

PENTECOST IN

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THE CHURCH OF PENTECOST CANADA

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# Unleashing the Spirit of Excellence in Your Calling

APOSTLE RANSFORD OBENG GYAMFI,  
NATIONAL HEAD

## I. Introduction: Understanding Excellence

Excellence is more than a pursuit of perfection—it is a mindset, a commitment, and an offering to God that transcends the ordinary. The Merriam-Webster dictionary defines excellence as “the quality of being outstanding,” but in the biblical context, it involves going beyond the expected, doing all things with precision, quality, and a heart that seeks to honor God. Excellence is not about human applause or worldly achievement; rather, it is about reflecting the divine nature of our Creator in every aspect of our lives. When the Apostle Paul exhorts us in Colossians 3:23-24 to work with all our heart “as working for the Lord, not for human masters,” he underscores that all labor—regardless of its nature—is sacred when done unto God. This transformative perspective calls us to elevate even the mundane into an act of worship and reverence for the Heavenly Master.

Approaching our work, ministry, and daily responsibilities with a spirit of excellence is a testament to our love and devotion to God. Excellence reflects intentionality, purpose, and a deep sense of responsibility. It is about transforming the ordinary into extraordinary by infusing our efforts with diligence, faith, and the desire to glorify Him. By embracing an excellent spirit, we align ourselves with God’s nature and demonstrate that excellence is

not merely a human endeavor, but a divine calling. Such a commitment enables us to showcase the light of Christ to the world.

### Excellence as an Act of Worship

Excellence as an act of worship goes beyond mere effort; it is a declaration of our dependence on God and a reflection of our gratitude for His sovereignty. It requires a mindset rooted in humility, where our focus shifts from self-reliance to a reliance on God’s strength and guidance. True excellence is fueled by a heart that seeks to honor God, understanding that every gift, talent, and opportunity we possess is a stewardship from Him. When we approach our work or ministry with this perspective, excellence becomes a demonstration of trust in God’s provision and faithfulness. It is not about competition or comparison but about fulfilling the unique purpose God has assigned to each of us, knowing that our ultimate accountability is to Him. Through this, our lives become a living testimony, showing others the beauty of a life surrendered to God and dedicated to His glory.

## II. Biblical Examples of Excellence

### 1. Daniel’s Spirit of Excellence

The life of Daniel provides a remarkable example of excellence as inspired by God. In Daniel 6:1-3, we read:



God for guidance, not from human intellect or ambition. These attributes set Daniel apart, making him a beacon of godly excellence in a secular environment.

Even when faced with opposition, Daniel's commitment to excellence did not waver. His adversaries, jealous of his favor with the king, sought to undermine him by attacking his spiritual practices. Yet, Daniel's steadfast faith and unwavering devotion to prayer became his greatest defense. His reliance on God

not only preserved his life in the lion's den but also led to his continued promotion and influence in the kingdom. Daniel's story teaches us that excellence rooted in God's presence opens doors for Kingdom impact. It reminds us that when we dedicate our gifts and talents to God's service, He uses them to reflect His glory and transform the world around us.

*"It pleased Darius to set over the kingdom a hundred and twenty princes, which should be over the whole kingdom; and over these three presidents; of whom Daniel was first: that the princes might give accounts unto them, and the king should have no damage. Then this Daniel was preferred above the presidents and princes, because an excellent spirit was in him; and the king thought to set him over the whole realm."*

Despite being a captive from a conquered nation, Daniel rose to a position of influence in a foreign kingdom. His elevation was not based on worldly credentials but on the presence of an "excellent spirit" within him—a manifestation of the Holy Spirit working through his life. This divine quality distinguished Daniel and caused King Darius to entrust him with great responsibility. The king's recognition of Daniel's unique abilities illustrates how godly excellence can surpass cultural, social, and political barriers to create opportunities for influence.

Daniel's excellence was evident in his character, work ethic, and wisdom. He was trustworthy, faithful, and uncompromising in his principles, ensuring that no fault could be found in his conduct. His exceptional diligence and commitment to his responsibilities made him indispensable, and his peers could not accuse him of negligence or corruption. Beyond his professional integrity, Daniel's ability to interpret dreams and solve complex problems was a testament to his intimate relationship with God. His wisdom and insight came directly from his dependence on

## 2. Joseph—A Model of Excellence in Adversity

Joseph's life, as described in Genesis 39:2-6, demonstrates how excellence rooted in God's presence can thrive even in the face of adversity. The Scripture states:

*"The Lord was with Joseph so that he prospered, and he lived in the house of his Egyptian master. When his master saw that the Lord was with him and that the Lord gave him success in everything he did, Joseph found favor in his eyes and became his attendant."*

Despite being sold into slavery and removed from his family, Joseph remained faithful in his responsibilities. Serving in Potiphar's house, he worked diligently, earning his master's trust and favor through his exceptional conduct and stewardship. Potiphar recognized that Joseph's success was not of human origin but a result of God's presence in his life. This acknowledgment led to Joseph being entrusted with greater authority and responsibilities. His excellence in the small things ultimately

positioned him for even greater opportunities in the future.

Joseph's excellence was also evident in his unwavering integrity and his use of God-given gifts. Even when falsely accused by Potiphar's wife and imprisoned, Joseph maintained his character and continued to act with integrity. Rather than succumbing to bitterness or despair, he excelled in his new circumstances, earning the respect of the prison warden and those around him. Furthermore, Joseph's ability to interpret dreams, a gift from God, became the key to his eventual rise to power in Egypt. Through this gift, he not only secured his release but also saved countless lives during a severe famine, demonstrating how excellence, grounded in faithfulness and reliance on God, can lead to divine promotion and purpose. Joseph's story is a powerful reminder that adversity does not diminish the potential for excellence; rather, it becomes the platform for God's glory to be revealed through us.

### 3. Jesus Christ—Our Ultimate Example of Excellence

Jesus Christ stands as the supreme example of excellence, leaving no aspect of His mission incomplete. In Mark 7:37, it is said of Him:

*“People were overwhelmed with amazement. ‘He has done everything well,’ they said. ‘He even makes the deaf hear and the mute speak.’”*

Every action of Jesus was marked by purpose, precision, and perfection. His diligence in fulfilling His divine assignment is encapsulated in John 17:4, where He declares, *“I have brought you glory on earth by finishing the work you gave me to do.”* Jesus was not merely focused on results; He was devoted to carrying out God's will with unwavering faithfulness. From healing the sick to teaching profound truths, His ministry was intentional and impactful. His diligence reminds us that excellence is not a matter of convenience but a commitment to fulfilling God's purpose, even when the path is challenging. Reflect on this: if the Savior, the Son of God, approached

His earthly mission with such care and determination, how much more should we, as His followers, strive to emulate His example in our daily lives?

Jesus' life also exemplified unparalleled integrity and obedience to God's will, qualities that define true excellence. Despite being tempted in every way, He remained without sin, demonstrating that a life of integrity is possible when anchored in God's truth. His unwavering commitment to righteousness set a standard for His followers, showing that excellence involves not only what we do but also how we live. Even in the face of unimaginable suffering, Jesus remained obedient, declaring in the Garden of Gethsemane, *“Not my will, but yours be done”* (Luke 22:42). His ultimate act of obedience—enduring the cross—was the pinnacle of excellence, fulfilling God's redemptive plan for humanity. As we reflect on Jesus' life, we are challenged to ask ourselves: Are we living with the same intentionality, integrity, and devotion to God's purpose? Excellence, as modeled by Christ, is about glorifying God through a life wholly surrendered to His will.

## III. Why Pursue Excellence?

### 1. To Honor God

The ultimate purpose for pursuing excellence is to bring honor and glory to God. As Paul writes in Colossians 3:23-24: *“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.”* This scripture reminds us that our daily efforts—whether in ministry, work, or personal commitments—are not for human recognition but for God. Excellence in all areas of life becomes a tangible reflection of our gratitude for God's blessings and our reverence for His holiness. When we approach our tasks with this perspective, we move beyond mediocrity, offering our very best as an act of worship. Every moment becomes an opportunity to glorify Him, showing that our lives are a testament to His transformative power.

## 2. To Influence Others for Christ

Excellence has a magnetic quality that captures attention and opens doors for ministry. Jesus emphasized this in Matthew 5:16: *“Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.”* By pursuing excellence, we set ourselves apart, shining brightly in a world often satisfied with mediocrity. This visible commitment to doing things well inspires others and creates opportunities to share the gospel. Our actions and attitudes become a reflection of Christ, demonstrating His power at work within us. Whether it’s in our workplace, community, or ministry, a life of excellence communicates authenticity and hope, making us effective witnesses for God’s Kingdom. In this way, excellence becomes a bridge that leads others to encounter Christ through our example.

## 3. To Fulfill Your Calling

Pursuing excellence is essential for fulfilling the unique calling God has placed on each of our lives. In the parable of the talents (Matthew 25:14-30), Jesus illustrates the importance of stewarding God’s gifts and opportunities wisely. The servants who invested and multiplied their talents were commended, while the one who buried his talent was rebuked. This story highlights that God expects us to maximize what He has entrusted to us. Excellence ensures that we bring a return on the resources, skills, and opportunities God has given us. By striving for excellence, we position ourselves to fulfill our divine purpose and advance His Kingdom, ensuring that we hear the words, *“Well done, good and faithful servant.”*

## IV. How to Unleash the Spirit of Excellence

### 1. Develop a Strong Work Ethic

A strong work ethic is foundational to living a life of excellence. Proverbs 22:29 declares: *“Do you see someone skilled in their work? They will serve before kings; they will not serve before officials of low rank.”* Diligence, reliability, and faithfulness are essential

characteristics of a strong work ethic. These traits set believers apart in any setting, whether secular or spiritual. When we commit to completing every task—no matter how small or significant—with intentionality and care, we glorify God through our work. A disciplined approach to responsibilities not only enhances our effectiveness but also demonstrates our commitment to serving God in every area of life.

### 2. Commit to Lifelong Learning

Excellence is not a destination but a continuous journey of growth. 2 Timothy 2:15 encourages us: *“Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.”* Remaining teachable and open to correction ensures that we stay effective and relevant in our calling. Whether through spiritual study, professional development, or personal growth, lifelong learning equips us to navigate new challenges and seize God-given opportunities. By seeking wisdom and sharpening our skills, we honor God and position ourselves to fulfill His plans with excellence.

### 3. Serve with Integrity and Character

Integrity is the backbone of excellence. Proverbs 10:9 reminds us: *“Whoever walks in integrity walks securely, but whoever takes crooked paths will be found out.”* True excellence cannot exist without integrity, as dishonesty undermines the trust required for lasting impact. Being honest, transparent, and trustworthy in all dealings ensures that our work and ministry stand firm. Serving with integrity reflects God’s character and builds credibility, enabling us to influence others for His glory. When we align our actions with God’s principles, we establish a legacy of faithfulness that stands the test of time.

### 4. Rely on the Holy Spirit

Excellence is not achievable through human effort alone; it requires the empowerment of the Holy Spirit. Philippians 4:13 reminds us: *“I can do all this through him who gives me strength.”* The Holy Spirit equips us with wisdom, strength, and perseverance to excel in all areas of life. By seeking His guidance

daily through prayer and reliance on His power, we ensure that our efforts are aligned with God's will. The Spirit enables us to overcome obstacles, sustain diligence, and fulfill our calling with grace and effectiveness. Dependence on the Holy Spirit transforms our human endeavors into divine accomplishments.

## V. Conclusion: A Call to Excellence

Excellence is not a one-time achievement but a lifelong commitment to honoring God in all we do. It requires intentionality, diligence, and dependence on God. As believers, we are called to reflect God's glory through our work, relationships, and ministry, showcasing His transformative power in our lives. Pursuing excellence glorifies God, draws others to Christ, and positions us to fulfill our divine purpose. It is through excellence that we demonstrate our love for God, steward His gifts faithfully, and shine as His ambassadors in a world in need of His light.

I challenge you to embrace a spirit of excellence in every area of your life. Refuse to settle for mediocrity, and commit to honoring God by offering your best. Let your diligence, integrity, and faithfulness inspire those around you, becoming a powerful testimony of God's grace. As you pursue excellence, may your life glorify God and draw others to Him, fulfilling your unique calling with purpose and passion.



# IMD MAKES APOSTOLIC VISITS TO WINNIPEG AND ST. JOHN'S DISTRICTS IN CANADA



*The IMD, Apostle Emmanuel Agyemang Bekoe, and wife, Mama Deborah, with Apostle George Amon (BC Head), Pastor Dr. Fred Appah (Winnipeg), Ovr. Kwabena Kesse (Brandon) and newly ordained officers.*

The International Missions Director (IMD) of The Church of Pentecost, Apostle Emmanuel Agyemang Bekoe, and his wife, Mrs. Deborah Bekoe, paid a working visit to Canada recently. They worshipped with the Winnipeg District (province of Manitoba) in the British Columbia (BC) Area and the St. John's District (province of Newfoundland and Labrador) in the Ottawa-Quebec-Atlantic Area for the first time on Monday, September 23, 2024, and Tuesday, September 24, 2024.

## WINNIPEG

A powerful revival and officers' ordination service was held at the Amazing Grace sanctuary in Winnipeg which was filled with excited members of the church from Winnipeg and Brandon Districts. The Thunder Bay Assembly in the District and other members of the church in the BC Area joined through the zoom

platform because of the long distance to Winnipeg. As part of the service, five Elders, five deaconesses, and four deacons were ordained for the Winnipeg District. The IMD was accompanied by his wife, Mrs. Deborah Agyemang-Bekoe, the National Head of COP Canada, Apostle Ransford Obeng Gyamfi and BC Area Head, Apostle George Amon. Attendance at the service also included Brandon District Minister, Overseer Kwabena Kesse and the host District Pastor Frederick Appah with spouses Gloria Kesse and Florence Appah.

## ST JOHN'S, NEWFOUNDLAND

The IMD was accompanied by the National Head of Canada, Aps. Ransford Obeng Gyamfi, the Area Head, Evg. Gabriel Addo-Asante, the National Secretary, Ps. Philip Chemel, and the district minister for Halifax District, Ovr. William Addo Addai. The delegation was met by the District Minister, P/Ovr. Benson Leku, the



leadership of the District, and the congregation who were excited to witness the first-ever visit of the International Missions Director.

Aps. Emmanuel Agyemang Bekoe spoke on the topic the “Gifts of the Holy Spirit.” Quoting from Proverbs 18:16, he challenged members to earnestly desire Spiritual gifts for the scriptures have said the gifts of a man will make way for him and bring him before kings. He elaborated by going through 1 Corinthians 12:1-5, 8-11. He said, the Holy Spirit is the One who imparts spiritual gifts, while Christ gives the church the ministry gifts (Ephesians 4:11). The church, he said, cannot operate on just spiritual gifts, neither can it operate on just the fruit of the Spirit. One needs both to be effective in ministry for these are like the two wings of a bird. The nine fruit of the Spirit are to make the believer become like Christ in character while the nine Spiritual gifts are to make the believer become like Christ in Charisma.

He explained the functions of the various gifts of the Spirit stirring the hearts of members to desire these gifts, for when they are in operation in the church, the world will be drawn to the church because they will see the power of God at work. He said while the Word of Wisdom is foretelling and the Word of Knowledge is forth telling and this gift brings referential fear in the church. In addition, he explained that the gift of faith (which is not the faith that brings salvation) works in conjunction with the working of miracles. This, he said, is the God kind of faith. He again added that, the

gift of working of miracles is creative while the gifts of healings are curative.

Aps. Agyemang Bekoe went on to explain that when it comes to the gift of prophecy, we need to judge it by three distinct criteria: prophecy must edify, encourage, and exhort by correcting and rebuking. One does not become a prophet just because he or she receives prophetic messages, but the prophet must have the gift of discerning of spirits, word of wisdom, and word of knowledge beside the gift of prophecy. It is then that it can be said that an individual is a prophet. Discerning of Spirits, he said, is the ability to know “the man behind the man”. He challenged every church member especially church leaders, to desire for this gift. For many have made a shipwreck of their marriages because they could not discern “the man behind the man”, while many have been called into leadership, but they were not the right candidates. On the gift of diverse kinds of tongues and interpretation of tongues, he said this is different from that which happened in Acts 2 on the day of Pentecost. Referencing the words of Peter, he said speaking in tongues is for every believer, but the gifts of diverse kinds of tongues and interpretation of tongues is a special gift that the Holy Spirit imparts to the believer. He used various examples to explain further to the congregation.

Quoting from 1 Corinthians 14:1, he said it is the Spirit who gives these gifts, our responsibility is to earnestly desire for them. He led the church in an intensive time of prayer.



*The IMD, Apostle Emmanuel Agyemang Bekoe, and wife, Mama Deborah, together with Aps. Ransford Obeng Gyamfi (National Head), Evangelist Addo-Asante (Ottawa Quebec Atlantic Area Head), Ps. Philip Chemel (National Secretary), Ovr. Benson Leku, Ovr. William Addo Addai, and the brethren in St. John's Newfoundland.*



# TORONTO WEST AND OTTAWA QUEBEC ATLANTIC AREAS INAUGURATED

The Old Scarborough Area has been divided into two Areas: the Toronto West Area (TWA) under Apostle Joseph Tiekou and Ottawa Quebec Atlantic Area under Evangelist Gabriel Addo-Asante.

The Inauguration Service of the newly created Ottawa Quebec Atlantic Area (OQAA) was successfully held on October 13, 2024, in Ottawa. The National Head, Aps. Ransford Obeng Gyamfi, and his wife, Mrs. Irene Gyamfi, chaired the service. In attendance were Aps. Ousmane Zabré (National Head, Burkina Faso), Evg. Gabriel & Mrs Eva Addo-Asante (Area Head, OQA), Aps. Dr. James Mckeown & Mrs. Emily Quainoo (Rtd.), Elder Eric Sogah (National Deacon), Deaconess Doris Bempah (National Women's Leader), Elder Richard Donkor (National Executive Member) as well as the entire district ministers in the Area (Ps. Joseph Acheampong – Montreal, Ps. Lord Badu – PEI, Ovr. William Addai – Halifax, Ovr. Benson Leku – St. John's, Ovr. Emmanuel Gnininvi – Montreal French, Ovr. Dr. Michael Ampadu – Moncton and Ovr. Isaac Osei – St. John).

Aps. Zabré delivered a powerful sermon urging believers to demonstrate faith in God and exhibit their faith in works so that the Son of Man will find faith in their world (Luke 18:8). Key moments were the induction of the Area Executive made up by Ovr. William Addai (Secretary), Eld. Michael Boameh (Area Deacon), Ps. Joseph Acheampong, Ps. Lord Badu, Eld. Bismark Otto and Ancien Sylvian Ouffoue' N'guenssan as executive members. All the ministry leadership were commissioned and seven Elders, five Deacons and eleven Deaconesses ordained to work in the Lord's vineyard. Aps. Ransford Obeng Gyamfi encouraged the OQA leadership to be diligent and not Lord their offices over the flock.

# TORONTO WEST AREA INAUGURATION

The Toronto West Area comprises of the following Districts: Oakville, Scarborough, Hamilton, London, PIWC Windsor, and Welland.

The Toronto West Area was inaugurated on Sunday Oct 6, 2024 in Hamilton. Officiating ministers were Aps. Ransford Obeng Gyamfi (National Head) and Aps. Daniel Lomotey Engmann (Area Head, North York). Present at this historic occasion were Mrs. Irene Obeng Gyamfi, Mrs. Deborah Engmann, Elder Eric Sogah ( National Deacon), Deaconess Doris Owusu-Bempah (National Women's Leader), ministers and wives in the Area, and other Area leaders and officers from North York District.

Speaking on the topic "Continue", Aps. Engmann stated that there are many challenges to the Christian faith in this world but believers should endure and serve God faithfully until the end. He quoted from 1 Timothy 4:16, John 8:31-32, 2 Timothy 3, and urged believers to continue in the faith entrusted into our hands and which our forebears fought hard to keep because our salvation and hope of a better tomorrow depends on it. Apostle Engmann cited Moses' inability to enter the Promised Land because of disobedience (Deuteronomy 32:52 ) and Saul's loss of his kingdom (1 Samuel 13) to illustrate the point that it is not how believers start, but whether or not they hold on to the faith until the end.



The Area Executive and Area Ministry executives were prayed for and inducted into office. The TWA Area is led by Aps. Joseph Tiekku, and his wife, Mrs. Jemima Tiekku. Area Executive members are Pastor Richard Adjei (Area Secretary), Pastor Dr. Daniel Sowah, Pastor Emmanuel Osei Marfo, Elder Charles Mensah (Area Deacon), Elder Kofi Ansu-Gyeabour, Deaconess Millicent Adutwum (Area Women's Leader), and Deaconess Patricia Tsatsu (Assistant Area Women's Leader).

*Reported by Pro Ovr. William A. Addai (OQAA Area Secretary) and Ps. Richard Adjei (TWA Area Secretary)*







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Aps. Dr. Alex & Mrs. Love Agyei-Gyamera

# Retire After 25 Years Ministry

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The Mckeown Worship Center in Toronto, Ontario, Canada was filled to capacity on Sunday, September 22, 2024, as pastors and wives, community leaders, chiefs and brethren from all over Canada gathered to honor Apostle Dr. Alex and Mrs. Love Agyei-Gyamera who were retiring after twenty-five years of full-time ministry.

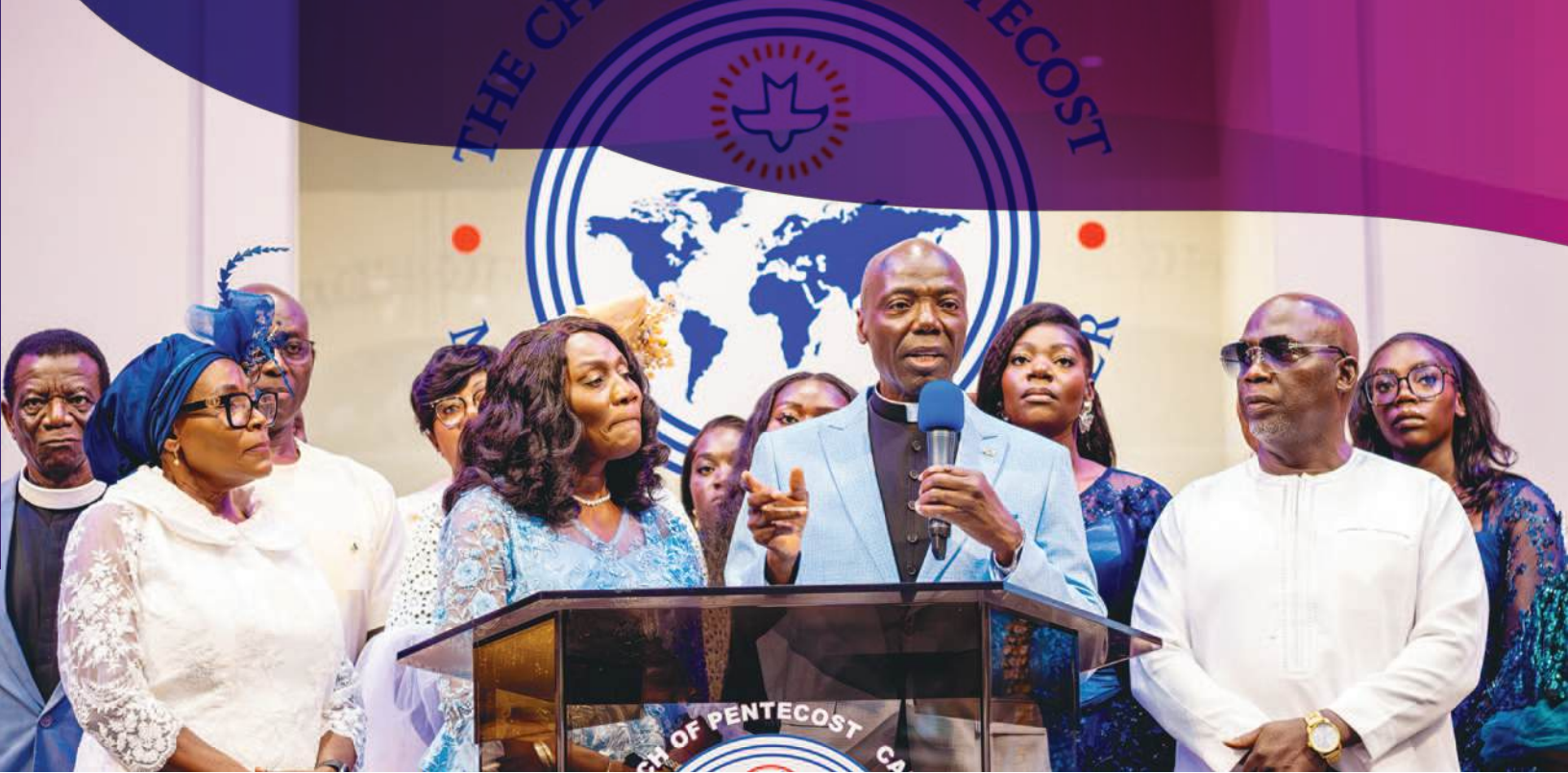
Officiating the august service was Apostle Emmanuel & Mrs. Deborah Agyemang Bekoe, International Missions Director of COP, and Apostle Ransford & Mrs. Irene Obeng Gyamfi, National Head, COP Canada. Other Area Heads who participated in the service included: Aps. Daniel & Mrs. Debbie Engmann, Aps. George & Mrs. Esther Amon, Aps. Joseph & Mrs. Mercy Fynn-Sackey, and Aps. Joseph Antwi (who represented COP USA). Among the retired ministers present were: Aps. Dr. Emmanuel & Mrs. Patience Owusu (immediate past National Head & former International Executive member), Aps. Peter & Mrs. Esther Ayerakwa, Aps. Dr. James & Mrs. Emily Mckeown Quainoo, Pastor Christian & Mrs. Georgina Popo-ola, Ps. Lawrence & Mrs. Lydia Manu and Mrs. Georgina Amaniampong, wife of Prophet Amaniampong.

Speaking on the topic “Crown of Thorns” from John 19:2, the IMD highlighted on the various types of crowns in scripture: royal crown ( 2 Chronicles 23:11; Esther 2:17), priestly crown (Exodus 28; 1 Peter 2:9), and diadem (Revelations 19:12), and the victor’s crown which comes only through some sort of some form of suffering or pain. He illuminated on

the five kinds of victor’s crowns – the crown of righteousness ( 2 Timothy 4:8); the crown of glory for good shepherding ( 2 Peter 5:4 ); Crown of rejoicing for soul winners ( 1 Thessalonians 2:19 ); the Imperishable Crown for self-disciplined ( 1 Corinthians 9:24), and the crown of life for those who lose their life for Christ ( Revelations 2:10 ).

Aps. Bekoe stated that the suffering of believers is general, not specific and can come in various forms at various times. “The mystery is that if a person never becomes a victim of suffering, he or she can never become a victor of crowns. You become a victim of suffering before you become a victor of crowns. The challenges we go through here on earth are crowns of thorns, but we look forward to the crowns of diadem (rulership)... One day, some of us will have many crowns, others will have none. Some will rule over cities, nations, and even galaxies even though we may go through pain and suffering in our current dispensation. “

Apostle Dr. Alex Agyei Gyamera and his wife, Mrs. Love Agyei-Gyamera, were called into full time ministry of COP Canada in 1999 under the leadership of Aps. Kwesi Ackah-Baidoo (rtd), then National Head, after they had served as Field Assistant from 1996-1998 in Hamilton. Their twenty-five years’ ministry took them to the following duty stations: Montreal/Ottawa district (1999-2002), Toronto District and Greater Toronto Area (2002-2008), Peel District (2008-2010), Vancouver District (2010-2014), Calgary District



(2014-2018), Western Canada Area Head (2010-2018), and Scarborough Area Head (2018-2024).

Aps. Dr. Agyei-Gyamera held the following roles in ministry: National Executive Member (1999-2023), National Evangelism Leader (2000-2003), PENTCDA Executive Director (2006-2010), National Secretary (2006-2010), National Men's Leader (2009-2023), National Pensions Board Chairman (2018-2024) among other portfolios that he discharged with diligence.

The General Council testified that “he was passionate about work of God, not giving room for mediocrity. He pursued goals set by the church in earnest. It is not surprising he was able to achieve set targets within the stipulated time frame.”

The National Council of COP Canada also added: “Aps. Dr. Alex Agyei-Gyamera has a strong passion for soul winning and church planting and this was evidenced in the numerous church planting initiatives that he undertook during these 25 years in full-time ministry. He spearheaded the planting of churches in Oakville, Red Deer, Airdrie, Regina, Saskatoon, Edmonton Akan, Edmonton South, Lethbridge, Waterloo, St. Catharines, Peterborough, Oshawa Welland, Halifax, Quebec City and

Montreal French. Some of these assemblies are now districts to the glory of God.

**His passion for equipping the next generation and passing on the mantle of leadership led to a significant number of young people being called into the presbytery and full-time ministry during his tenure.**

As a Bible teacher, we saw that the Bible was to be taken seriously. Going through some of the books of the Bible, he demonstrated a compelling combination of analysis and adoration, and this has equipped the congregation that he has pastored.”

Mrs. Love Agyei-Gyamera was commended for instituting the Living Praise Choir and Esther Generation, a ministry that was dedicated to nurturing young men, now virtuous ladies.

The historic occasion also saw the induction of Apostle Joseph Tiekou and Evangelist Gabriel Addo-Asante as Area Heads for Toronto West Area and Ottawa Quebec Atlantic Areas respectively.







# PENTECOST 2024 CONFERENCE HELD IN GERMANY



By Elder Dr. Razak Oduro,  
Edmonton North PIWC, Alberta Area.

*Pentecost 2024* is a first-of-its-kind global conference that was organized by the Church of Pentecost. The conference was held from Wednesday May 15<sup>th</sup> to Saturday May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at the Rudolf Weber Arena in Oberhausen, Germany. The conference was chaired by the Chairman of the Church of Pentecost, Aps. Eric Nyamekye, with tremendous support from the Pentecost 2024 Planning Committee. The occasion brought together many apostles, pastors, overseers, renowned gospel musicians and seasoned experts in the areas of business, ministry, commerce, academia and leadership.

Influenced by the theme, “*A people of God unleashed to transform their world*”, many critical and relevant topics were presented and discussed throughout the conference. At the welcome service on May 15<sup>th</sup>, Aps. Eric Nyamekye taught and spoke powerfully on

the topic, “The Church and Its Role in God’s plan”. Aps. Nyamekye traced the roots of the church from the days of the Israelites in God’s strategic move to redeem mankind. Israel was embodied under a body of laws and under the law, followed a sinful nature until the fullness of time, when God sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to redeem those who were under the law (Gal. 4:4-5). Aps. Nyamekye emphasized that once God has chosen you, He will never let you fail. So regardless of the sins of the Israelites, God had a plan to redeem His people. Jesus Christ became the culmination of the law to transform God’s people and build a Church of God that would establish a new order, a new kind of righteousness that is found in Jesus alone. The Church of God is an integral part of transforming people and bringing them to the saving grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. Aps. Nyamekye’s powerful message set the tone and



built a momentum for rest of the conference. The next day, May 16<sup>th</sup> there were morning, afternoon, and evening main sessions. The morning session discussed topics such as “Rebuilding the Tent of David” by Aps. Dr Ben Debra and “The Waves of the Holy Spirit” by Aps. Dr. Amos Jimmy Markin. The afternoon session featured talks on “The City Church Concept” by Ps. John Angoh, followed by a panel discussion on the topic “Building Tomorrow’s Churches Today with Ps. Richard Kwakye, Ps. Edwin Matthew, Evangelist Elvis Nague, Ps. John Angoh, and Evangelist Emmanuel Sika Kwame sharing their experiences on the mission field and how God is using them to make a difference in building a dynamic church across the nations despite the challenges. The evening session capped the day with teachings on “Kingdom Giving” by Rev. Ben Kroeske; “Unleashing Young People” by Ps. Albert

Sampana; and an impartation service by the IMD, Aps. Emmanuel Agyemang Bekoe who spoke on the message “Taking the Nations”.

Similarly, on Friday, May 17, morning, afternoon and evening sessions were organized. During the morning session, Aps. Samuel Obuobi spoke on “Leading a Multicultural, Multiracial and Multinational Church”. Aps. Obuobi noted that although God began with Israel as a nation, His strategy was to move “from one to many” as prophesied in Joel 2:28, “and then I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh. He emphasized that the Church has been ordained by God to be multinational, multicultural and multiracial. After his sermon, Aps. David Nyansah Hayfron spoke on the topic “Our World Today - Spheres to Take”. Aps. Hayfron noted that we are in a time of great opportunities where



various technologies can be used to take over different spheres. The afternoon session focused on PENZA International and Professional Networks. Rev. Kofi Owusu Boakye gave a general presentation on Pentecost Professional Networks (PPN), a platform created to mobilize talents, build skills, mentor and shape talents across the globe. His presentation was followed by a panel discussion with seasoned experts including Aps. Prof. Kwabena Agyapong-Kodua, Mr. Wim Hoddenbagh, Eld. Ing. Felix Atsrin, Mrs. Lorriane Wright-Boateng, Rev. Kofi Boakye and Eld. Dr. Joseph Siaw Agyapong of the Josping Group. Each member of the panel shared their successes and leadership experiences in their respective fields. For example, Eld. Siaw Agyapong spoke about the 5 M's of Money: Making Money, Managing Money, Multiplying Money, Ministering Money, and Mistakes in the Application of Money. He based his discussion on the Biblical position of money and emphasized the need to strive for greater heights. The evening session featured a powerful exposition on "Building a Church for All" by Dcns. Dr. Allison Norton. Dcs. Norton emphasized the need for the local church to proactively build a church culture that is respectful of

all cultures, inclusive and creates spaces for diverse leadership and belonging. Following Dcns. Dr. Norton, Aps. Eric Nyamekye delivered a message titled "The Unleashed Church", where he noted that the church must preach the gospel, preserve the gospel, demonstrate the gospel and teach the gospel.

All the services were filled with powerful worship ministrations by renowned gospel artists such as Min. Diana Hamilton, Min. Sunmisola, Min. Shirma, and Min. Niiella and the Amsterdam City Church Choir. The worship experience was an awesome moment as it lifted the whole atmosphere that stirred up great impartation from on high.

On Saturday May 18<sup>th</sup>, the last day, an unleashing service was held in the morning as the climax of the conference. Aps. Agyeman-Bekoe ministered powerfully on the sermon "A Sound from Heaven", Acts 2:1-11. He spoke about the sound from heaven that changed the lives of people from the many nations who were present when the Holy Spirit came



upon them. He expounded on the importance of each nation and their significance in the move of the Holy Spirit. Aps. Eric Nyamekye gave his closing remarks where he emphasized the need for the church to bring about a transformational change in the world. After the closing service, a street evangelism was organized, and the conference attendees were later released to their various locations.

Pastor Andrew Amankwaah, a Canadian pastor serving as Resident Missionary of COP St. Lucia, shared his experiences with ministry among Canada's indigenous peoples.

In addition to the overall spiritual experience, Pentecost 2024 was a wonderful opportunity for networking and relationship building. Many people from all nations were present in their numbers, and this fostered a strong sense of not only belonging to a mega church but also to a way where opportunities to improve and grow both spiritually and physically could be easily utilized. Pentecost 2024 was an inspiring encounter with God. And I can confidently say that the Rudolf Weber Arena became the Holy Spirit Arena. The presence of God was palpable and deeply felt by many. We look forward to Pentecost 2026 for an explosive time in the presence of God!

Leading the delegates from Canada were Apostle Ransford Obeng Gyamfi (National Head), Apostle George Amon (British Columbia Area Head), Evangelist Gabriel Addo-Asante (Internal Missions Coordinator), and Pastor Philip Chemel (National Secretary).



# COP Canada Ordains and Commissions Newly Called Pastors and Overseers

By Dr. Mary Agronah



On June 7, 2024, The Church of Pentecost Canada Inc. held an Ordination and Commissioning service for Pastors and Probationary Overseers who were called during the recent 18<sup>th</sup> Extraordinary General Council Meeting. The historic event was held at the Mckeown Worship Centre in North York, Ontario under the theme “A people of God Unleashed to Transform their World.” It marked a pivotal moment for the church community and its mission in Canada as it demonstrated the church’s commitment to expanding its mission and impacting lives across various communities in and outside of Canada.

Gabriel Addo-Asante.

Delivering the sermon, Apostle Daniel Engman spoke on the theme “Access in Grace Unto Glory,” drawing from Romans 5:1-2 and 2 Peter 1:3-4. He urged the newly called Pastors and Probationary Overseers to embrace the abundant grace available in God’s kingdom, encouraging them to embark on their spiritual journey with the confidence that they have access to divine grace. Apostle Engman highlighted the importance of recognising the extraordinary opportunities God places before them and shared personal anecdotes from his missions experience in Guyana, emphasising the necessity of understanding and adapting to diverse cultural environments and humility for effective evangelism.

Apostle Engman also cautioned the new ministers about the spiritual challenges they might face, including demonic forces and other adversities. However, he reassured them of God’s provision and grace to overcome such obstacles, urging them to rely on prayer, divine guidance, and staying humble. The message also charged the newly ordained leaders to step into their roles, with the mission to transform their environments, not just within the Ghanaian communities but across all territories, raising people to accept Christ and furthering the Kingdom of God.

The official charge to the newly called Probationary Overseers was delivered by Apostle Ransford Obeng Gyamfi. The following ministers were ordained into



Presiding over the historic ceremony was Apostle Ransford Obeng Gyamfi, National Head. The service was graced with many distinguished church leaders, including four Area Heads namely Apostle Daniel Lomotey Engmann, Apostle Dr. Alex Agyei-Gyamera, Apostle Joseph Tiekou, and Evangelist



the Pastorate: James Benjamin Annan-Aggrey, Arnold Opoku, Emmanuel Osei Marfo, Lord Badu, and Felix Stephen Wiredu. Additionally, Apostle Ransford Obeng Gyamfi delivered the charge to the newly called Bi-vocational Overseers which included Dr. Amos Nkrumah, Ebenezer Ayim, Jeffery Krampah, Benson Kwakye Leku, Daniel Kwabena Watra, Percy Larbi, Emmanuel Amponsah Agyemang, Isaac Osei, Dr. Michael Oforu-Ampadu, and Rubango Alain Ntale.

Apostle Alex Agyei-Gyamera offered prayers for the newly called Overseers, while Apostle Daniel Engmann prayed for the newly ordained Pastors, invoking blessings and divine support for their ministries.

The event was moderated by Pastor Philip Chemel, National Secretary.





## NEWS FROM

# 18TH EXTRAORDINARY

## COUNCIL MEETING

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The 18<sup>th</sup> Extraordinary Council Meeting of the Church was held in May 2024 in Accra, Ghana. COP Canada's delegation were : Apostle Ransford Obeng Gyamfi (National Head), Apostle Dr. & Mrs. Alex Gyamera, Apostle Daniel Engmann, Evangelist Gabriel Addo-Asante (Internal Missions Coordinator) and Elder Eric Sogah (National Deacon).

Below are some decisions that relate to Canada:

### RETIREMENT

Aps. Dr. Alex Agyei-Gyamera will retire on September 22, 2024 after 25 years service. He and his wife were honored by Chairman along with other ministers who will be proceeding on retirement later this year.

### CREATION OF AREA

Scarborough Area will be divided into the Ottawa-Quebec Atlantic Area and West Toronto Area

### CREATION OF DISTRICTS

The following new districts were created:  
Iqaluit - Nunavut District, Edmonton French

District, Barrie - Bradford District, Georgetown District, St John District (New Brunswick), Moncton District (New Brunswick), and Thunder Bay

### CALL TO THE OFFICE OF APOSTLE

Ps. George Amon and Ps. Joseph Tiekou

### CALL TO AREA HEAD

Apostle Joseph Tiekou and Evangelist Gabriel Addo

### CALL TO THE PASTORATE

The following were called into the pastorate: Stephen Felix Wiredu, James Annan-Aggrey, Arnold Opoku, Emmanuel Osei Marfo, and Lord Badu

### CALL TO MISSIONS

- P/Ovr. Dr. Amos Nkrumah (Calgary) is called and stationed at Antigua and Barbuda as Resident Missionary
- P/Ovr. Ebenezer Ayim (Winnipeg) is called and stationed at Belize as Resident Missionary





### **CALL TO FULL TIME MINISTRY**

The following were called into full time ministry: Dr. Amos Nkrumah (Calgary), and Ebenezer Ayim (Winnipeg).

### **CALLING INTO BI-VOCATIONAL / TENT MINISTRY**

Jeffrey Krampah (St. Catharines), Benson Leku (St. John's Newfoundland)  
Daniel Kwabena Watra (PIWC Mississauga), Percy Larbi (PIWC Mississauga)  
Emmanuel Amponsah Agyemang (Nunavut), Isaac Osei (Atlantic Canada)  
Dr. Michael Ofori Ampadu (Atlantic Canada), and Ovr. Alain Rubango (Edmonton)

### **UPGRADING TO FULL OVERSEER**

Osei Yaw (Peel) and Derrick Opoku (Lethbridge-Brooks)

### **TRANSFERS**

1. Pastor Stephen Felix Wiredu leaves St. Catharine's for PIWC Peel

2. Pastor James Benjamin Annan Aggrey leaves PIWC Peel for McKeown District
3. Apostle Joseph Tiekue leaves McKeown for Oakville
4. Pastor Richard Adjei leaves Calgary for Hamilton-St. Catherines District
5. Overseer Ebenezer Nimoh leaves Oakville for Triumph PIWC
6. Prob. Ovr. Jeffrey Krampah is called and stationed at Welland.
7. Prob. Ovr. Benson Leku is called and stationed at St. Johns (Newfoundland)
8. Prob. Ovr. Daniel Kwabena Watra is called and stationed Georgetown Ontario
9. Prob. Ovr. Percy Larbi is called and stationed at Barrie-Bradford Ontario District
10. Prob. Ovr. Emmanuel Agyemang is called and stationed at Iqaluit Nunavut
11. Prob. Ovr. Isaac Osei is called and stationed at St. John (New Brunswick)
12. Prob. Ovr. Michael Ofori Ampadu is called and stationed at Moncton (New Brunswick)
13. Prob. Ovr. Alain Rubango is called and stationed at Edmonton French.



# 2024 NATIONAL WOMEN'S WEEK



The 2024 National Women's Week was a wonderful celebration which began on May 7th at the National level, May 8th at the Area level, and then climaxed on May 12th locally. This year's celebration theme was "Transformed Women Unleashed To Impact Their World" (1 Peter 2:9, Acts 1:8, Esther 4:14).

The Women's Ministry in collaboration with the Virtuous Ladies joined together on May 7th for an impactful and interactive session with Mrs. Love Agyei-Gyamera, First Lady of the Scarborough Area. The women had the privilege to hear from Mama Love with question and answer session (Q & A) where she dived deep into the topics with outstanding answers to thought provoking questions regarding her 25-years in ministry and 2-years of field assistance.



Word of God through preaching, bible quiz, skit, spoken word and song ministrations. Some topics were selected based on The 2024 Church of Pentecost theme: Raising godly families, pursuing holiness, and raising Christ-like believers to transform their spheres. Women's health which is at an alarming rate was highlighted especially reproductive cancers and mental health during the weeklong program.

The Spirit of God was powerfully present across districts during the Holy Spirit Service on Friday with the topic "Unleashed with the Holy Spirit to impact your world (Acts 1:8, 2:42-47, Zach. 4:6, 2 Tim. 2:20-22).

Numerous districts embarked on a street evangelism and community outreach where the ministry fervently shared the love of God with others passionately reaching lost souls. A soul was won in Winnipeg during their evangelism outreach and this individual is now attending church. There were donations made to the elderly both in the church and in the community. Edmonton South District donated 50 cartons of water to the Wing of Providence 2nd Stage Women Shelter to support the women in the transitioning stage of surviving domestic abuse.



## AREA AND DISTRICT ACTIVITIES

The National Women executives did well in their mission to visit each Area throughout the week both on zoom line and in-person service encouraging women to carry on the mantle as they possess nations and impact their world.

Within the Areas, empowered members from each district to showcase their talents and minister the





# COP CANADA'S FIRST NORTHERN DISTRICT INAUGURATED IN IQUALUIT, NUNAVUT

Reported by: Hilary Dogbeson & Emmy-Joyce Agyemang

The Church of Pentecost Iqaluit District in the Territory of Nunavut in the British Columbia Area was inaugurated on June 23, 2024 as the first COP district in Northern Canada. The District is a very multicultural church with Swahili members, Ghanaian Francophone members, and Indigenous Canadian members.

Officiating at this historic service was Apostle Ransford Obeng Gyamfi, National Head. Apostle Ransford Obeng Gyamfi preached about building a multicultural church and asked the church to be welcoming to everyone regardless of their cultural background.

The District is led by Pro. Ovr. Emmanuel Amponsah Agyemang as District Minister and his wife, Dr. Ekua Agyemang. Other leaders include Elder Rene Diata, Elder Michael Essel, Deaconess Rebecca and Deaconess Dr. Rita Serworu. Sis. Nancy Fynn-Sackey was ordained as a deaconess and Bro. Aristote Diata was ordained as a deacon at the service.

COP Canada is now present in all ten provinces in Canada and with the Iqaluit Nunavut District being its first branch in one of Canada's three Indigenous-led Territories.



# 7 CHILDREN BAPTIZED IN HOLY SPIRIT DURING 2024 EASTER CONVENTION IN HAMILTON

The 2024 Easter Convention was held at various sectors across the nation from March 28-31, 2024. The theme was “The Mystery of the Cross” John 12:23-33; Galatians 3:13; Mark 8:34-38; 1 Corinthians 1:23-25; Hebrews 12:1-3.

When Aps. Ransford Obeng Gyamfi, National Head, ministered at the Hamilton District Convention on Saturday March 30, 2024, there was an incredible move of the Holy Spirit where seven Children were baptized in the Holy Spirit! Indeed Acts 2:39 is true: -“The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call.”





## COOKING COMPETITION AT PEEL DISTRICT

What an awesome way to fellowship together as a family on Victoria Day Long Weekend, 2024! COP Martinson Yeboah Assembly Youth and Young Adults strategically planned a cooking competition as a way of fellowshipping and spreading the gospel, while enjoying some delicious meals together as brothers and sisters in the Lord. We had a cooking competition, titled Boys Against Girls. Our vibrant boys and girls got the opportunity to collaborate and work cohesively as a team to prepare some delicious meals from scratch. Meals prepared included ampesi with spinach stew and fried rice. We used this as an opportunity to invite our brothers and sisters from Brampton Assembly to join in the fun. Our

noble judges included some of our leaders from MYA and Brampton Assembly. The judges got the chance to taste all foods, prepared by our girls and boys. Specific categories that were measured to conclude on the winner included: taste, team work, cleanliness and presentation. In the end, our boys won the cooking competition. Kudos to our upcoming PEMEM leaders, for a job well done. Through this wonderful event, we all learnt that the Lord has endowed in each of us, a special skill and talent. The take home message is to humble ourselves and learn from each other as we continue to serve the Lord and fellowship together.

### Acts 2:46

“Everyday, they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere heart”



# COP IQALUIT WOMEN'S MINISTRY EMBARKS ON VISIT TO WOMEN'S SHELTER AT THANKSGIVING

*Reporter: Hilary Dogbeson & Emmy-Joyce Agyemang*

Thanksgiving season is a time to not only reflect on the things we are grateful for in our lives, but it is also a season to positively impact the lives of others. As a new church in the area, the women's ministry of the Church of Pentecost – Iqaluit, Nunavut Assembly, embarked on doing good for the community this past Thanksgiving.



After the presentation of the items, there was a time of fellowship, socialization and singing with the residents. Both the women at the shelter and the women from the church were very touched by this experience. Some at the shelter were even moved to tears. The women proceeded to share that they don't get visitors often, and that this visit and kind gesture from the church was not only special, but also very meaningful for them. They were so touched by the experience that they invited the COP women back for coming Christmas. The church members felt very honoured to have had such an experience, and indeed felt that they entered the women's shelter as strangers and left as friends.

After church service on Sunday, October 14, 2024, a day before Thanksgiving, they visited a local women's shelter in Iqaluit. Four female members of the church, including the District's First Lady, Dr. Ekua Agyemang, brought food that the women in the church had prepared, including turkey, fried rice, and meat pie, to the women's shelter. The group also brought along chips, fruits, and some drinks, as well as other provisions donated by members of the church.





# BABY GIRL AFTER 16 YEARS OF MARRIAGE

Deacon Maxwell Amanfo-Sakyi &  
Deaconess Rebecca Amanfo-Sakyi, Edmonton District



After being married for over 16 years, the Lord has finally blessed my husband and I with a sweet baby girl. It was a very hard and tough journey over the years, with lots of hospital visitations, including fertility hospitals. Doctors did not seem to find anything wrong with both of us each time we went for checkups. Suggestions from the fertility doctors were that we should adopt or continue trying as they could find nothing wrong with us.

There were many miscarriages and that became the norm during these years. Right after we were married, I arrived in Canada and lived alone for three years before my husband joined me and so we thought it was going to be easy for us but the miscarriages continued until we sought treatments which proved unsuccessful.

During our long wait to have a child, some friends made mockery of us in the Eastern part of Canada where we first lived before relocating to Edmonton Alberta. At some time, we felt that our childbirth problem could be spiritual. We joined the prayer team to battle this problem as believers of Jesus Christ but to no avail. At some point in time, we ceased going to church because we felt discouraged about life and everything around us but my husband stood firm and continually urged us not be discouraged but continue to seek the Lord's face.

As the Alberta Area Assistant Evangelism Leader, I, along with other brethren, went out for evangelism one day in 2021. While on the street of downtown Edmonton, something came upon me and I begin to shed tears. I then remembered Luke 9:26 and spoke to the Lord saying "Lord, this is the last time I am going to win souls for you. If I am not ashamed of your word, you should not be ashamed to bless me with a child".

Many leaders of the church and Pastor Eugene Gilbert of Assemblies of God prayed with us until the Lord glorified His name.

That same year, after returning from a vacation to Ghana during which I took much time to rest and de-stress in December 2021, I realized that I had taken seed. After a pregnancy where I spent a lot of time on bed-rest, I gave birth to a beautiful baby Girl (Gianna Emily Akosua Sakyi) on the 14<sup>th</sup> of August 2022. Our daughter Giana Emily Akosua Sakyi was christened and dedicated by Apostle James McKeown Quainoo (rtd.) and Apostle Joseph Fynn-Sackey of Edmonton, Canada, on 31<sup>st</sup> October, 2022.

Glory be to our Living God. It is our prayer that the faithful God who gave us Giana will give any couple looking for the fruit of the womb many miracle babies.



# EMPOWERING A GENERATION: POSSESSING THE NATIONS



It is with immense gratitude and a sense of purpose that I step into the role of National Youth Pastor, a position that humbles me and fills my heart with excitement for the journey ahead. I extend my deepest appreciation to the National Head, Apostle Ransford Obeng Gyamfi, and the entire National Executives for entrusting me with the privilege to serve the young people of our beloved church.

In this moment of transition, it is only fitting to acknowledge the remarkable foundation laid by our forebears, especially our immediate past National Youth Pastor, Pastor Philip Chemel, and the dedicated members of the national youth executive. Their outstanding leadership has paved the way for the vibrant youth ministry we inherit today.

As we look to the future, our vision is clear: to raise an army of young people who will boldly conquer Canada for Christ. Our immediate task is to build strong teams across the nation and organize relevant, impactful programs that will propel our holistic development as young people, ensuring the continued growth and vibrancy of our church.

I extend a heartfelt call to our fathers and leaders within The Church of Pentecost to continue supporting us. We need your wisdom, guidance, and resources to empower the youth in building the

Church we envision—a Church that reflects the passion, energy, and commitment of our young generation.

To my fellow young people across the nation, this is our call to action. I invite you to join forces with us as we embark on this exciting journey to build the Kingdom of God. Together, we can achieve extraordinary things for Christ.

At the core of our vision is a commitment to building strong campus ministries across post-secondary institutions. These are not just centers of academic learning; they are fertile grounds for the seeds of the gospel and transformation. We aim to foster an environment where young minds are not only educated but also deeply connected with Christ.

I appeal to the entire Church for your prayers and financial support as we strive to make this vision a reality. Your partnership is invaluable in ensuring the success of our efforts to build a strong Youth and PENZA ministry that will shape the future of our Church.

In unity and anticipation,

*Pastor Emmanuel Osei-Marfo  
National Youth Pastor  
The Church of Pentecost, Canada*



## ALBERTA AREA YOUTH EXPLOSION HELD IN *Calgary* WITH NATIONAL YOUTH PASTOR

The National Youth Ministry launched a nationwide evangelistic and empowerment program called “Youth Explosion”. With the objective of giving the youth in each Area the opportunity to be empowered and transform their world through praise and worship, and evangelism outreach, the Youth Explosion events began in Montreal and Hamilton for the youth in Scarborough and North York Areas in late 2023.

Alberta experienced its Youth Explosion on April 27, 2024, with the Calgary district as the host. The National Youth Pastor, Pastor Emmanuel Osei Marfo, wife of the Area Head, Mrs. Mercy Fynn-Sackey, the Area Secretary, Pastor Ben Amon, Calgary District Pastor, Pastor Richard Adjei, Lethbridge-Brooks District Pastor, Ovr. Derick Opoku, and their wives, graced this unforgettable night. For Albertans, the event was described as “a night of glory,” reflecting the theme of the event, showcasing all districts throughout the evening.

The Youth Explosion was conducted by well-versed MCs from the Red Deer/Airdrie District as well as the Lethbridge-Brooks District, who executed the program seamlessly. The event kicked off with a powerful 30-minute prayer session led by the Calgary district, setting the tone for an evening of fellowship and celebration. The atmosphere was filled with joy as welcome songs from all districts were performed, featuring lively dance moves and shouts of praise. Throughout the worship session, the atmosphere was filled with the presence of the Holy Spirit through song ministrations led by the praise and worship team.

The National Youth Pastor delivered a compelling message that deeply resonated with the audience. His



sermon shed light on the importance of unwavering faith in today’s world, blending humor and thought-provoking insights. Subsequently, Pastor Ben Amon, the Red Deer-Rockyview Pastor and Area Secretary, led an impartation session, where church leaders prayed for attendees who desired to receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit. The congregation joined in fervent prayers as some youth were baptized in the Holy Spirit and began speaking in tongues for the first time. At the end of the event, each member received a free hoodie gifted by the Calgary Youth District and refreshments. Overall, when asked to sum up the event, an attendee proceeded to say, “It was a good way to worship and praise the Lord while doing it with friends from all over the area and nation, something that we don’t often have the opportunity to do.”

# 10 LESSONS

## I HAVE LEARNT FROM THE LATE Aps. DR. MICHAEL KWABENA NTUMY

*Pastor Lord Kwaku Badu, Charlottetown District*



**1. Age is nothing but a number.**

God does not move according to how old you are but your willingness to give your life away for service. Aps. Dr. Ntumy began full-time ministry in the Church of Pentecost at age 26. He was called to the office of an Apostle at age 33 and six years later, was elected the fourth Chairman of The Church of Pentecost. What an inspiration to young people to just serve God wholly. Don't necessarily seek promotion, because in this church NOT EVERYONE can drink from that cup, but if it is meant for you, it will happen.

**2. Writing should be the lifestyle of every minister; in fact, every believer.**

Through our personal devotions and studies, God reveals certain things to us, but not only to keep to ourselves but to share with other so they may be edified.

**3. In addition to number 2, a personal journal of one's life is extremely important.**

Nobody can tell a person's story better than that person. Many things in life will happen, many lessons will be learnt and it's essential to write them down to share with others one day.

**4. Invest in people.**

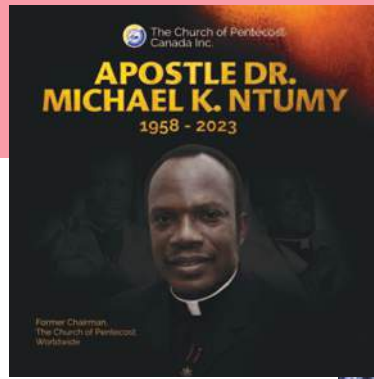
That is the greatest thing you can do as a leader. The more you invest in people, the more change you begin to see in the lives of others and the organization you are working in.

**5. Be a man/women of INTEGRITY!**

Many of us know about his story in Liberia and Flamingo Camp. As my father told me the story, I went to buy the audiobook to listen it, and I listened for 5 hours straight. One thing he said in the book that touched me was that, if he fled and left the sheep during the war, what will they think of him when he comes back and says "Praise the Lord!?" This bold decision really touched that as leaders, we need to have selfless hearts such as this.

**6. God doesn't always answer the way we want Him to.**

Even fighting through sickness and all the adversity that he did, Aps. Dr. Ntumy still held on to God and His promises. Imagine being in a situation, but praying for people in the same situation and seeing them get their desired results but you not getting the answer you want. There's a dimension of God I don't believe we will ever understand, but through the life of our Apostle Dr. Ntumy, I have



learnt that whether in the good or bad, God is still God and we should remain faithful to Him as Aps. Dr. Ntumy remained faithful until death.

**7. Aps. Dr. Ntumy was the epitome of bravery.**

To be bold is not an easy thing. Especially with guns in your face, potentially being separated forever from your family in a place like Flamingo Camp, nearly being assassinated in Accra while serving as Chairman of COP, and being a young man making big decisions for the church worldwide. I know this bravery was not of himself but comes from above. The example Aps. Dr. Ntumy demonstrated is something we should desire to emulate.

**8. Do everything to the best of ability because for God.**

From reading Aps. Ntumy's books to hearing some of sermons, Aps. Dr. Ntumy seem to put 110% in everything he did and it led him to be nationally and globally recognized for his work and leadership.

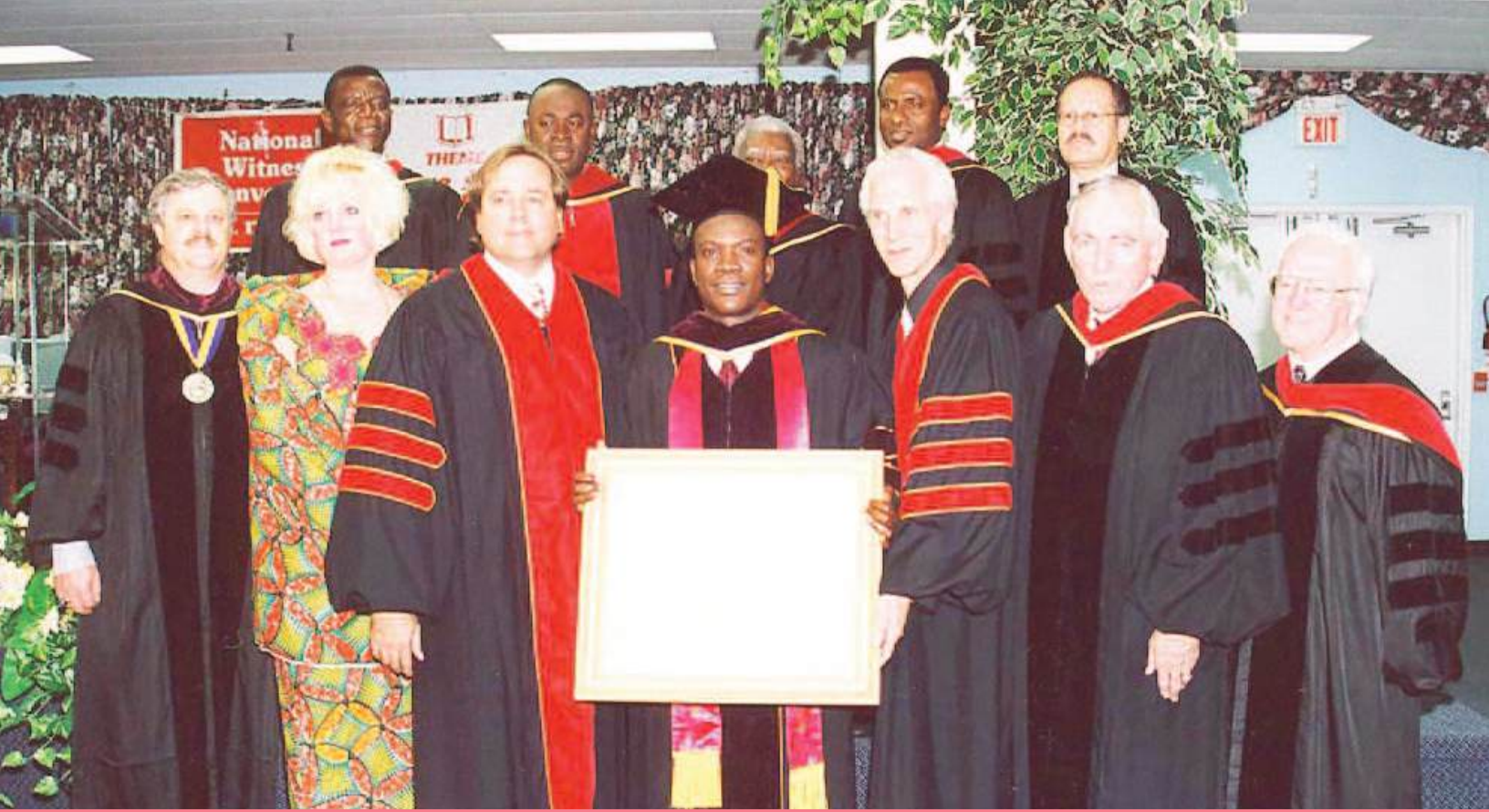
**9. It's not about where you are from; it's about where your going.**

In his book "Coming with Fire", it is written that Aps. Dr. Ntumy was born into a highly idolized and fetish home, and his father was a powerful fetish priest. But, even being born in such a family and circumstance, God used him as a vessel to change lives through the gospel of Jesus Christ to inspire people in various aspects of life and make a change in wherever he found himself. Apostle Ntumy's life helped me realize that God can pick anyone from anywhere and make them great.

**10. Aps. Dr. Ntumy was what humility looks like.**

Both my parents always talk so highly about him and talk about how humble he was for a man of such stature. He would come down to everyone's level - even children - and he was greatly loved for that. One of the last statements I heard him say public during his retirement in Germany in 2023 six months before passing away was "The Church Of Pentecost does not owe me anything, I rather owe them everything. I did not make the Church Of Pentecost but The Church of Pentecost, under God, made me. I am grateful to God and the Church of Pentecost." A man who shows no sense of pride or achievements of his own.

As sad as the news of the demise of Aps. Dr. Ntumy was, to me this is not death, but life forever. I wish I was able to just have one conversation with him. But I know one day, we will worship King Jesus together.





**PARTICIPATE IN DISCIPLESHIP  
GROUPS AND MINISTRIES TO BE WELL EQUIPPED:**

# Lessons from Paul's letter to Titus

Dr. Mary Edward-Agronah, Hamilton District

One of the reasons discipleship is relevant for equipping the church is the fact that lessons are structured according to the maturity level of believers. Discipleship constitutes the foundation of our faith to matters that pertain to maturity and then issues that propel growth among many others. Our usual Sunday Services are not tailored for different audiences. The same message is preached with the intention that each person grasp a portion of what is relevant to them. If your church has active discipleship classes, it is important that you enroll in the one that is appropriate for your current level of Christian growth. Another way to be equipped is to join relevant cell groups and ministries such as Youth, Women's ministry and Men's ministry. In each of these

ministries, the information given is relevant to the members of the ministry. It is not enough to be just a Sunday church member. Real and sound growth does not last only on Sundays. Join other church groups and meetings in the course of the week tailored for your growth and if possible, ask for more clarification if you need it.

**"You, however, must teach what is appropriate to sound doctrine."**

**(Titus 2:1)**

It is relevant that every believer including the newbie in Christ receives sound doctrine tailored for their growth and development in Christ. Just as it will be absurd to feed a newborn

baby with meat and solid food, in the same way, the newborn in Christ requires the milk of God's words until they are developed enough to move on to solid foods. Paul wrote that "You, however, must teach what is appropriate to sound doctrine." (Titus 2:1). Titus was expected to teach sound doctrine without compromise. Then, Paul outlines basic topics relevant for the different age groups. One of the challenges in the 21st century church is dealing with generational issues with the different age groups.

**Older Men**

Paul's instruction to Titus concerning the older men was simple: "Teach the older men to be temperate, worthy of respect, self-controlled, and sound in faith, in love and in endurance." (Titus 2:2). There are a couple

# DISCIPLESHIP



## Older Women and Younger Women

In Paul's letter to Titus, he emphasized that, Titus should “teach the older women to be reverent in the way they live, not to be slanderers or addicted to much wine, but to teach what is good.” (Titus 2:3). Thus, the older women are to be taught to live responsibly and respectfully, avoiding gossip, blabbering and not as wine blabbers. These vices can cause great confusion in the church if not dealt with.

However, when the older women eschew these vices, then they can teach what is good. After all, it is more profitable to practice what one teaches. In the words of Paul to Titus, it is after the older women have imbibed and practicalized these godly principles, “then they can urge the younger women to love their husbands and children, to be self-controlled and pure, to be busy at home, to be kind, and to be subject to their husbands, so that no one will malign the word of God.” (Titus 2:4-5). In other words, the virtues that Paul talks about must not just be messages the older women preach to the younger women. It should be a lifestyle that would be easy to emulate by the younger women.

The older women were to teach the younger women marriage and home management (love their husbands and children, to be busy at home, subject to their husbands), self-control and purity (before marriage and after marriage), kindness (compassion to one another). According to Paul, when these virtues are demonstrated in the younger women, they stand as a barrier

of relevant subjects in this verse. First, Paul tasked Titus to teach the older men to be temperate: that is showing moderation or self-restraint. It is important that the older men learn how to be moderate so that they can teach the younger ones. More especially in respect of what is consumed. The second virtue was for the older men to be worthy of respect. ‘Respect is earned’ is a popular cliché and as absurd as this sound, if you fail to make your life worthy of respect, even the youngest of children might look down on you. The way a man carries himself, deals with life's challenges, and responds to internal and external conflicts are all important in creating a positive self-image. If a man's approach to issues is flawed, lacks moral integrity and motivated by financial gains, such a man has lost respect. The third virtue Paul tasked Titus to teach the older men is self-control. A man without self-control is like a city without walls. He can be attacked at any time. Such a man is also likely to allow unnecessary character deformities to ruin their own lives. Another important virtue the older men

were to be instructed on was to make them sound in faith. A man without sound faith is likely to be tossed about by every wind of doctrine. Such a person cannot help himself to even help others. It is important that the older men in the church have a good understanding and grasp of the fundamentals of our faith. This soundness in faith was to be taught in love and endurance. Paul urged Titus to teach older men that their faith should be demonstrated by their love and endurance.

These virtues taken altogether would equip the man of God to be well-grounded in faith and to be able to serve as good mentors for the younger ones. A man who lacks these virtues is likely to approach the things of God with lack of godliness and wisdom. A man who lacks self-restraint, lacks respect, is not self-controlled, and does not have a sound faith is more likely to be a disaster waiting to explode in the house of God. The least opportunity will trigger such a person to undertake all sorts of vices.



against people maligning the word of God. Imagine if younger women in the church have been taught to demonstrate these values, the people of the world will identify the difference Christ makes. Paul's letter appealed that this mentorship role be entrusted into the hands of the older women. Thus, the older women would be equipped by Titus and they in turn will be able to equip the younger women with their lifestyles. Women are very important in church history. Even in the 21st century, it is a known fact that for a church to thrive, a few women are needed to carry the vision across. Naturally, women tend to be affable, and their friendliness lend them to become great points of contact for every new ministry. However, when the church fails to equip the women in the church with the necessary tools needed for spiritual growth, the same women can become agents of retrogression.

### **Young Men**

In Titus 2:6-8, Paul admonished Titus this: "Similarly, encourage the young men to be self-controlled. In everything set them an example by doing what is good. In your teaching show integrity, seriousness and soundness of speech that cannot be condemned, so that those who oppose you may be ashamed because they have nothing bad to say about us." To Paul, self-control is a virtue that the young men need to possess. Thus, the ability for the young men to control themselves, in particular their emotions and desires or the expression of their behavior, especially in difficult situations or when emotionally charged is very

important. Without self-control, the young man is like a city without walls, he can get easily broken through. Titus was also expected by Paul to set them an example by doing what is good in everything. In other words, as the young men look up to Titus, they should see an example worth emulating. As a young man, Titus was expected to show integrity, seriousness and soundness of speech that cannot be condemned in his teaching. Like a mirror, the life of Titus was expected to reflect the message he was teaching.

*Never excuse yourself from ministry meetings: Evangelism, Children, Youth, Women and Men's ministries are instruments in the church to equip members with age-appropriate, and gender related topics relevant for growth.*

The strength and stamina of young men can be useful assets for church growth. The energy possessed by young men can be instruments in church planting, evangelical crusades and even personal level evangelism. However, it is also possible that the same young men can become a snare to the church if their energies are channeled into wrong endeavors. Therefore, it is important for the church to acknowledge the presence of young men, train and equip them, and institute mentorship programs to aid their spiritual growth. If these are done with intentionality, the church would raise a formidable army of young men who are always resilient and ready to be kingdom

ambassadors. According to Paul, living a life without blemish will silence those who oppose Titus. In the words of Paul, "so that those who oppose you may be ashamed because they have nothing bad to say about us." Our lives as believers attract good or bad comments from people all over. If we live contrary to what we practice, we are likely to face backlash and opposition from others. Christian young men are expected to glorify God with their lifestyles. If there is no difference between us and the world, our message is of no power. In a world where social vices are rampant, having a generation of godly young men who are ready to make a positive impact in the nations is the way to go.

### **Conclusion**

Paul's apostolic letter to Titus points out the relevance of teaching and equipping the church with age-appropriate information. Like the Cretan church, we should also desire to make room for different ages, and gender related ministries to cater for the needs of all members. Never excuse yourself from ministry meetings: Evangelism, Children, Youth, Women and Men's ministries are instruments in the church to equip members with age-appropriate, and gender related topics relevant for growth. Evangelism ministry is for everyone who calls himself or herself a believer. The Women's ministry is for all women in the church. Men's ministry is for all men. The Youth ministry is for all youth. Are you a Sunday member only or a part of various ministries in the church?

# God Can Use You Irrespective of Your Weaknesses

Elder Kwasi Adu-Boahen (rtd.), Calgary District

*Mathew 9:35-38*

*Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."*

Just as the Lord Jesus sent out the twelve (Matthew 9:35-38), He also sent us to the world to preach the gospel. He told the disciples to wait in Jerusalem until they receive the power from above, which was the Holy Spirit. Evidently, when the Holy Spirit

descended on them on the day of Pentecost, they received extraordinary power from on high to start propagating the gospel. The Holy Spirit gave them power to overcome their weaknesses and flaws and they were able to spread the good news. As believers, He has given us also the same power (the Holy Spirit) as He gave the people of old. Why then can't we preach the gospel vigorously as they did in the past? Or why can't we commit ourselves wholeheartedly concerning things of the kingdom? Well, as a 21st century believer myself, I can relate to some of the reasons. Sometimes we belittle ourselves thinking that we are not important because of maybe some weaknesses and flaws in our lives. Many a time too our fellow

Christians will look down upon us making us feel like as though we can't offer anything good in the kingdom's business. But remember what Apostle Paul said to his son Timothy. "Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity." 1 Timothy 4:12.

In the scriptures, there are great men of God who also had weaknesses and flaws. Some even committed murder yet the gracious and merciful God looked beyond their weaknesses and still used them to accomplish His purposes, because they were committed and had the zeal to do God's work. Below are few examples of such men.



**NOAH:**  
*Genesis 9:20-23*

God chose Noah and his family to repopulate the earth after the flood. But the scriptures make it clear in Genesis chapter nine that after the flood Noah planted a vineyard and drank some of its wine. The same man whom God used to save humanity, became drunk and laid naked without even realizing it. It was his two

sons Shem and Japheth who took cloth to cover their father's nakedness. Noah was just another human being, he was not perfect but GOD used him to accomplish His purpose.

**ABRAHAM:**  
*Genesis 16:1-4.*

The Lord had revealed Himself several times to Abraham and promised him a child even though he and his wife advanced in age. After waiting a while and no child had come as the Lord had promised, his wife Sarah suggested to him to go to her maid Hagar and have children with her. Someone will think that Abraham, a man of faith would have resisted his wife's suggestion and wait upon the promise of God, however he failed. Abraham couldn't stand the temptation, he failed the test and had a child with Hagar. Yet God didn't change His mind on him; God fulfilled the promise He made to Abraham, and Sarah had a child at the end of all those mess. Abraham, the friend of God and father of faith, was also just another human being.

**ISAAC:**  
*Genesis 25:27-28*

Records an interesting story about Isaac (the promised child) and his wife Rebecca. The Lord had promised Abraham that through his son Isaac He would bless the world, yet the promised child was no exemption of flaws. He had twin boys with his wife Rebecca and they split the children among themselves. Esau, the oldest, was daddy's boy while Rebecca favored Jacob.

Their action brought enmity between the two brothers which has transferred into subsequent generations even till now. Parents are supposed to love their children equally but this great man of God fell short on this issue because he too was another ordinary human being.

**JACOB**

Jacob, through whom the twelve tribes of Israel came, was a deceiver (a scammer or 419 in today's language). As we learnt earlier, his parents' actions has caused hatred between him and his brother, so through common food, he took Esau's birthright (Genesis 25:29-34). With the help of the mother, he tricked or deceived his father for the blessings that was meant for Esau (Genesis 27). After he had fled from Esau's wrath, he went to live with his uncle Laban. And the Bible records in Genesis 30:25-43 how he also deceived Laban, his uncle to have most of his livestock.

**THE SONS OF JACOB**

The next characters I want to discuss briefly are the 11 sons of Jacob (11 because Benjamin was not born yet). In my opinion, they were the most stubborn children in the bible. Their encounter with the Shechemites in Genesis 34, when their sister Dinah was defiled by the Prince of Shechem will make one agree with me. After the prince of Shechem had defiled Dinah, he fell in love with her and wanted to marry her. Her brothers (the 11 sons) agreed only on the conditions that all the male in

the land had to be circumcised. The men on the land agreed to their proposal and were all circumcised. On the third day when they were in pain from the circumcision, these brothers attacked the city and killed all the men in retaliation to what the prince of Shechem did to their sister. It was Simeon and Levi who started the attack yet in God's own wisdom he chose the latter that his descendants should be His priests.

In Genesis 37:12-36 it was the same men who sold their own brother Joseph into slavery. The oldest among them Reuben even once slept with his father's concubine. Remember, it was from this family that God had promised to bring the Savior to the world. Upon all the evil things they did, God did not change His mind on them, because He knew they were mere men and prone to sin.

### **MOSES:** *Exodus 32:19-20*

God used Moses to deliver the people of Israel from the Egyptians. God used him to perform many wonders yet as human, he had his own shortcomings. Even before God called him, he had committed murder and was running away. At certain point, God called him to the mountain, gave him the Ten Commandments to be given to the people. When he came down from the mountain and saw the acts of the people, he got angry and threw the tablets of the law on the ground breaking them into pieces,

### **KING DAVID:** *2 Samuel 11*

King David, a man of God's own heart also committed adultery with Bathsheba Uriah's wife. When he realized that she was pregnant for him, he devised a scheme to murder the woman's husband to cover his evil tracks. After the death of Uriah David married Bathsheba and later had a son named Solomon (who later became king of Israel). When you study the genealogy of our Lord Jesus Christ this same Solomon is found somewhere in the line. David committed two great sins to have Uriah as his wife, yet God use the child from that relationship to establish the lineage of the Savior.

### **PROPHET ELIJAH:** *1 Kings 19:1-5*

One of the greatest prophets in the Bible was Elijah, a man who had the keys to shut heavens from raining and could pray for rain to come again. This great prophet of God had slaughtered multitude of Baal's prophets but when Jezebel, a woman threatened to take his life he was on his heels running to escape. Could Elijah be blamed for being afraid as a man?

### **APOSTLE PAUL:** *Acts 15:36-39*

Paul, the great Apostle of all time, had a sharp argument with Barnabas because of John Mark. On their second missionary trip, Barnabas wanted to take John Mark with them but Paul refused because on their first journey, John Mark left them on the way to return home. This shouldn't

have been a big deal for Paul, but the bible records that the argument among the two apostles was so strong to the extend that these two great missionaries had to depart way. Paul with Silas and obviously Barnabas with John Mark.

### **APOSTLE PETER**

It is recorded in Galatians 2:11-13 that Apostle Peter used to eat with the gentile Christians but as soon as some of the Jewish Christians came around, he withdrew from the act because he was afraid of his Jewish brethren. Apostle Paul saw the action of Paul as hypocrisy and rebuked him.

### **CONCLUSION**

In conclusion, as we can see from all the men and characters mentioned above that none of them was perfect. They had their own flaws and weaknesses. They were all ordinary human beings just like us, but because they had the heart to do God's work and were committed, God in His grace, saw beyond their weaknesses and used them to His glory. Likewise, if we, the 21st century Christians, will have the zeal and be committed to do the kingdom's business, the gracious God will give us more grace and will look beyond our mistakes and use us to His glory.



# Raising Confident Children to Defend, Stand up for, and Live Their Faith in This Generation

*Aps. Joseph & Mrs. Mercy Fynn-Sackey, Alberta Area Head*

**KNOW THE TIMES:** what times are we in?

1. Time of persecution- hostility, discrimination, physical harm, kidnapping, killings, etc.
2. Time of fear and anxiety -there is fear of the unknown; because of all the wars going on, Russia vs Ukraine, Israel vs Gaza, people fear that a world war will start and that hate crimes will be on the increase.
3. Time of falsehood and pretension- what you see is unreal because of high expectation (fantasy, fake); fake smile, lives, friendship etc.
4. Time of lawlessness- look around and you'll see a lot of disorderliness, labelling, name calling,
5. Sexual sin is on the rise- sexual images are displayed all over on billboards, advertisement, premarital sex, pornography, masturbation etc.
6. Gender and sexual diversity
7. Religion- different types are coming up every time and it is seen as a personal choice.
8. The culture of Individualism- it is all about me; so far as it is right for me, it does not concern you; my choice; what I decide is the truth, me, myself, I, etc.
9. Truth has become absolute- what is truth for one person may differ from what is truth for the other person; what I think is true is true even if you see it as wrong.
10. Practicing Christianity is on the decline- lots of people call themselves Christians but just few practice Christianity (read the bible and follow the teachings its teachings),, pray, fellowship/ go to church, pay their tithes, volunteer at church etc.
11. Technology (Media-driven world)- we are in a mobile informed world; search the internet, it is full of immediate information, some false



There are more things happening. This is the world that we live in and must raise our children. So, what do we do?

Let us look at some Bible characters (children) who may have been living in bad and disturbing times like we are, however stood for their faith and lived it.

some true, constant exposure to unsafe information and lies; everyone has become an expert on different topics, people share their opinions in a written form, as video or audio on the internet. Anyone can sit in their room and produce something on social media, and it gets circulated all over the world; emphasis is placed on scientific reasoning and empirical evidence/ research and these are more valid over and above that of faith.

### **MOSES** (Exodus 2)- he was

born during a time of depression and oppression for the Israelites. They lived in slavery in Egypt. An order had been given for all male children to be killed. Can you imagine the fear, panic, misery and pain going on at that time? However, there was a brave woman called Jochebed. She knew the times and prepared for it. She knew that her son was for greatness, thus if other people's sons were to be killed, it would not be her son. So, what did she do?

12. Artificial intelligence -the science of making machines that can think like humans; they are considered smart; a robot that performs task commonly associated with human beings eg. "Siri".
13. Secularism- emphasis is on materialism, instant gratification, consumerism; putting a lot of emphasis and importance on material things than spiritual; so many different goods on the market and the deception that one's happiness and well-being is dependent on consuming these things, that having many things is important, just buy just acquire.
14. Trials and Tribulations- financial difficulties, health challenges, relationship /marital struggle, broken homes and personal losses.
15. Spiritual warfare- demonic operations that have become a normal thing. People openly talk about witchcraft, Satanism and even plan conferences for these.

She saved Moses' life and kept him safe for 3 months. When she could no longer keep him, she sent him away in a basket. Now, she had trained her daughter Miriam so well such that she was wise and brave enough to approach Pharaoh's daughter and help bring her brother back to Jochebed, who was now going to be his wet Nurse (she would continue to take care of him for a couple more years before return him to Pharaoh's daughter). Since she had been given another opportunity to be with her son for about 2-3yrs, what do you think she did? How did Moses eventually grow up keeping his identity or holding onto his identity as an Israelite, even though he grew up as royal in Pharaoh's house?

I believe that for the period Moses was being nursed by his mother, she taught him as much as she could each day. She wanted him to always remember that he was an Israelite and not an Egyptian. (at age of 2years, children are able to observe, listen and absorb a lot and imitate as well. Within those years, I believe she invested in her son. Probably, she talked often about Jehovah their God, who He was and is, what

He had done for the people of Israel. Maybe she sang songs about God's love and faithful. I am sure she spoke to him about Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Joseph and how they came to Egypt. I am sure she did her best, having faith that it will yield good results when he grows up, and indeed it did.

**ESTHER** (Esther 2) - it was a time of captivity for the Jews. Can you imagine living in such times? During recession, see how terrible things are. This young lady Esther had been carried into exile with her cousin Mordecai from Jerusalem to Babylon. She was selected as one of the young virgins whom the King was going to choose as the new Queen. Now, how did Esther earn the admiration and favor of the King's eunuch (was in charge of the women) such that he treated her in a special and gave her the best? Again, what made the king love Esther more than the other ladies? One would say it was favor from God, but were there not other Jewish young ladies present? How come Esther won the King's heart? I Believe there was more to it.



She had no parents and was raised by Mordecai. She had been taught and trained such that she stood out. Mordecai knew the times and so did his best to prepare Esther for the appointed time. He loved her but was strict with her. He taught her to believe, have faith in Jehovah and to stand for this God no matter what happened. He taught her humility and respect. He taught her how to fast and pray. When she became Queen, married to an unbeliever, the King Ahasuerus, she did not abandon her faith. In times of crisis when the Jews were in danger, it was her faith that saved them. I believe Mordecai and

Jochebed as Jewish parents with Jehovah as their God, put in a lot to ensure that their children were grounded in their faith.

### **DANIEL AND HIS FRIENDS (DANIEL 1) -**

Once again, Jewish boys in captivity in Babylon. Young boys who were strong in their faith, resolved not to defile themselves or bow to other gods in a time when paganism and idolatry was on the rise. They knew who they were, what they had (Jehovah), power and authority. They stood and lived out their faith. I believe that back in Judah, some parents had spent time to invest and train them these young men such that they knew their God Jehovah and were grounded in him.

### **What lessons do we learn from these characters? What should we do as parents?**

1. Maintain strong spiritual foundations in the house, personal and family devotions. Make time for prayers, worship, bible studies, evangelism. Create environments for these practices.
- Create time and space to engage with your children, and help them grow in their understanding of God, who they are, the Holy Spirit and God's role in their lives and their role as children of God.
  - Allow your children to ask questions. No question is foolish, even if it is, be patient and make time to answer. If you do not know the answer to their questions, be honest and tell them you don't know but will find out for them (this teaches them honesty). Make sure you find out the answers and get back to them. You could also suggest that you find the answers to their questions together.
  - Make room so they can share some of their challenges and find ways of coming up with solutions with them. Share some of your struggles and how you overcame them with God's help.

- Make time to discuss trending topics like mental health, gender and sexual diversity (LGBTQ+), drug and substance abuse, addictions, sexual misconduct, Halloween. Know their thoughts regarding these and how it affects their faith. Seek opportunities for respectful dialogues. Be willing to listen and understand their perspective. Talk about practical ways of living their faith in these times. Use God's word, prayers and the Holy Ghost's power in all discussions.

2. Practice your faith. Teach and Model.

- Prioritize your relationship with God and encourage them to do same. Let them experience the power of God in your life and theirs as well. It's important that they encounter God for themselves. Teach and train them to rely and depend on God's strength, the power of the Holy Spirit and to stay rooted in His word. Model how to openly live our faith. Let them see the power of God at work in your life.
- Practice forgiveness at home and outside the home (in church). Model that for your children to see. Apologize and ask for forgiveness when you go wrong. Say "I am sorry". Then teach them to apologize and forgive one another. Be interested in what goes on around the house and even in school.
- Show love and compassion. Model it in your own way and teach them to do so (at home and outside). Use positive language, learn to

use encouraging words and teach them to do same. Provide support and guidance and acceptance. Model an environment of safety and security, being there during times of need.

- Encourage service. Volunteer together as a family. Look for opportunities to serve at church and in the community.
- Foster and build strong communication and relationships. Prioritize family relationship/friendship with one another, sharing love, respect, kindness towards one another, strengthening the bond within the family. Model and teach them conflict resolution in a godly way.
- Discipline your children where necessary in a godly manner. Explain why the discipline and let them learn from it, so they'll become responsible and Christ-like. Model how to behave at home and outside, especially at church and teach them to do likewise. Teach them to respect the house of God and everything within it, including the chairs and instruments, as well as keeping it clean.

Know how you'll train your toddler otherwise at about age 6 years onward, you'll have a hard time reversing some learnt behaviors. Know how to deal and handle your children in the different phases of life (baby, toddler, elementary, high school, post-secondary, worker). The way you interact with them at each stage will be different. Learn, know and practice it. Involve the children and learn from them.





# Canadian Missions In Pictures



*Belize brethren with Pro. Ovr. Ebenezer Ayim*



*National Head with Ps. Daniel Dompreeh, Missionary in Cuba, and some of the leaders in Cuba*



*Pro. Ovr. Dr. & Mrs. Amos Nkrumah with brethren in Antigua*



*National Head with some of the saints in Cuba*

# DISTRICTS IMPACT THEIR COMMUNITIES

In fulfillment of the church's social mandate and in execution of the Possessing the Nations agenda (Vision 2028), many districts of COP Canada embark on regular outreaches to make a difference in the lives of community members. In this issue, we feature Brandon District's monthly visit to the Rotary Villas Seniors' Home, Calgary District's monthly visit to Bethany Riverview, Ottawa District's volunteering Peter D Clarke and Longfields Senior Homes once a month, and Hamilton District's ministration in four care homes every month. Ottawa District was recently awarded a Certificate of Recognition for their volunteer endeavors. Edmonton and Calgary Districts are addressing food insecurity by providing food to 50-100 families in their communities every week. God bless the leadership in these districts and their volunteers for these great initiatives that is making an impact in their communities.



*Food bank patrons being ministered to in Edmonton*



*Calgary volunteers at Bethany Riverview*



*Food distribution in Edmonton*



*Food distribution in Edmonton*



*The Evangelism leader (Ottawa District) and two members receive a volunteering recognition award from the management of Longfields Manor Senior Home, Barrhaven.*



*The Ottawa evangelism team in front of Peter D. Clarke retirement home after ministration.*



*The Ottawa evangelism team ministering to the seniors at the Peter D. Clarke retirement home.*



*Brandon brethren at the Rotary Villas Seniors Home*



*Brandon saints ministering at the Rotary Villas Seniors Home*

# GROW TO GLOW

Grow to praise God  
Grow to bear the fruit of Holy spirit  
Grow to embrace God's blessings  
Grow to gather God's people  
Grow to preach God's word  
Grow to be exceptionally great  
Grow to serve the Lord with gladness  
Grow to glow in the dark



*Eunice Arthur, Peel District*



*Aps. Ransford Obeng Gyamfi, National Head, Canada,  
with Pastor & Mrs Andrew Amankwaah and the saints in St. Lucia*

# The Altar Call



The altar call is defined as a commitment.  
To define the binds we break at the altar is  
part of the process  
To shift our spirits,  
and be blessed with the knowledge  
A small step yet the very essence of living  
What are you prepared to give  
To live the life that God has called you to?  
Is God going to have your  
heart and your soul,  
Or are you going to give it to the  
world to corrupt, and disrupt?  
We go to church every week,  
Just to say we believe,  
To relieve our consciousness  
Is that it?  
Go into the world and preach the gospel  
With your voice, sing  
With your message, preach  
With your instruments, worship  
It is a testimony  
Luke said it best  
God is always with us  
And we are truly blessed  
Stop  
And hear the plot  
When we doubt our talents, we are  
doubting God.  
We say we can't, but God says we can.  
We think we are small, but we are mighty.  
We feel lost, but God says we are found.  
So, when you are called, answer !  
For He says,

"Use well what you are given,  
So, even more will be given  
An abundance"  
But, do nothing,  
And it will be taken away.  
C'est l'appel de l'autel  
La vie qu'on vit n'est pas gratuit  
Souvient que Dieu a scarifier  
Et laisser dieu conduit  
Prier...  
In the times of fear  
Prier...  
In the times of darkness  
Prier...  
In the times of doubt  
That is the Altar Call  
Relying and not denying the power of  
God  
Because each season is difficult for a  
reason.  
There are trials and there are tribulations.  
But, we need to remain steadfast.  
Even when it is a... Daniel Fast.  
That is the definition of the commitment.  
So, answer this:  
What fear can consume us?  
What darkness abuses us?  
What battles aren't won?  
When we commit our lives to God?  
Let go of the shoulda, coulda, woulda  
Walk the path God has called unto us  
When we made that altar call.

*Deborah Osei-Owusu, Ottawa District*



# UNLEASHED TO LIVE A LIFE WORTHY OF YOUR CALLING

Ephesians 4:1 | Galatians 1:24 | 1 Thessalonians 4:7



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