf of the Convention. The process of securing proper insurance (fire & theft) for the Baptist House has begun. The insurance companies asked that all the doors at the Head Office be changed because of their quality before the policy will be effected. All the doors at the office have therefore been changed to ensure that the insurance policy is effected.

We are putting in place plans to extend insurance cover to all other Convention properties aside those at the Head Office. We would like to advise all member churches to do same to give protection to properties of the local churches.

TEMA PROPERTIES

The Estate and Legal Department is working to convert part of the land at the former General Secretary's residence at Tema to construct apartments for commercial purposes. A project team is being put together to commence plans on that section of the land. These are strategic development plans to raise funds for the Convention.

Finance

We will like to express our thanks and appreciation to all our churches who contributed faithfully to the Convention in the course of the year under review. The pre-audit financial position of the Convention stood as follows:

The total income of the Convention grew from GHS4,966,229.72 in 2014 to GHS6,319,847.90 in 2015. This represents a growth of 27.3% over the previous year. Total expenditure rose from GHS2,330,729.62 in 2014 to GHS2,915,091.38. This represents an increase of 25.1%. The net income of the Convention grew from GHS2,330,729.62 in 2014 to GHS2,901,591.38 in 2015 representing 24.5%.

A total of 506 out of the 1607 churches on record made contribution to the Convention in 2016 as against 940 in 2014. In 2014, 521 churches in the Yendi Mission field made contribution to the Convention while in 2015, only 52 did.

Out of the 1607 on record, only 30 contributed towards the Obiara One Cedi for the Ejura project. A total of GHS36,923.35 was contributed toward the Obiara One Cedi fund in 2015.

Details of the audited accounts are presented in the Financial Book of Reports.

Church Categorization

It has been observed of late that new planted churches are classified immediately as churches instead of the traditional preaching point, preaching station etc. We will like to

ask all Association Heads, Sector Heads and our Missionaries to take note of this and take steps immediately to categorize our congregations appropriately. This is to ensure proper statistics of the Convention. The situation where out of 2008 churches reported last year only 506 are making contribution to the Convention is unacceptable.

I will like to propose that serious attention be given to non-paying churches at this session.

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

Education and Training

The need for an intentional programme to train highly qualified personnel for our Convention is very paramount now in view of the number of ministers who are retiring or are due for retirement in the not too distant future. We need high caliber persons to serve in our mega churches, educational institutions, in the presidency and as Directors of various departments. This need has arisen due to the fact that we have constitutionally bonded ourselves with the Masters Degrees as the requirement for top level positions in our Convention. The old approach where individuals raised their own support to pursue education and later came to serve the Convention cannot hold anymore if we want to make progress. In addition, considering the number of opportunities coming the way of the Convention now, time is of essence.

A new presidential initiative to support 5 brethren each year for the next five years to pursue Masters and Doctoral studies is proposed for discussion at this Session. It is anticipated that a minimum of one hundred thousand Ghana cedis will be raised and set aside each year to finance this project.

Scholarships

The Convention Secretariat on our part, continued to provide tuition scholarship for the three top-students of the 2014 graduation class of the School of Theology and Ministry of the Ghana Baptist University College (GBUC) to undertake Masters level education at the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST) and Central University.

The Convention is also sponsoring the Administrative and Accounts Officer of the Baptist Vocational Training Center (BVTC), Frankadua, Pastor Emmanuel Obani, to pursue a Master of Arts in Ministry programme at the Ghana Baptist University College – School of Theology and Ministry. He will be serving both BVTC and the Volta region after graduation.

Ghana Baptist University College

The faculty strength of the School of Theology and Ministry is 11. The student population stands at 166. Academic Staff at the City Campus stand at 43 and the total number of students is 1,420. Five Administrative Staff and 6 Academic Staff of the Ghana Baptist University College were given either support or encouragement to upgrade their academic qualifications to the Post Graduate/ PhD levels.

All the rooms in the three storey lecture block have been equipped with the necessary gadgets, equipment and fittings except the Conference room. A new 35-sitter capacity ICT Centre with internet connectivity to support the proposed School of ICT has been commissioned. There is a need to increase the capacity.

A forty-two (42)-sitter E-learning Centre is now complete. However, there is the need for dedicated server for the computers. The library has been moved to a more spacious area which can now accommodate over sixty (60) students at a time. A French Multimedia Centre is in place.

New programmes have been approved by the National Accreditation Board (NAB) under the following schools:

The School of Arts and Social Sciences Education
 Master of Science,
 Management Information System (MIS),
 School of Nursing (Bsc. Nursing).

Some other programmes are currently going through accreditation process.

This year's Annual University fund raising Day yielded an amount of GHC 39,756 the worst in the history of the University since its inception.

Concerns of GBUC

- i. The Chief of Abuakwa is requesting payment of an excess land attached to our Abuakwa School of Theology and Ministry land. The Otumfuo's Lands Secretariat is demanding GHC 1.7 million as compensation. The issue is still pending.
- ii. At least one additional school.
- iii. A bus for the nursing school (A 45 sitter)

- iv. Professors and senior lecturers for various schools
- v. Funds to supplement the University College's (deficit) budget.
- vi. Books for new programmes; French, ICT, Basic Education, English, Early Childhood.
- vii. Currently the University College's indebtedness stands as follows:
 - Zenith Bank Ltd. - 175,000.00
 - Capital Bank Gh Ltd. - 62,500.00
 - Fuel for Generator Set 11,000.00
 - UCC US \$ 58,263.48
- viii. Three (3) Vehicles for Deans
- ix. Linkage to other Baptist Institutions overseas.
- x. Partners to develop hostels, guest house, restaurant and music studio at Abuakwa Campus.
- xi. Students' hostel blocks, a new tractor, a new administrative block to accommodate faculty and other administrative staff and an ICT Centre for the Abuakwa campus.

The Northern Ghana Baptist Theological Seminary (NGBTS)

The NGBTS runs the literacy, certificate and Diploma programmes to train our ministers and those of other churches. Student enrolment for 2016/2017 was 79 students for both regular and modular streams. The breakdown is as follows:

- 76 males and 3 females
- Certificate in Theology -10
- Diploma in Ministry (Regular) - 10
- Diploma in Ministry (Full Modular)-10
- Diploma in Ministry (Top Up Module) - 49

47 students graduated from the NGBTS on June 18, 2016 (18 from the Tema Campus and 29 from the Tamale Campus. 46 were males and 1 was female).

The NGBTS did run a budget of GH¢146,412 for the 2014/2015 academic year. Out of that, GH¢155,900.80 was realized through increase in student intake. For the first time in several years NGBTS had excess income over expenditure. It is my hope that this trend will continue so that in the near future, the school could become self-supporting.

The unresolved challenges of the NGBTS are:

1. Lack of Transportation for outreach and other programs.
2. Improvement of the salaries of faculty and staff.
3. Stand by generator.
4. Computers and internet facilities for faculty and Students.
5. Rehabilitation of Seminary facilities especially the class rooms and dormitories

On the advice of the Denominational Board, a new Council to oversee the operations of the NGBTS in place of the Theological Education Board will be put in place by the close of this year. It is my hope that when this Council is put in place a lot of the problems confronting the seminary will be addressed.

Denominational Training Programmes

The Christian Education and Auxiliaries Department undertook a Writers' Workshop for 18 people in the course of the year. Participants are to assist the Department in writing Sunday School material.

The Kumasi South West Men's Ministry organized a 1-day leadership workshop on Report Writing and Financial Management for Local Executive members at Ahinsan Baptist Church.

A Training of Trainers workshop was organized by the Kumasi North Association Baptist Men's Ministry at St. James Baptist Church, Bantama.

There was leadership training for Youth Executives of the South-East Ghana Sector at Sakumono. South-West Ghana Sector youth underwent training in Cape Coast. Another training session was organized for Youth of the Bolgatanga Baptist Association at Zuarungu.

The South East Sector organized leadership training for 37 pastors, church secretaries, accountants and administrators. The Men's Ministry of the Sector also organized a workshop on marriage on June 4, 2016 which was attended by 25 men.

Ghana Baptist School of Ministry – Techiman Campus, held its Second Graduation Service on the 18th of June 2016 at the Adom Baptist Church. Nine graduates were recognized as Ministerial Assistants of the Ghana Baptist Convention. Twenty-three (23) Ministerial Assistants were recognized in the Nalerigu Association upon graduation from the Ghana Baptist School of Ministry.

The WMU Coordinator organized leadership training for Association Executives.

Other training programmes were organized by some Associations and their auxiliaries (See appendix).

Baptist Vocational Training Center (BVTC)

A Team led by Dr. Daniel Baffour-Awuah has been put together to develop a strategic plan for the development of the BVTC. The team is currently undertaking an institutional assessment and will produce a minimum operating standards document as well as a strategic plan for BVTC by the end of October 2016.

15 ex-Trokosi girls as well as 8 less privileged girls were recruited and enrolled into BVTC at the beginning of the 2015/16 academic year. The Centre also recruited 10 boys from some Trokosi shrines. The rescue of the boys would serve as one of the effective ways to minimize indulgence in the Trokosi practice. A total of 53 girls are being trained at the Centre, i.e. 30 ex-Trokosi girls and 23 less privileged girls. The Convention continues to provide funding for the upkeep of the ex-Trokosi girls and the Institute.

The construction of a rest-stop at the BVTC at Frankadua to provide meals and refreshment for the traveling public is almost complete. Its completion will enhance BVTC presence on the Accra-Ho highway. This is an income generating project of the institute. Proceeds from the sales of its products came to GHC 4,882.50 at the end of May 2016.

The center undertook several fund raising programmes to support the activities of the institute. Externally, BVTC received \$ 2,000.00 from Karios 10 International USA and \$1,000.00 from First Baptist Church Midland, MI, USA. The Center Manageress visited several churches and institutions to raise funds for the center. Through the church-visit programme, BTVC raised GHC 26,272.00 in cash. BTVC also received various equipment (sewing machines, hairdryer, Generator), food items and personal effects in kind from churches and individuals.

The challenges of the BVTC are:

1. Limited classroom space resulting in limited intake of students.
2. Permanent classroom blocks for the Early Childhood Development Centers. None of the nine centers has a decent place for teaching and learning. Make-shift structures are currently being used at the centres.

MAFI Early Child Development Schools (ECDCs)

A five-member education management committee has been put in place to have oversight responsibility over the ECDCs in the Mafi Area. This will help improve teaching and learning.

Committee Members

Rev. Nicholas Nuworkpor (Denver Baptist Church, Sogakope)

Rev. Christian Agboto (Shalom Baptist Church, Aflao)
 Rev. Wisdom Goka (Unity Baptist Church, Mafi Anfoe)
 Ministerial Assistant Victor Diku (Love Baptist Church, Mafi Meyikpor)
 Deaconess Stella Semanshya (Denver Baptist Church, Sogakope)

Baptist Educational Unit

The need to form a Baptist Educational Unit was discussed during our Session last year. During the year, some activities took place to initiate the formation of the unit. Forms for gathering information on educational institutions under the Convention has been circulated among member churches. It is our hope that all churches operating schools will cooperate with us so that the benefits that accrue to these institutions can be accessed by Baptists too.

Educational Support

Twenty (20) brilliant but needy girls were supported with various sums (between GHC120.00 and GHC 180.00) for the payment of their fees during the 2015/16 academic year. This project is funded by Baptist World Aid (BWAid) through BREDA.

Support for Newlife Baptist Academy, Gbagbaviunu

The Convention through BREDA supported victims of a church building that collapsed on 9th February 2016 at Gbagbaviunu near Battor after a strong wind hit the community. The victims were mainly school children who were using the church building as classrooms. 16 children got injured and 9 whose conditions were very critical were admitted at a hospital in Battor. The Convention made available GHC2,000.00 to cater for the medical bills of the injured and made available some provisions for those who were hospitalized. All those who were admitted have been discharged. The South-East Sector Head, Dangbe-East Baptist Association Head, and some leaders of the WMU visited the victims.

The Women's Missionary Union and Tesano Baptist Church donated GHC1,000.00 and GHC 4,850.00 respectively towards the construction of a new building for the school.

American Baptist Churches – International Ministries Mission Support to BVTC

The International Ministries of American Baptist Churches continued their support to the Baptist Vocational Training Center. The African Director of ABC International Ministries, Rev. Dr. Eleazer Zihrambere visited BVTC in February, 2016. He came to introduce to the Convention President, the Director and staff of BVTC, Ms. Rovaughna Richardson, an IMB Missionary who will be working at BVTC for the next four years beginning in July 2016. Ms. Richardson is a social worker by profession and will be providing counseling for the girls during the period of her stay.

Tamale Baptist Child Development Project (TBCDP) and Tahima Baptist Child Project – Christian Children Fund of Canada (CCFC)

BREDA undertook activities that facilitated the **TBCDP** programmes in sponsorship intervention, education intervention, health and nutrition, water and sanitation, strengthening community organization and village savings and loans associations.

Educational Interventions

- 9 communities were educated on sponsorship issues. They also received Child Designated Gift (CDG) from sponsors for 533 children.
- 1180 children were sensitized on sponsorship
- 1,510 children were supported with educational supplies
- 3004 children benefitted from Children party organized
- 60 children selected from all the operating communities were taken on an excursion to the Bole National Park
- 20 computers were presented to schools in the following operating communities: Gupanarigu, Cheshegu, Tolon, Gbrimani, Zali, Kasuliyili, Kunguri, Wantugu and Gundaa.

Health and Nutrition

- 630 community members were educated on various aspect of healthy living
- 90 nursing mothers were trained in wean mix preparation
- 1180 children benefitted from the health and nutrition assessment activities
- 160 children were support with hygiene kits (shaving stick, soap, brush and toothpaste)
- Two children were supported for treatment in some hospitals
- 2 Consulting rooms and a pavilion for OPD attendees are under construction for the Kasuyili clinic

Water and Sanitation

- 9 clean-up campaigns were organized in the project areas.
- In October 2015, a solar powered mechanized water system with four distributing points was commissioned.
- The Wantugu community benefitted from a solar powered borehole system with 6 fetching points.

Strengthening Community Organization

- 63 parents were trained in participating in community projects.
- 27 Parent Teacher Association and School Management Committee members were trained in child rights and protection.

Village Savings and Loans Associations

- The Project supported the formation and strengthening of village savings and loan associations. This intervention has increased the savings habit of community members.
- 56 groups have been formed in the nine operation communities with assets capital of **GH¢203,901.00**

Service-Providers

By the end of 2016, the Estates and Legal Department is seeking to complete the compilation of all forms of service-providers within the Convention who can carry out various works for and on behalf of the Convention, nationwide. The Department plans to invite only Baptists (where possible) for works carried out by the Convention. Letters will be sent to all local churches, calling for the registration of suppliers, contractors, service providers, artisans and technicians. Please pass on the information when it gets to your church. We will like to encourage graduates from NUBS (with backgrounds in project management, building construction and engineering, real estates and other related fields) to apply to do their National Service with the Department.

Leadership Changes

Rev. Alfred Appiah of Grace Baptist Church in Kumasi is now the elected Head of the Kumasi South- East Association.

Retirements

Rev. Baffour Adu - Gyamfi, formerly of Trinity Baptist Church in the Kumasi West Association retired in May 2016. Rev. Akwasi Addo Domfeh is now the Head Pastor of the Church.

Rev. Kofi Owusu Agyei retired from active service as the Pastor of The Word Baptist Church at Tanoso in the Kumasi West Baptist Association on 29th of May 2016.

Rev J. N. N. Ocquaye, the immediate past President of the Ministers' Conference and Senior Pastor of Grace Baptist Church Sakumono retired during the year. Rev Frank Addai is now the Head Pastor of the Church.

Rev George Donkor of Gateway Baptist Church, Tema has also retired.

We will like to express our appreciation to Rev. Dr. Kojo Osei-Wusuh for his dedicated service to the Ghana Baptist University College for the past five years as the President of the University. He officially retired from the University at the end of July this year. The University Council has appointed Rev. Dr. Yaw Adu-Gyamfi as the new President of the University. Rev Dr. Yaw Adu-Gyamfi was the Dean of the School of Theology before his appointment. We welcome him into the seat and wish him all of God's blessing and the Convention's support.

The date for the send-off service for Rev. Dr. Kojo Osei Wusuh will be announced by the close of this Session.

Deaths

Rev. Emmanuel Kojo Amissah of Kumasi South-West Baptist Association was called home on the 20th of April, 2016.

MINISTERS' CONFERENCE

Annual Ministers' Conference

The Ministers' Conference held its 2016 annual refresher course and retreat programme from 7th -10th August 2016 at this center under the theme "The Christian Minister: His Character and Attitudes." Key among the issues discussed was finding sustainable ways of collecting and payment of subscriptions through the leadership role of the Minister.

Recognition of Ministers

At this Annual Session, 122 (one hundred and twenty-two) individuals who have successfully fulfilled all requirements for different levels of ministerial certification will be licensed, recognized or ordained. The breakdown is as follows:

Licensing: 52, Recognition: 44 and Ordination: 26

Background Checks

Last year, the President proposed that background checks be done for all new ministers seeking certification with the Convention. Background check and security clearance for new entrants into the ministerial corps of the Convention was therefore applied to all categories of interviewed candidates who were successful this year. This will be a permanent feature of ministerial recognition henceforth.

Ministers' Welfare

The Conference EC has completed work on a Salary Scale document and has discussed the contents with the Fellowship Chairpersons. Copies of the document was sent to all Local Ministers Fellowships for discussion. The document was adopted together with a Human Resource Document at this year's Conference.

Visits

The Conference President together with Rev. Barnabas Napari, the Northern Representative on the EC were able to visit some of the Northern Ghana Sector Ministers on the occasion of the Retirement Service of Rev Francis A. Awuni at Nalerigu. They also visited NGBTS, where they had interaction with faculty and students.

Disciplinary Issues

We continue to insist that the calling into the ministry is a high calling, and a high calling demands high standards of behaviour. In the course of the past year some ministers who broke the code of conduct of our ministers were disciplined. The Appendix on the Ministers' Conference spells out the details.

Renewal of Membership License

The Ministers Conference has adopted the policy of a yearly renewal of membership. The Conference as a professional body seeks to regulate the operations of its members. The criteria for renewal of membership of ministers and the corresponding sanctions for those failing to renew their membership is spelt out in the Appendix.

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

The need to support some of our Ministers working in difficult areas continues to occupy the minds of the Convention. Various intervention programmes were implemented during the year to alleviate the hardship of some of our ministers. The table below shows some of the interventions adopted during the year.

Monthly Pastoral Support

Name of Association/Church	Number of pastors supported		
Golden Gate	1		
Kumasi North	4 pastors, 1 lay leaders		
Kumasi South-West	3 pastors		
Kumasi South-East	7 pastors		
Adansi	8 pastors		
Tamale First Baptist	12 pastors		
Northern Sector Head	16 persons	Supplied goats to breed	
WMU	10 pastors	Nzema Mission Field	

Triumphant Obuasi	1 pastor		
Trinity Baptist, London	16 pastors	Sefwi Mission field	
Head Office Staff	9	Wa Association Pastors	
South East Sector	9 Pastors		
	Widows of Pastors		
Total	97+		

Pastor Victor Diku in the Mamfe area in the South Volta Association of the Convention was provided with a motor bike to help the work in his area by the Convention. The motor bike was received on his behalf by Rev. Nicholas Nuworkpor. We look forward to provide more motor bikes to area leaders in the various Mission Fields to help with their work.

Another motor bike was presented to one of our pastors in the Wa zone by the Convention. This Motor was a donation from Living Streams Baptist Church, Atomic, Accra.

The Convention provided 100 plastic chairs to the North Volta Mission Field. Three churches, namely, Asomdwe Baptist Church, Restoration Baptist Church and Maranatha Baptist Church benefited from these supplies.

8.0 DEEPENING THE SPIRITUAL BASE OF THE CONVENTION.

The spiritual base of our Convention and her member churches was a top priority in the reporting year. Several programmes were put in place to ensure the success of this endeavor.

Christian Education

The Christian Education and Auxiliaries Department continued to produce Sunday School material for adults in both English and Twi. The Department was able to increase the distribution and sale of Sunday School materials, especially to Churches that previously did not use the materials (List of Churches that patronize Sunday School materials is attached for your perusal). The sale of Christian literature at the Bookstore increased by 22% in the course of the year.

Since 2015, the Bookstore has not relied on bank financing to operate again. Within the first half of 2016, the Bookstore was able to invest GH¢ 50,000.00 of its internally generated income in a 28% fixed deposit to be compounded quarterly. We are gradually working towards weaning the bookstore off the Convention's operational expenses.

The list of Bible Study materials available in our book store has been attached as an appendix to the information of our churches. We wish to invite all our churches to pattern

their Bible study programmes along the lines of materials available in order to avoid duplication of efforts and to increase the patronage of the Convention's work.

We welcome Rev Charles Asante from Houston, USA who joined our staff as the new national coordinator for the Children's Ministry. Rev Asante took over from Mrs. Esther Nyarko who retired in March this year.

Discipleship Movement

We have become more and more aware of the need for discipleship as a necessary factor in the sustainability of our evangelism and church planting activity. Where churches are planted without a clear provision for nurture in the faith, converts easily become stunted and churches are not able to grow in quality and number.

The Vice President-Ministries has been charged to lead in the formation of a discipleship movement within the Convention. He participated in the African Strategic Discipleship Movement Conference which is a continental think tank on discipleship on behalf of the President. As part of that commitment he is mandated to work with Sectoral and Associational leaders to see to implement a strategy that has been tried in the Kale Heywet Church of Ethiopia over the past decade and which has proved very effective. A training of trainers programme for 12 ministers in Kumasi and 9 in Accra has already been held as a component of this project.

With the help of Rev. J. N. N Ocquaye- the former President of the Minister' Conference, 22 leaders are going through a discipleship programme in the Yendi Mission Field. This training will go a long way to help curb the leadership challenges we are facing in the Mission Field. We hope to replicate this in the other Mission Fields of the Convention.

National Week of Prayer and Fasting

The Convention's national week of prayer and fasting programme was observed country-wide from 4th to 10th January 2016. Some churches extended the duration of the fasting and prayers to 14, and 21 days. We encourage local churches and Associations to declare periodic times of prayer and fasting since prayer is a major means by which Kingdom purposes through the Convention will be achieved.

Prayer Conference

In the period under review, two Prayer Conferences were held at the Baptist Women's Retreat and Resource Centre, in October 2015 and April 2016. About 350 delegates attended the October meeting while 400 attended the April meeting. Prayer Teams from our churches across the country participated in the programme.

Various Associations and auxiliaries organized other prayer sessions as their local levels.

Students and Youth Ministries

About 1500 students in Kumasi and 500 in Tamale attended JNUBS annual rally in Kumasi and Tamale respectively during the reporting period. The Kumasi meeting was held in February 2016.

The 2016 NUBS Congress took place at Ejura for the first time, in March 2016 with about 450 students in attendance. About 450 ladies participated in the BYL House party at Ejura in May 2016.

9.0 EVANGELISM AND MISSION

Staff

The Evangelism and Missions Department (EMD) has a new Director in the person of Rev Thomas N. T. C. Ammah following the retirement of Rev. Yaw Ofori the former Director late last year. He assumed office in February this year. The Administrative Officer of the Department, Rev Leo Owusu Afriyie, also resigned early this year to give full attention to his church. Mr. Robert Antwi-Boasiako was therefore engaged in February this year as Programmes Officer for the Department.

Evangelism and Missions Consultation

An Evangelism and Missions Consultation was held from 28th –31st January, 2016 at Ejura. Out of the anticipated 100 stakeholders, 60 participated in the Consultation. The goal of this year's consultation was to synchronize all church planting activities of the Convention.

Sector Heads and Association Heads were charged to synchronize and supervise all church planting efforts in the various Sectors and Associations to prevent duplication and clashes in church planting efforts. This will also ensure the effective and efficient use of our limited resources.

The Consultation set Church planting targets for this year at 340. So far 144 have been planted by the various Associations in the four Sectors and by our home missionaries.

The Cinema ministry received a new well-equipped cine van donated by an individual member of the Convention. Its arrival has boosted the soul winning drive of the Convention. The introduction of the new van has relieved the pressure on the old van which has now become weak. The old van is now at the workshop, after which it will be sprayed and put back on the road.

The activities of the Convention Evangelist have resulted in 1,500 souls saved this reporting year. 11 churches have been strengthened through various crusades and five (5) churches planted through the cinema ministry.

Missions Week

This year's Missions Week was organized from Wednesday 4th – Sunday 8th May, 2016. The objective was to raise GHC 500,000.00 (five hundred thousand Ghana Cedis) to support the purchase of lands, building materials, instruments, and vehicles for the various Mission Fields. As at 17th June 2016, only GHS 58,547.85 had been received. This represents 11.7% of the amount we expected to raise.

One challenge observed this year was that the Missions Week celebration coincided with Mother's Day celebration and that affected the fund raising activity negatively. Furthermore, some Churches claimed they received envelopes and video for the day very late. Some Churches did not observe the week at all.

We wish to encourage churches that have not held their Mission Week to do so. Those who held it but have not returned funds to the Convention should do so as soon as practicable. All funds collected for the Missions Week should be forwarded to the designated receiving points.

STUDENTS HOLIDAY OUTREACH PROGRAMME (SHOP) 2015/2016

The Students Holiday Outreach Programme 2016 took place between May and July this year. The students planted 4 churches in Jumbo in the Nkwanta North District, Kpando – Kondo, Dawenya – Dangbe East and at Kwabenya-Accra. The Convention has purchased and supplied plastic chairs and basic public address systems and other equipment to these four Churches to operate.

The Northern Ghana Sector alumni of the Ghana Baptist Students Union under the leadership of Deacon Dr. Terry Ansah led forty-eight students from the tertiary institutions in the Sector on SHOP to the Lingbinsi Baptist Association from 20th to 27th December 2015. Over 2000 people were exposed to the Gospel through the JESUS film with over 900 making decisions for Christ. They also encouraged and strengthened many weak churches in the area. Report from the Association indicates that church attendance has gone up in their churches after the Students' outreach programme.

The Northern Sector Youth had a 3-day evangelistic outreach in Gambaga and its environs in the Nalerigu Baptist Association at the end of December 2015. Three hundred and eighty-seven members participated and seventy-five persons prayed to invite Christ into their lives.

The Director of Evangelism and Missions, the Convention Evangelist and the Northern Ghana Sector Head visited the Yendi and Navrongo Mission Fields from May 17th to 25th and used the opportunity to visit many of the local churches in the area.

Students from KNUST who were on SHOP were deployed to take inventory of the Churches in the Yendi Mission Field. The current number of churches in the mission field is 332. The Home Missionary and the EMD have been tasked to take immediate steps to ensure that all the 600 churches on our records that have been lost are returned to the Convention.

BREDA

In conjunction with the Evangelism and Mission Department, a medical Outreach was organized for the people of Bunso in June 2016. Over 230 people benefited from this.

Sector Church Planting

The following church planting activities took place in the various Sectors, Associations and Churches in the course of the year

Name of Sector, Association or Church	Number of churches Planted
Adom Baptist Association	2
Golden Gate Baptist Association/Christ Baptist church	1
Kumasi North Association	4
Kumasi South-East/Grace Baptist church	2
Adansi Baptist Association	2
Kumasi South-West	11
Northern Ghana Sector	3

Hope Association Men's Ministry	1
Yendi / Navrongo Missions	100
Nzema Mission	1
Sefwi Mission	5
North Volta Mission	3
Swedru Baptist Association	3
Accra North Association	3
Tema Central Association	1

Accra South Association	2
Dangde East Association	1
Total	144

The Kumasi South-West Baptist Association has approved a program to support Pastors who are ready to go into "Zonal Pastoral" ministry. The Association has purchased two plots of land at the cost of GHS 12,000.00 for Ejisu-Edwenesa church in Zone 3 catchment area. Deacon Boison of Ascension Baptist Church donated GHS10,000.00 (ten thousand

Ghana Cedis) and the Association took care of the rest of the cost. The Youth Department of the Association embarked on a Mission at Hwiriso Township dubbed “Hwiriso for Christ Mission”.

The Association has donated one hundred (100) pieces of plastic chairs to some of the newly planted churches. A cash donation of GHS 2,000.00 has been presented to the Renewed Life Baptist Church at Espresso for their developmental projects.

The Kumasi South-East Baptist Association is collaborating with Kwahu Missions to plant churches in the Kwahu areas this year. The areas are Pepease and Hweehwee. For our Convention to have stronger churches in rural areas it is recommended that stronger churches in the urban areas adopt “weaker” churches in the rural areas. To this end, Open Door Baptist Church has adopted the Asotwe Baptist Church. The WMU in the Association has also adopted Revival Baptist Church at Oyoko.

The Association in collaboration with First Baptist Church and Antioch Baptist Church, organized a City Wide Crusade at the Jubilee Park in Kumasi from 13th to 17th June 2016. Bepong Baptist Church in Kwahu was organized in January 2016. Living Fountain Baptist Church was accepted into Association membership on 23rd April, 2016.

45 students took part in a six week mentoring programme under some senior ministers, during which they had the opportunity to minister and evangelize under the supervision of some senior pastors in the local churches. The national Men’s Ministry organized a mission trip to North Volta Mission Field in November 2015.

Yendi/Navrongo Mission Field

Over the period under review, 100 congregations have been established in the Yendi Mission Field. We are grateful to Baptist General Association of Virginia who have partnered with GBC for the “More Than Nets” programme in the area. 71,000 mosquito nets have been distributed through this programme to various individuals through this project.

The Yendi Mission Field’s goal of reaching out to Kokombas in the Southern parts of Ghana has resulted in the planting of two churches; Victory Baptist Church, Agbobloshie, Accra and the Bethel Baptist Church, Kasoa, in the Central Region. Efforts are underway to plant an additional church at Ashiaman. A total of 2,050 souls were baptized in the mission field during the period under review. We will be advertising for a new home missionary to replace the current missionary who has indicated his desire to move into global missions.

Nzema Mission Field.

One church has been planted through the efforts of Rev. Archer and his church planting team. So far 61 souls have been baptized during the reporting period. There were series of retreats for pastors and church planting teams to help sharpen their skills and abilities. By the Grace of God, the Nzema Hospital Project is progressing steadily. The hospital building

has been roofed, the first phase of wiring has been done and the building plastered. We hope that the LORD will release resources for the completion of the first phase of the hospital project.

Sefwi Mission Field

Five churches have been planted and many of our weaker churches have been strengthened in the Sefwi Mission Field. Continue to pray with us that support to the pastors and churches in the area will be continued by Trinity Baptist Church, London. A total of 55 souls were baptized during the reporting year.

North Volta Mission Field

Three churches were planted by the Home Missionary and his team of church planters this year. Many churches have been strengthened through the activities of the Home Missionary. So far 120 souls have been baptized. The Convention has purchased a building to house the Home Missionary and his family at the cost of GHS 85,000.00.

Jubilee Churches

As part of GBC's jubilee celebrations in 2014, three churches were planted in Bunso, Osino and Anyinam. The Jubilee churches have seen some growth in their numbers. SHOP 2016 helped to strengthen the churches as well as win additional souls for the Kingdom. The Convention purchased two plots of land Bunso as well as some musical instruments for the Jubilee Baptist Churches to help the church's development. As part of their second anniversary celebration, the Convention organized a medical outreach and a crusade to reach out to many people in those villages. We are looking for a full time pastor for Jubilee Baptist Church, Bunso and therefore any of our pastors who is interested in working in this area should notify the office of the Vice President (Ministries) as soon as practicable.

The Chief of Osino has donated 10 plots of land to the Convention to develop a place of worship for Jubilee Baptist Church, Osino. The development will also include a community school for the area.

Medical Services Council (MSC)

The Medical Services Council was reconstituted in 2015 after a successful turn-over of the operations (financial and administrative) of Baptist Medical Centre, Nalerigu to the Convention from our partners (International Mission Board and George Faile Foundation). The Council's mandate was broadened to cover the supervision and management of all other medical facilities owned by, and or affiliated with, the Convention. Among other duties, the Council was tasked to ensure the smooth administration of the facilities and to formulate policies that will help to facilitate its sustainability.

During the period under review, the MSC has worked tirelessly to promote the visibility aspect of the President's vision by ensuring that all medical facilities under the Convention are well managed to deliver quality health care to its clients. This, to a large extent made the Baptist presence felt in the areas where the facilities are located. MSC also ensured the Mission and Evangelism aspect of the President's vision was championed through a vibrant and active chaplaincy unit to meet the spiritual needs of clients and reach out to lost souls who visited the facilities.

ACHIEVEMENTS

GHANA BAPTIST HEALTH SERVICES SECRETARIAT

The Ghana Baptist Health Services (GBHS) is the main administrative and implementing body for the policies of MSC. It coordinates the activities of the medical facilities under the Convention and maintains a strong Baptist presence within the Christian Health Association of Ghana (CHAG). Generally, the secretariat carried out the following activities during the period under review:

- Completed the registration process for the GBHS with the Registrar General's Department and all other bodies and Agencies which had to give the necessary recognition and accreditation to provide the requisite legal backing for smooth operations of the Coordinating Unit.
- Organized various workshops for stakeholders for education, sensitization, re-tooling and streamlining of operations.
- Drew up a comprehensive Strategic Plan and Charter for the Unit.
- Drew up HR Document and Policy Guidelines for all staff within the Baptist Health facilities
- Recruited, transferred, seconded and re-assigned staff to undertake relieving duties in cognizance of the existing staffing norms and filling staffing gaps within the Baptist Health facilities. Between September 2015 and June 2016 CHAG posted a total of sixty-five (65) Medical Professionals, mainly nurses in the various categories, to the GBHS for re-posting to facilities within the network. Not all the posted staff reported to duty to their respective facilities.
- Facilitated interviews for staff promotion and sponsorship for further studies by MSC.
- Paid working visits to member facilities.
- Inspected progress of work at new facilities under construction (Abuakwa, Opuniase, Parkoso, Nzema)
- Set up administrative structures for the commencement of operations of new facilities.

NEW AND EMERGING BAPTIST HEALTH FACILITIES

We are pleased to announce that about 8 new medical facilities are likely to be added to the health facilities operated by the Convention. These facilities are at various stages of readiness and we are hopeful that all will be fully functional by the close of next year. The facilities are

1. **BAPTIST MEDICAL CENTRE, ABUAKWA (GBUC):** The Facility built and equipped by the GBUC, started operation with a two-week free medical screening from 6th June, 2016.

An MOU between the Ghana Baptist Convention, acting through the Medical Services Council, and the GBUC has been signed, giving the GBHS the authority to run and administer the facility.

Registration, Accreditation and Credentialing with all major Institutions at the District, Regional and National levels are almost complete, allowing for full operations to commence.

Services provided include:

- + OPD Services
- + Laboratory and Diagnostic
- + Eye
- + Pharmacy
- + Maternity (Maternity and Theatre Block almost completed)

A full complement of critical essential staff is in place and currently working. They fall into these broad categories:

- Medical Officer. 1
- Physician Assistant. 1
- Bio-medical Scientist. 1
- Pharmacist. 1
- Optometrist. 1
- Staff Nurses. 4
- Staff Midwives. 6
- Enrolled Nurses. 3
- Community Health Nurses. 4
- Nurses
- Nurse Manager/ Matron. 1
- Health Aids. 2
- Auxiliary/Administrative Staff (Cadres). 6

Other staff may be added on over time.

2. **NZEMA BAPTIST HOSPITAL, NVELLENU:** This project is being sponsored by the ***CUYAHOGA VALLEY CHURCH, OHIO, USA***. The Phase One (1) of the project is at the completion stage. Registration of the facility with all bodies and institutions at the District level has been completed.

The Development Partners are coming to Ghana for two weeks from 30th July, 2016, with a Team of seventeen (17) Medical Volunteers to undertake Medical Outreach programmes on the site of the new facility and will also undertake Mobile Clinics in some of the villages within and around Nvellenu.

3. **TANOAH BAPTIST MEDICAL CENTRE, OPUNIASE:** This facility was built by Nana Puni Ware I, Chief of Opuniase, Asante Akyem, near Domeabra and given to the Ghana Baptist Convention to run as a Baptist Mission Facility to serve the Community. It will initially operate as a CHPS Compound, and gradually develop into a full-fledged hospital.

An MOU between the GBC and the Chief of Opuniase, with the Lions Club International has been prepared. The Chief, who currently resides in France, has shipped an assortment of Medical equipment and supplies to be fitted in the facility. The project is being carried out with the active sponsorship and support from The Lions Club International, through their Medico-Lions Wing.

A block of apartments has also been released by the Chief to house the Staff of the facility as rented premises. The GBC is basically to provide staff and some logistics to run the facility. As part of the Agreement reached, the Partners will be sending medical volunteers from abroad on regular basis to the facility, for medical outreach and clinicals.

4. **ATIABA MEMORIAL BAPTIST MEDICAL CENTRE, SANDEMA:** The building structure for this project was donated to the Ghana Baptist Convention by Dr. Azantilow of the United Kingdom. Re-demarcation works and Equipping of the clinic for the commencement of operation is hoped to be completed by the end of 2016. Pray with us to overcome a few bottlenecks.
5. **CENTRAL CHARISMATIC BAPTIST HOSPITAL, GYINYASE, KUMASI:** (Property acquired by Central Charismatic Baptist Church)

Proposed Sod-cutting for commencement of further structural works on the facility slated for July ending, 2015, was put on hold until the celebration of the Church's 20th anniversary on 7th August, 2016. As per the road map currently in place this facility will be fully operational by the first quarter of 2017.

6. **BAPTIST MEDICAL CENTRE, PARKOSO:** This project was embarked upon by the Kumasi South East Baptist Association. The first phase of the building has been completed. What is left are the fixtures and fittings plus installation of medical equipment for the hospital to commence operations. It is estimated that the facility will be functioning by June, 2017.
7. **LIVINGSRING BAPTIST MEDICAL CENTRE, ATASOMANSO, KUMASI:** The Livingspring Baptist Church, Atasomanso, Kumasi has indicated turning its first Church building which was constructed as an 8-Unit classroom block with a strong foundation to go up to three storey, into a Medical facility. Feasibility studies have been made on the premises to ascertain what further requirements are needed to bring it to full operation. It is projected that given the infrastructure on the ground, a hospital can commence by June, 2017.

- 8. PROPOSED BAPTIST MATERNITY CLINIC, WA:** During the Convention President's recent visit to the Wa Association, a proposal was mooted for the Convention to help build a Maternity Clinic on a plot of land acquired by the God's Glory Baptist Church, Wa. Initial Floor Plan for a single storey Maternity Clinic has been drawn and construction materials are being prepared. The President has initiated action to organize basic equipment and supplies to be made available on completion of the building. It is projected that this facility will become operational as a Maternity Clinic or CHPS compound by the last quarter of 2017.

SPIRITUAL HEALING

While the goal of the medical facilities is to provide physical health care, some spiritual care is also given to patients who come to our facilities. This is handled by the chaplains who make the requisite arrangement for some ministers drawn from the local council of churches to deliver sermons during the usual morning devotion sessions at these facilities. Sermons are beneficial to both staff and patients and a reasonable number of souls are won periodically. Apart from the preaching, the chaplaincy grants counseling to patients who have been diagnosed with terminal diseases.

THE BAPTIST MEDICAL CENTER, NALERIGU

Human Resources

Total staff strength at the Baptist Medical Center, Nalerigu increased from 330 as at December, 31st, 2015 to 340 by the end of June 2016. The hospital is in the process of engaging two additional medical doctors. Currently there are 5 Ghanaian doctors and 1 foreign doctor working at the Hospital. Their work is sometimes complemented by volunteer foreign doctors who visit the hospital on short term basis.

During the period under review, Dr. Victoria Aboungo was appointed the Ag. Medical Superintendent of BMC, Nalerigu by the MSC after the expatriate Ag. Medical Superintendent Dr. Lynn Coppola left.

Infrastructural Development and Management

Efforts are being made to improve the infrastructure of the hospital such as the private ward for staff, creation of toilet facility for staff at the OPD, creating of a recovery ward for patients from theatre who need to be monitored before they are moved to the main wards. A District Assembly support for the expansion of the maternity ward has been completed but not yet handed over to the facility. An OPD/Administration project is ongoing with about 90% completion. The central septic tank for the Hospital is being expanded.

Walling of Property

The MSC is taking steps to secure the boundaries of the BMC which is being encroached upon. The Council is currently seeking estimates for fencing the property which will be done in phases because of its large size. The George Faile Foundation (GFF) has pledged to support this project.

Construction and Renovation of Bungalows

GFF is providing support to renovate a bungalow at BMC, Nalerigu. They will also provide funding for the rebuilding of two dilapidated bungalows. Work is expected to commence before the end of 2016.

Support and Donations

The hospital continues to receive support from the George Faile Foundation (GFF) and the International Mission Board (IMB). GFF provided an amount of \$18,000 to support the hospital's nutrition centre, public health unit and fuel for the Hospital. Again, GFF also provide support to supplement the allowances of the medical doctors on monthly basis.

The IMB also supported with \$12,572.00 which has been used to purchase a new hematology analyzer for the hospital. Some assorted medical consumables were received from Baptist Women Missionary Union and Baptist Health Service Secretariat to help BMC service delivery.

Partnerships

During the period, MSC engaged the foreign partners for BMC namely International Mission Board and the George Faile Foundation at different levels to improve relationship and streamline partnership arrangements for the smooth running of the hospital.

BMC, Nalerigu currently has a 176-bed capacity with a separate 70-bed TB village and a standard Public Health Department which serves the Nalerigu sub-district. The range of services being provided at the facility include a 24hour outpatient service, administration and support service, surgery, internal medicine, pediatrics, obstetrics and gynecology, anesthetic, dental care, laboratory, radiology, diagnostic services, reproductive and child health, ultrasound, pharmaceutical services, health information, catering services, STI/ART clinic, mortuary services, laundry, CSSD services and other specialized clinics.

BAPTIST WOMEN'S RESOURCE AND RETREAT CENTRE, EJURA

The Estates office continued to add to the facilities at this retreat centered in the course of the year. Works on the washrooms at the main auditorium have been completed. The Department did a total re-wiring of all our buildings and provided separate meters for every block at the center.

Water Healthcare Ltd. was contracted to drill 4 boreholes at the center to improve the water situation. Three of the boreholes yielded good results while one did not. Along with that we did installation of a comprehensive distribution system within the center to ensure that the problem of water shortages will be totally eradicated.

Some additional painting works were done to beautify the centre and to also bring some uniformity to the painting work done last year.

A new lawn mower has been purchased for the center to ensure that the compound looks neat, devoid of any over-grown weeds.

We will like to express our sincere appreciation to the WMU of Adenta Calvary Baptist Church who have constructed a 6-bedroom facility at this center in memory the late Rev. Dr. George Odoi. Each bedroom has its own bathroom. The facility has a kitchen, dining area, living room, a guest toilet and entertainment facilities. The building will be commissioned during this Session. It is my hope that other churches and auxiliaries will emulate the example of the Adenta WMU to help provide more comfortable facilities at this retreat center.

A team of architects and consultants are being put together to assist in the re-development of the Baptist Women's Resource and Retreat Centre (BWRRC), Ejura. The main challenge to the team now is to have a cadastral survey completed of the current situations on the center.

If we are able to make BWRRC-Ejura attractive to prospective users, it could lead to increased income. Therefore, plans have been put in place to complete works on all facilities at the center and also provide proper security here. Interviews have been completed to hire the services of a qualified manager to man the facility professionally. This is aimed at increasing the profitability of the facility. It is projected that a new manager will be in place by the first week of September 2016.

We are entreating all churches nationwide to religiously follow through on the monthly fund raising for the development of the BWRRC ("*Obiara GH¢1*"). If all of us commit to this course, Ejura will be totally different by the time we come back next year. In the 2015 reporting year, a total of GHS36,923.35 was collected from the Obiara one cedi nationwide. Even though this was an improvement on the previous year by 14.3% it is still far too low for us to do anything that can impact meaningfully on the facilities here.

DOCUMENTATION ON LANDED PROPERTIES OF CHURCHES

The need to have a reliable and up to date record of the landed properties of our churches remains unmet. The Estates and Legal Department plans on building a database that captures all Convention assets nationwide. The Estates/Legal office, with support from the National Union of Baptist Students (NUBS) will be visiting Associations, Ministers' fellowships, and local churches to complete this project. This will include taking proper custody of property documentations at the Head Office. We will like to appeal to all our pastors and church leaders to help with this process.

GLORIOUS BAPTIST LAND, FRANKADUA

The Estates and Legal Department has been saddled with various land cases due to land documentation problems. Some cases have gone to court while others have been settled

amicably between parties. An out-of-court settlement of the land disputes involving Glorious Baptist Church at Frankadua is at its concluding stage. Both disputing parties have completed the presentation of their case for final judgment which is scheduled for a later date. The Estates and Legal Department remains hopeful of success in securing the lands for the Convention.

Due Diligence in the Acquisition of Lands

Churches are advised to do due diligence in the acquisition of lands. Processing of documents such as Indentures, Land Title Certificates, and Building Permits should start immediately after purchase. All churches must note that our Constitution mandates that all lands and properties should be registered in the name of Ghana Baptist Convention acting by the Registered Trustees. Original copies of the registered documents should be sent to the Head Office (Baptist House) of the Convention for record purposes while the local church keeps certified copies. Association Heads are hereby charged with the responsibility of collecting and forwarding the documents to the Estates and Legal Department of the Convention.

STRATEGIC DOCUMENT

The presidency is proposing for the consideration of this house the initiation of a five to ten-years strategic plan using the current strategic vision document of the Convention as a base. It is our hope that if this is developed, it will give the whole Convention, its auxiliaries and institutions a sense of direction for the future.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

One observation made during the year was that almost all the local churches that experienced conflicts lacked proper Baptist church structures. This appears to be a general reflection of what is pertaining in most of our local churches. There is the need for effective teaching programmes to equip pastors and leaders of our churches. The competencies of some of our Ministers should be a matter of concern to our School of Theology and the Ministers Conference.

I believe that the theology informing some current practices in some of our churches, especially during revival meetings ought to be discussed critically by the Ministers Conference and our seminary faculty to protect our Baptist identity. I raised this issue last year but nothing has been done so far by these parties.

We invite you to read the appendices for more detailed information on the reports presented. May the Lord bless every one of our churches. May the Lord be gracious to each family. May God bless every individual Baptist within and outside this country. May God bless our dear nation Ghana.

Submitted by

Rev. Dr. Ernest Adu-Gyamfi
President

APPENDIX
ENGLISH SUNDAY SCHOOL

Title

1. The God We Serve Part 1
2. The God We Serve Part 2
3. Intentional Discipleship: The Forgotten Task of the Church
4. Go Make Disciples "GROW"
5. Fearless Evangelism
6. Embracing the Future for Restoration
7. Principles for Better Living: Book Volume 2
8. God of All Creation
9. God Gives Us Christian Home
10. Down the Lovers Lane: Practical Courtship & Marriage Volume 1
11. The Adventures of Joseph
12. First Steps
13. Live to Please God
14. The New Beginning Teacher's Book (Studies In Genesis)
15. Empowered For Action (Studies in Acts)
16. Knowing God Series (Fresh Encounter)
17. Time for Restoration (Studies in Ezra)
18. He Is Christ: The Sons of God Book 1
19. He Is Christ: The Sons of God Book 2
20. Ready for Action: Revisiting the Acts of the Apostles
21. Let Your Glory Come, O Lord: Revival
22. God Talks to Us through His People (Children Sunday Sch. Material)
23. Baptist Celebrating Our Faith in Christ

TWI SUNDAY SCHOOL

Title

1. Hyehyee Ma Abrabo Pa Ofa 2
2. Abode Nyinaa Nyankopon
3. Yereye Daakye Atuu Ako Tenabea Dada No A Eye Papa No Mu. (Teachers)
4. Yereye Dakye Atuu (Students)
5. Onyankopon No a Yesresom No No Efa 1
6. Onyankopon No A Yeresom No No Efa 2
7. Baptistfoo Yeredi Yen Gyidie Afedida Wo Kristo Mu
8. Se Wobenya Mahye A Enam Honhom Kronkron A One Yen Tee No Tumi So
9. Wobetena Nye Hwee Mu (Daniel Nwoma No)
10. Onyankopon Do No
11. Tumi A Wode Betena Ase (Enam Honhom Kronkron So) Twi Teachers
12. Tumi A Wode Betena Ase (Students)