

**PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF GHANA**  
**DEPARTMENT OF MISSION AND EVANGELISM**



**VISION 1.5:**  
**PCG STATEMENT FOR**  
**EVANGELISM**  
**AND CHURCH GROWTH**  
**(2019-2023)**



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## PREFACE

The Presbyterian Church of Ghana has as its mission, to improve Church Growth through evangelism and nurture. This is in our bid to fulfil the Great Commission as commanded by our Lord Jesus Christ. In August 2005, the Church took a decision to grow by 10% each year. Unfortunately, we have not been able to do this. It was therefore important that we took a critical review on our approach to evangelism and methods employed to be accountable each year. Upon considerable reflection on the Church's approach to evangelism and the staggering growth, it was evident that we needed a clearer path to attain our objective of 10% growth each year. Based on this, the idea of growing the Church to one million, five hundred thousand members by 2023 was birthed.

The three main Committees of the Mission and Evangelism Department were put into brainstorming for three straight days to produce the first draft of this document. After several reviews of the draft document, the **Vision 1.5: PCG Statement for Evangelism and Church Growth** was adopted by the Church as a working document at the 19<sup>th</sup> General Assembly held at Abetifi in the Kwahu Presbytery.

This document has been carefully drafted to give the Church a prime focus for soul-winning at its various courts. There is more to be done practically to enable our Church to grow in expectation of 1.5 million members by 2023. This number is almost attainable in a year should we all work hard. Our strength for accomplishment comes from the Lord and each of us will be held accountable when it is all said and done here on earth. Please do not shelf this book but rather use it as a working tool or guide to help win more souls for Christ and His Church.

May God lead us on.

**Rt. Rev. Prof. Joseph Obiri Yeboah Mante, PhD**  
*Moderator Of The General Assembly*  
*Church House*  
*Kuku Hills, Osu*

*June, 2020*

## FOREWORD

At the 19<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Ghana held at Abetifi in the Kwahu Presbytery in August, 2019, some major decisions were taken. One of these is “The Vision 1.5” which is to guide Church Growth in the Presbyterian Church of Ghana for the next four years (**Decision 10**)

This policy was earlier accepted by the General Assembly Council as something that will add fillip to evangelistic activities in the Church. Subsequently, the GAC Standing Committee tasked the Department of Mission and Evangelism to ensure that the Vision 1.5 policy document is published and made available to the leaders and members of the Church.

In the document, Presbyteries have been tasked to win specific number of souls each year. The Presbyteries are to share these numbers with the Districts and then to the Congregations and Preaching Points.

In tune with this policy, the Director of the Department and his team have been organizing workshops at the various Presbyteries. Some suggestions from these workshops were considered by the Department and have been incorporated into this policy document. There are two appendixes to this policy document. The first one is the Affirmation of the 15<sup>th</sup> National Evangelism and Church Growth Consultation in 2019. The second appendix is a brief write-up on Asempatrew/Church Extension which was accepted by the GAC in November, 2019.

The Department of Mission and Evangelism has already published a number of materials for witnessing, follow-ups and discipleship. These are: *Steps to Salvation*, *Operation Philip* and *Rooted in Christ*. It is my wish that we all continue to use these materials to supplement the Vision 1.5 document.

I entreat all leaders of Church to adopt and work with the strategies outline in this policy document. Vision 1.5 is a reality! God is with His Church!

**Rev. Dr. Godwin Nii Noi Odonkor**

*Clerk of the General Assembly*

*Kuku Hill, Osu*

*June, 2020.*

## INTRODUCTION

The quantitative growth of the Presbyterian Church of Ghana has been a major concern for all past and current leadership of the Church. This concern guided the Church to take a decision in 2005 that “all Presbyteries should work towards increasing their membership by at least 10% every year in the short term.” In spite of the strategies outlined by the leadership of the Church, the average percentage growth since the decision was taken is 3.6%. This, obviously, calls for reflection on the part of the current leadership.

The Moderator in May 2019 met the three Committees of the Department; Committee on Evangelism, Committee on Global Mission and Committee on Specialized Ministries; at a three day Workshop in Kumasi to brainstorm on practical steps towards attaining this goal. This document; **Vision 1.5: PCG Statement for Evangelism and Church Growth (2019-2023)** is the outcome of the Workshop. This document was endorsed by the General Assembly Council at the June 2019 meeting held in Abokobi. The 19<sup>th</sup> General Assembly held in August 2019 at Abetifi Kwahu decided that “Vision 1.5” be accepted as working document for the Church.

The document focuses on four key result areas.

- i. Youth and Campus Ministry
- ii. Global Mission
- iii. Specialized Ministries
- iv. General Evangelism

It is our hope that the entire Church will adopt and work with this document to the glory of God and to ensure that the Church grows quantitatively and qualitatively.

## **OBJECTIVES:**

- ✓ Achieve 1.5 million membership within 4 years
- ✓ Set up administrative structures to promote and sustain growth
- ✓ Design a comprehensive fundraising strategy to mobilize support to fulfill the set objectives.
- ✓ Institute appropriate monitoring mechanism to regularly review, monitor and evaluate progress

## **SLOGAN: *Vision 1.5; Response: 1.1.1***

### ***Interpretation of the slogan***

1. One member, One Soul, One year (1.1.1): Every member of the Church is encouraged to win at least one soul every year.
2. Each member to pray for at least one minute a day for soul winning
3. Each endowed Presbyterian to purchase a motor-cycle for mission in rural and deprived areas.
4. Each endowed Presbyterian to construct one pavilion for one Rural Community
5. One District in the City to identify and support one Rural Congregation/Preaching Point outside their Presbyteries.
6. One Congregation in the City to identify and support one Rural Congregation/Preaching Point outside their Presbyteries.
7. One Congregation/District to identify and embark on one Specialized Ministry every year
8. Each Ministry Group (National and Presbytery levels) to select one Rural Community for mission.



### **3.0 KEY RESULTS AREAS:**

- ✓ Youth and Campus Ministry
- ✓ Global Mission
- ✓ Specialized Ministries
- ✓ General Evangelism

# UNIT ONE

## YOUTH AND CAMPUS MINISTRY

### 1. TARGET

The target is to increase the youth population (13-30 years) by 20% annually.

	2018	Year 1(2019)	Year 2 (2020)	Year 3 (2021)	Year 4 (2022)	Year 5 (2023)	Total
<b>JY</b>	153,695	184,434	221,321	265,585	318,702	382,442	228,747
<b>YPG &amp; NUPS-G</b>	172,706	169,247	203,094	243,716	292,459	350,950	181,703
<b>TOTAL</b>	326,401	429,618	515,615	618741	742,489	890,986	410,450

**A total of 410,450 youth are expected to be added to the membership of the Church by 2023.**

### 2. METHODOLOGY:

- ❖ **Youth in Sports:** Getting the youth to participate in sports can help the Church to achieve the target of increasing the youth by 20%. By this, it is recommended that Congregations, Districts and Presbyteries can organize sporting activities like soccer and volleyball in their communities, which would bring the youth together. This will create the chance for the Church to evangelize to the town folks. Also, Congregations can result to telecasting live football matches at vantage points. Congregations, through their youth can help telecast some matches (Champions League, Europa etc.). This will draw more youth to the arena and as such, an avenue will be created for the word to be shared. Outside the cities, Congregations can create Recreational Centers where indoor games like table tennis, ampe, etc. can go on to bring more youth around. It is envisaged that 5% of the figure targeted for the youth will be attained through this programme.

- ❖ **Student Ministry Outside Campus:** Creating a student ministry outside campus that will absorb members of the NUPS-G when they vacate or complete school. Creating student ministry outside campus is simply to encourage and assign responsibilities to students when they are on vacation or when they are back home from their respective institutions. International Worship Centres and first services will help keep the youth in the Church.
- ❖ **Transport Ministry to the Youth.** Congregations that are surrounded by schools can adopt this strategy where they can organize buses to convey students (day students/ non-residents) to and fro campus. Tracts can be shared to them and also invite them to the Church services. A 2% increase in the number of the youth is expected with this method.
- ❖ Sessions and Groups should pay regular visits to their students in boarding schools (second to tertiary).
- ❖ Organize welcome and farewell services for students when they are going to school or on their return.
- ❖ **Agents must be in charge of JY:** As much as possible, appoint Agents to be in charge of the J.Y. This is the time the youth make up their mind to leave or stay in the Church when nurturing doesn't go through well. Since youth can be good witnesses, when they are given proper care from these agents, they would go and witness to their colleagues; A 20% increase is envisaged in this. Training should be given to personnel. The personnel to be trained should be given specific task of being in charge of the JYs
- ❖ Also, the JY and Children Service must be resourced, in terms of worship places, musical instruments etc.
- ❖ The Church must have an interest to make a massive impact on Presbyterian and non-Presbyterian students at the various

campuses. Just like the Charismatic Churches have been doing at the tertiary campuses, it is being recommended that the PCG also takes interest in doing such. This will help increase the number of the youth on the campuses by 30%.

- ❖ Hostel ministry is another method recommended. Presbyteries, Districts and Congregations which have the resources can build, buy or rent hostels and intend rent them out to students at a discount. Devotions should be conducted at these hostels by the leadership of the sponsoring Courts.
- ❖ **Capacity building.** The Church is encouraged to run programs for the youth in the Church to build their capacity. Mentorship must be intensified at the Congregations. Agents and Presbyters must try and mentor the youth when they realize a potential in them to keep them in the Church. After doing this, it is expected that the number of youth in the Church grows by 2% through this method.
- ❖ **Youth in mission outside the country.** The youth in the Church can be trained and resourced so that they can be sent as Missionaries within and outside the country. The Presbyterian Young Missionary Movement (PYMM) model can be adopted.
- ❖ As much as possible, scholarships should be given to the youth who are in need in the Congregations. These people will always have the Church at heart and will do their best to help the Church.
- ❖ Ministers/Coordinators must not only concentrate on YPG at the expense of the NUPS-G.
- ❖ Congregational Sessions, Groups and individuals should offer support to the youth in skills development such as dress making, hairdressing, carpentry, etc.
- ❖ Technology is a strong tool to be used to reach out to the youth.

### **3. FUNDING:**

The funding for this course is expected to come from all the Courts of the Church.

### **4. RESULTS**

There must be quarterly reports from the various Courts to the Head Office. The General Assembly Council should monitor to ensure proper implementation.

It is expected that the focus on the youth and campus ministry should give a one-third of the Vision 1.5 target.

# UNIT TWO

## GLOBAL MISSION

### A. TARGETS

#### 1. North America / Australia Presbytery

- As at 2017, their statistics stood at 4,442
- Compounded 10% annual growth for the next 5 years = 7,149
- 5 years variance will be 2,707 which may mean 541 approximately 600 yearly growth

#### 2. Europe Presbytery

- As at 2017 had a membership record of 5,642
- Compounded 10% annual growth for the next 5 years = 9,087
- 5years variance will be 3,447 which may mean 690 approximately 700yearly growth

#### 3. Ukraine

- Increase the membership record to 250.

### B. METHODOLOGY

#### 1. Leadership

- Train ministers and equip them with “cultural and exigencies package”
- ❖ Generally, in 2017, there were 22 Ministers in the North America / Australia Presbytery. The ratio of Minister to member(s) then was 1:201. Whereas in the Europe Presbytery there were 20 Ministers. The ratio of Minister to member(s) then was 1:282.

- ❖ Should this statistic be applied after 5 years, it would
  - ✓ Require that more Ministers (from 22 to 40) in NA/A Presbytery; 20 to 40 in Europe Presbytery will be needed to take care of the Congregants (1:179 for NA/A Presbytery; 1:227 for Europe)
  - ✓ More Congregations will need to be opened
  - ✓ Train 4 Ministers per year for 5 years in both Presbyteries
- Empower Ministers - Presbyters - membership relationship
- The Ministers should be empowered to tailor their teaching, preaching and healing to meet the expectations of the Congregants whilst not losing sight of the Centrality of the Word of God.
- Send matured leaders whom Congregants can identify with.
- Train and send leaders to new grounds/ frontiers.
- Move from the migrant Churches to the indigenous people (International Worship Centres)
- Plant at least three (3) Congregations per year per Presbytery
- Adopt the “Guests Service” where people are invited to attend service
- The Presbyterian Young Missionary Movement model should be included in the Global Mission report.
- Considerations should be made to extend our boundaries to other West African countries like Niger and Mali.

## **2. Breaking Boundaries**

- Strengthen language proficiency to break the language barrier
- Strengthen phone and social media ministry (groupings or cells)
- Strengthen the hostel ministry
- Presbyteries promote good networking
- Deliberately train interested members in media evangelism or bring together professionals in the media circles to champion the course
- Mobilize to own properties e.g. Church auditorium, manse and conference halls
- Young Missionaries should be sent to Ukraine to help grow the Ukrainian Fellowship to a Congregational Status.
- Engaging in Intentional Evangelism geared towards Church Growth

## **C. MOTIVATION**

- Provide scholarship packages for further studies with the aim of promoting evangelism
- The Church should keep contact with Presbyterians who will be studying abroad, by organising a send-off party for them. These people can be identified by the Local Ministers.
- To launch and strengthen NUPS-G Global

## **D. FINANCIAL MOBILIZATION**

- Encourage members in the diaspora to contribute to sustain the evangelism agenda



## **E. FUTURE**

### **1. Togo**

- Total estimated Church membership is presently about 100
- Must grow to 300 within next five (5) years, making it 40 yearly over the period
- This will result in opening more Churches and assigning 2 more Ministers with the right requisite with reference to language (Ewe and French)

### **2. South Africa and Lesotho**

- Enter new territories and breaking grounds with at least 250 members within the 5-year period
- Train 4 Ministers within the 5-year period with the requisite language proficiency

### **3. Côte d’voire**

- Enter new territories and breaking grounds with at least 150 members within the 5 years period
- Train 2 Ministers within the 5-year period with the requisite language proficiency (French and a local language)

## **SUGGESTION**

- Focusing on establishing Churches in other countries, it is proposed that the name, “Presbyterian Church of Ghana” is reconsidered
- Special orientation should be given to Overseas Chairpersons on this agenda.

# UNIT THREE

## SPECIALISED MINISTRIES

### 1. METHODOLOGY

- Every Congregation should identify at least one area of specialized ministries and focus on.
- District Session should coordinate the Congregations.
- Congregations should focus more on Street Child Evangelism, thus evangelizing to the children outside the Church.
- During Group Conferences, more attention must be given to the specialized ministries and outreach.

### 2. TIMING

- Every Congregation should identify her area of specialization by September 1<sup>st</sup> (thus at the beginning of the ecclesiastical year).

### 3. TRAINING

- Resource persons should be invited to various Presbyteries based on their area of specialization to train the congregants.
- Training sessions will be organized or conveyed by the Presbyteries.
- Training should be done before December 31<sup>st</sup>.

### 4. MONITORING

- The monitoring will be done by the Presbytery Directors and the District Coordinators of Mission and Evangelism.

## 5. REPORTING

- There should be a comprehensive quarterly report presented by the Congregations to the District and Districts to the Presbyteries and finally to the General Assembly Council.

## 6. THE PHYSICALLY CHALLENGED IN THE VISION 1.5

The Vision 1.5 agenda cannot be holistic if it excludes the physically challenged or physically different members in our society, since they constitute about three percent of Ghana's population. To be able to reach them, there should be intentional efforts such as the following:

- That the physically challenged OR physically different people are of equally important souls to God as the able-bodied individuals.
- That they must be treated with the utmost respect as everyone.
- That the needed friendly environment must be created, such as appropriate walk ways in and out of Chapels, sitting areas, brail for the visually impaired etc.
- That the physically different with evangelistic gifts must be identified and trained in order to build their capacity to make them useful agents to reach out to their own friends.
- That Districts and Congregations be mandated to identify, train and well-motivate the physically different people to function just like all others in the Church.

## 7. OTHER SUGGESTIONS

- Entry point ministry: Ushers should be well trained to receive new members in all Congregations

- Entry point ministry: Congregants should be educated to be receptive to new comers. The issue of permanent sitting places for individuals in the Church during forenoon services should be a thing of the past.
- Entry point ministry: Clean and decent washrooms/toilets should be provided.
- Entry point ministry: The Church should be visible. Visible sign posts should be erected at vantage points to direct first time worshippers to the place of worship
- In other to raise the awareness of embarking on ministry for Celebrities, the Church should organize a mega national program inviting Celebrities for a night of praise which can be fused with evangelical messages.
- Church services in all Congregations should be experiential in nature.
- All Children Service teachers should be trained in child evangelism and each recognized and appreciated for the number of children brought into the Church.
- At least, all Districts head stations be encouraged to operate Blue Cross. Individuals must be trained, resourced and request for quarterly report. Blue Cross Coordinators should be appointed at the District level.
- Boys and Girls Brigade is another area where we have to focus. Start new Companies and strengthen the weak ones.
- District Session Council Standing Committees should ensure that, Congregations adopt nearby schools for chaplaincy activities – Both private and public schools, from Crèche to tertiary schools. Specific Church members be appointed and trained for this assignment and periodic report made to Session.

- Agents in Charge of all the Courts should be made accountable for the success or otherwise of the Specialized Ministries.
- Media: Use traditional and social media effectively. Rural Congregations are encouraged to use Information Centers in their respective communities. Congregations in urban settings who are capable should use the community radio and FM stations. Social media should be used as a strong tool in reaching out.
- Congregations in urban setting should adopt bus terminals/ stops by painting them in PCG colors with some evangelistic messages

# UNIT FOUR

## GENERAL EVANGELISM

### 1. METHODOLOGY

- **Revivals**

All Congregations should embark on activities such as revivals. Congregations should organize revivals in their locals so as to revive the Church members in order for them to be able to go out and win souls. Revival services should also aim at discipleship and evangelism (to the old members and the new entrants.) Fund raising should not be the sole focus for revival services.

- **Crusades and other Outreach Activities**

Crusades, personal evangelism, street and tract distribution evangelism and other forms of outreach should be organized by the Church. Representatives from the various Groups should be well trained by the Agents or persons who are well vexed in evangelism on how to follow up and keep the souls in the Church. Group leaders are encouraged to include outreach programmes/activities in their Conferences, anniversaries and annual meetings at all Courts.

- **Discipleship**

Discipleship which is a strong tool in Church Growth should be intensify at the various Courts. Outreach and Inreach programmes without discipleship would not lead to the growth of the Church. Conscious efforts should be made to disciple the converts and other members of the Church. *Rooted in Christ* and other materials on Discipleship should be used. *Rooted in Christ* is strongly recommended for use by all newly planted Churches before any other Bible Study material can be used or before preaching with the Church's lectionary.

- **Church Planting**

Church Planting should be mandatory. Every District must at least plant and nurture a Church in two years. Proper survey should be conducted before embarking on Church planting. The Presbyterian Young Missionary Movement (PYMM) model should be used for such purposes. The P-YICE, P-SICE and the PYMM must be tasked to lead in the Church Planting. Follow up teams should be set up by Mission and Evangelism Coordinators in the Districts and the Congregations. These follow- up teams must be well resourced for effective execution.

Leaders should be properly trained to lead the Churches to be planted. Planting Churches without effective leadership will be a failure. Departments of Church Life and Nurture and Mission and Evangelism should collaborate the Lay Training Centers in designing appropriate training courses for this purpose.

Districts which for obvious reasons cannot plant Churches in their jurisdictions are encouraged to cross borders to other Presbyteries and Districts to plant and nurture the Churches. Districts in such situations can adopt and strengthen other weaker Churches outside their Presbyteries. Twinning is also recommended.

- **Follow-ups**

Congregations, Districts and Presbyteries should set up strong follow-up teams. *Operation Philips*, a follow-up material developed by the Department is recommended for use.

- **Prayer support**

Prayer teams should be raised at all courts for this agenda. Courts are encouraged to pray for this agenda at church services, prayer meetings, Group meetings, conferences and anniversaries.

## OTHER SUGGESTIONS

- Evangelism Committees within the Courts should spearhead implementation of the Vision 1.5
- Operational guidelines should be provided by the M&E Directorate
- Orientation be run at Presbytery levels for all District Committees on evangelism
- With regards to monitoring; Evangelism Consultation must be organized every mid-week
- The courts will be used for supervision and monitoring

## SOUL WINNING TARGET FOR PRESBYTERIES

	Presbytery	Target by 2023	Expected number each year
1	Ga	81,990	20,496
2	Asante	81,966	20,492
3	Akuapem	55,186	13,797
4	Ga West	49,666	12,417
5	Brong Ahafo	42,326	10,582
6	Asante Akyem	38,346	9,587
7	Akyem Abuakwa	31,622	7,906
8	West Brong	27,769	6,942
9	Western	26,041	6,510
10	Dangme Tongu	25,825	6,457
11	Sekyere	23,736	5,934
12	Kwahu	21,312	5,328
13	Central	17,400	4,350



Presbytery		Target by 2023	Expected number each year
14	West Akyem	16,981	4,245
15	Upper	15,453	3,863
16	Sefwi	12,305	3,076
17	Asante South	10,320	2,580
18	Volta	10,302	2,576
19	Northern	6,875	1,719
20	Europe	3,468	867
21	North America/ Australia	2,984	746
	<b>Total</b>	<b>578,162</b>	<b>144,541</b>

A total of **578,162** new members are expected to be added to the current membership by 2023.

## TIMELINE

The Districts and the Presbyteries should use their monthly Standing Committee’s and quarterly Council meetings as an opportunity for monitoring and evaluation.

## CONCLUSION:

In conclusion, all Presbyteries, Districts and Congregations are entreated to help the Church in its quest to achieve the Vision 1.5 in the proposed years. As Paul said “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me,” Philippians 4:13. It is believed with God’s strength, all these can be done to the glory of God. Amen.

## Appendix 1

### AFFIRMATIONS OF 15<sup>TH</sup> NATIONAL EVANGELISM AND CHURCH GROWTH CONSULTATION

We the participants from the 21 Presbyteries gathered here at Abetifi, RTC for the 15<sup>th</sup> National Evangelism and Church Growth Consultation from Monday 18<sup>th</sup> to Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> November, 2019 under the Chairmanship of Rt. Rev. Prof. Joseph Obiri Yeboah Mante, Moderator of the General Assembly do affirm:

1. That, the review of Vision 1.5 soul winning statistical targets for Presbyteries was accepted.
2. That, the Presbytery head stations should commence interpretations in sign language (Akuapem Presbytery was tasked to explore opportunity with persons with disabilities institutions in the Presbytery to help facilitate training for candidates from other Presbyteries).
3. That, the Vision 1.5 document should consider persons with disabilities.
4. That, in situation where the need arises the Church should organize literacy programmes as a source of education for migrants.
5. That, every Presbytery should identify at least two groups of migrants and work with them.
6. That, migrants should be allowed to worship in the parent Congregational chapels as a second, third or fourth service; organize joint services at least on quarterly basis.
7. That, in the case where N.O.P Coordinators are being appointed, the Chairpersons of Upper and Northern Presbyteries should be seriously consulted.

8. That, serious efforts be made to have all Church members understand, appreciate and own the Vision 1.5 policy.
9. That, Evangelism and Church Growth Consultation/Audit should be part of District Session Council meetings, half yearly at the Presbytery level and annually at the General Assembly level.
10. That, the Church must at all levels create an effective entry point ministry. Visible sign posts be put at vantage places; ushers to be trained to warmly receive worshippers
11. That, there must be a policy to identify and guide the operation of mega Churches in cities and cosmopolitan areas. The Lay Training Centres (especially, RTC) to put up such programmes to equip the Agents for this and other related purposes.
12. That, there should be training in assertive evangelism for members of the Church.
13. That, each Congregation and or District as a matter of urgency should come out with at least one Specialized Ministry.
14. That, a research should be done on the possibility of having a PCG television station.
15. That, the Church should identify major specialized ministries for the training centres to develop curriculum for the training of Church members especially, Agents.

## Appendix 2

### GUIDELINES FOR RESTRUCTURING ASEMPATREW/ CHURCH EXTENSION

#### INTRODUCTION:

“*Asempatrew*” literally means spreading of good news. The Presbyterian Church of Ghana actualized this word by setting aside a specific period for evangelism in the Presbyterian Church of Ghana. Evangelistic activities are carried out for the purposes of expanding the frontiers of the Church as in planting new Churches or strengthen the weaker Churches and wining more souls. It used to be held in December to commemorate the arrival of the Basel Missionaries who brought the good news to us. This good news must spread, hence the name “*Asempatrew*” (Church Extension)

#### HOW WAS IT DONE IN THE PAST?

The emphasis on *Asempatrew/Church Extension* was to evangelize in the communities. During this, the gospel message was presented in many ways to win souls for the Lord. Besides, it was a period where the Church was made visible to seekers. Almost every Group (member) in the Church was involved in the *Asempatrew/Church Extension*, where a specific town is selected for the annual evangelistic outreach. For example, the Singing Band will sing with their “*dondu*”, “*frikyiwa*” and other local musical instrument, while others are also proclaiming the good news. This was either held at dawn or late afternoon. Women’s Fellowship will stage a play and communicate the good news, while the youth and other members also embarked on house to house evangelism. The Pastors used to explain the theme for the ecclesiastical year and share the gospel intermittently during the day since the entire programme was residential in nature.

The Chief or Regent (*Odikro*) of the selected host town of the *Asempatrew/Church Extension* was key. The Church visited him and his elders at his palace to greet, pray and announce their presence and mission in the community. They will also be invited to the programs especially the Sunday service. In most cases, these Chiefs will send a delegation to welcome participants and bring them gifts before they join them, the Church, for Sunday service. During the climax on Sunday, newly won souls were introduced. It used to be a common phenomenon that most fetish priests were converted and denounce their old ways during *Asempatrew/Church Extension*. Offertory at Sunday was, and is, normally on Congregational basis amidst competition, yet money was not the major aspect of *Asempatrew/Church Extension*. Town procession on the principal streets of the town amidst singing (brass band music) was a delightful sight. Many people (town folks) will come out from their homes to cheer the Church and some will join the procession to “*Pataase*” where the service is conducted.

## **WHAT IS THE CURRENT TREND?**

Two trends are seen currently

- A. Where District Session and Asempatrew/Church Extension are held together during the period.
- B. Where the District Session and Asempatrew/Church Extension are held separately.

On the trend, “A” much attention is given to the “business meeting” at the expense of the outreach/evangelistic work. The trend “B” when the two are separated is better. Much time is given for the propagation of the good news. Unlike the time of old, an advance team is sent to evangelize for the first few days before the rest of the members join on Sunday morning or for the thanksgiving service. In some cases, much emphasis is placed on the fundraising which takes prominence over the propagation of the gospel.

## CHALLENGES IN THE CURRENT SYSTEM/TREND

In the trend “A”, since much time is given to the business meeting, participants get tired of the outreach. Evangelism therefore suffers. On “B” just a handful of members (Evangelism team/BSPG) are involved in Evangelism whereas every member is to share his/her faith. It, therefore, makes *Asempatrew/Church Extension* lose its essence. On money emphasis; whereas some Church leaders feel it is a waste to spend much on *Asempatrew/Church Extension*, others also think *Asempatrew/Church Extension* has become another means of fundraising. Due to the above, the zeal for soul winning in *Asempatrew/Church Extension* is almost dead. Only a few are involved.

## THE WAY FORWARD/RECOMMENDATIONS

The following are presented as means of rebranding the *Asempaptraw/Church Extension*

1. That *Asempatrew* should be held separately from Annual District Session (Business Meeting)
2. Prayer: There should be serious prayers before, during and after the entire programme
3. As much as possible, all Groups- Generational and Service (Intergenerational) - should be involved in the planning and organization of *Asempatrew/Church Extension*
4. Adequate and realistic budget should be made for the programme
5. Adopt contemporary methods of evangelism such as
  - Street evangelism
  - Film shows

- Musical concerts for evangelistic purposes
  - Medical outreach; free medical screening and the likes
  - Samaritan strategy; before you tell others about Christ, let them see how much you care, etc
6. Intensive discipleship programme and follow-up mechanism must be put in place at the host Congregation
  7. Proper monitoring and evaluation system should be put in place. The Mission and Evangelism Committee should come out with a reporting format purposely designed for reporting on *Asempatrew*/Church Extension. Presbyteries should set deadlines for submission of report