

PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO THE 56TH ANNUAL SESSION OF THE GHANA BAPTIST CONVENTION

A. INTRODUCTION

At the 54th annual session, a new strategic plan covering the period 2018 to 2027 was approved by this house. Some developments during the year obstructed effective implementation of the strategic plan. The plan was therefore re-structured and made operational in January 2019. This report therefore is an assessment of our achievement as a denomination in reference to the strategic plan and the activities outlined under the 9 strategic objectives for the year under review.

VISION: To fulfil the Great Commission of Jesus Christ.

MISSION: Evangelize the lost, disciple believers of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, plant churches, train leaders and minister to the spiritual and socio-economic needs of people through strong and vibrant structures and institutions, and in cooperation with relevant bodies.

1.0 STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 1: EVANGELISM AND MISSIONS

To strengthen evangelism and missions and make them more widespread, effective and efficient, attention was given to the following activities during the period under review.

The strategic plan projected that we plant a total of 35 Churches during the year under review. The following activities were carried out to meet that goal.

1.1 *Cinema Van Ministry*

The Convention received two sets of new cinema equipment from the Great Commission Movement of Ghana (GCMG). This gift was as a result of an intended Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to be signed between the Convention and GCMG later this year. In this partnership agreement, GCMG will provide the needed equipment, training and media tools towards the advancement of our cinema ministry.

In the course of the year the Sector Cinema van Ministry was engaged in several activities. Listed below are the outcomes from the various Sectors:

SECTOR	NUMBER REACHED WITH THE GOSPEL	NEW DECISION MADE	CHURCHES PLANTED	UPDATE ON CINEVAN
South East Ghana Sector	7,126	4,097	2	The cinema van has been grounded for over six (6) months due to unavailability of injector nozzles on the Ghanaian spare parts market.
South West Ghana Sector	3,590	1,507	2	The van is in good condition. There is the need for additional personnel to assist the Evangelist.
Mid Ghana Sector	1,466	756	3	The van is in perfect condition now after some repair works on the clutch system. There is the need for additional personnel to support the Evangelist.
Northern Ghana Sector	2,950	913	2	The vehicle is very old and needs to be replaced due to its frequent breakdowns. There is the need for additional personnel to help with the work of the Evangelist.
Total	15,132	7273	9	

The challenges have been noted and would be addressed in due course.

1.2 Missions Week

The Annual Mission Week was planned and executed across the country. The table below shows the agreed amount allotted to each sector and what has been received so far:

Sectors	Allotment	Amount Reported
Mid Ghana Sector	GHS 150,000.00	GHS 62,439.20
South West Ghana Sector	GHS 70,000.00	GHS 30,000.00
South East Ghana Sector	GHS 150,000.00	GHS 40,000.00
Northern Ghana Sector	GHS 30,000.00	GHS 7,000.00
Total	GHS400,000.00	GHS139,439.20

This year it was agreed that the Sectors will retain 60% of the monies collected for the Sector Evangelism operations while 40% will be remitted to the Head Office for general Mission activities.

1.3 Students' Holiday Outreach Programme (SHOP)

A first batch of two hundred and eighty-two (282) students from seven (7) tertiary institutions (UGMS, UCC, UENR, KNUST, UG, UPSA and UEW- Main) were deployed for this year's Students' Holiday Outreach Programme (SHOP). The students were divided into twenty-three (23) groups for outreaches in different locations throughout the country. This year's SHOP gave attention to two key areas in the strategic plan namely:

- a) The planting of a total of 35 new churches in 2019.
- b) The revamping of a total of 160 churches.

Four (4) churches were planted during SHOP in the following areas: Aputuogya-Praise Baptist Church, Proso Kofikrom- Bethel Baptist Church with twenty-five (25) members at its inaugural service, Sasaabi- Adenta Baptist Church and Wassa Dunkwa- Righteous Baptist Church, with ten (10) members at its inaugural service.

The Northern Ghana SHOP 2019 will be held in December 2019 during the Christmas holidays.

1.4 Medical Outreach

A medical outreach to strengthen the First Baptist Church at Juapong was organized on July 28, 2018, with support from the Praying Pelican Group, USA. A team of medical personnel from First Baptist Church, Tema, assisted to make the programme successful. Over a hundred (100) adult and eighty (80) children were seen by the medical personnel during this outreach programme.

1.5 Radio Ministry

During the year under review, the following Churches, Associations and individuals continued with the spreading of the Gospel through various Radio Ministries:

1. Adansi Baptist Association on Sikapa FM.
2. Ascension Baptist Church, Bomso, in the Kumasi South West Baptist Association on Garden City Radio every week.
3. Rev. Nana Ama Nyantakyiwaa's radio programme-The Hour of Hope on Ash FM every week.
4. Calvary Baptist Church, Accra on Sunny FM

In all the nine Associations of the Mid-Ghana Sector, some churches are making use of Radio stations and the communication centres in their respective areas to propagate the gospel and project the good image of the Convention.

1.6 Church Planting Activities

During the year a total of 55 churches were planted by various divisions of the Ghana Baptist Convention. Details are as follows:

AREAS	CHURCHES PLANTED	CHURCHES REVITALISED	CINEMA VAN NUMBER OF SOULS CONVERTED
South West Ghana Sector	3	5	247
South East Ghana Sector	4	3	-
Northern Ghana Sector	4	-	80
Mid Ghana Sector	22	5 Bethel Association	-
Brazilian Missionaries	3	-	-
Navrongo Mission Field	2	-	-
Sefwi Mission Field	1	-	-
North Volta Mission	3	6	-
Nzema Mission Field	0	-	-
Cinema Van Ministry	9	-	7,273
SHOP	4	-	1,630

1.7 *Yendi Mission Field*

The Home Missionary for the area resigned at the close of 2016. Below is the state of work in the area. It is anticipated that the handing over process will be completed by the close of this year.

A) **Summaries of Number of Churches Lost by Areas**

NAME OF AREAS	NO. OF CHURCHES IN 2016	NO. OF CHURCHES IN 2019	DIFFERENCE	REMARKS
Ngani	21	14	7	Lost 7 Churches
Naadundo	22	20	2	Lost 2 Churches
Bimbilla East	16	13	3	Lost 3 Churches
Adibo	45	25	20	Lost 20 Churches
Cheriponi	15	2	29	Lost 29 Churches
Saboba	16			
Bimbilla North A	23	20	3	Lost 3 Churches
Bimbilla North B	26	20	6	Lost 6 Churches
Kunkon	25	14	11	Lost 11 Churches
Ngondo	21	17	4	Lost 4 Churches

Sabzugu	70	25	45	Lost 45 Churches
Salaga	7	6	1	Lost 1 Church
Total	307	176	131	Lost 131 Churches

B) Summaries of Number of Churches Added by Areas:

NAME OF AREAS	NO. OF CHURCHES IN 2016	NO. OF CHURCHES IN 2019	DIFFERENCE	REMARKS
Chamba	22	24	+2	2 Churches added
Bimbilla South	12	31	+19	19 Churches added
Total	34	55	21	21 Churches added

Current Standing of the Number of Churches

Total No. of Churches remaining: $176 + 55 + 4 = 235$

Total No. of Churches lost after 2016 = 131

Reasons for Loss of Churches:

- A) Limited financial and logistical support to the mission field for planting of Churches, building of church auditoriums, provision of roofing sheets, cement, benches, local drums etc. by Rev Mustapha.
- B) Inadequate financial support to the area and Zonal leaders.
- C) The handing over of the leadership, funding and management of all the fourteen areas to the area leaders. Rev Mustapha explained that this was a way to encourage local ownership and removed the dependency syndrome.
- D) Some of the leaders who felt disgruntled in one way or the other because of the new arrangements left with several of our Church.
- E) The lack of support in any form from the Convention made some of the leaders who received offers from other Churches to roof their building, build chapels etc. to give in to those offers.
- F) Lack of Church buildings, plastic chairs, and basic musical instruments to enhance worship. A good number of our Churches still worship under trees.
- G) Inadequate knowledge about Baptist Polity and Practices.
- H) Lack of transparency in financial dealings both at the area and local Church levels.
- I) Lack of proper monitoring and supervision.
- J) No communication, no visitation from the Head Office.
- K) Strategic plan not translated to the local church level.

1.8 *Collaboration with The Brazilian Baptist Convention*

The missionary family from the Brazilian Baptist Convention, Rev. Antonio Da Silva, his wife Sirley, their daughter, Deborah and son, Davi had to leave Ghana due to challenges with schooling for their children. They worked in Ghana for almost 2 (two) years and were based in Tamale during the period. They planted a church each in Sirigu, Paga and Chaina. They bought land for all the churches they planted. They provided the following items: 30 Plastic Chairs and 2 local drums for the Paga Church, 3 local drums for the Sirigu Church, 2 local drums

and 6 wooden benches for the Chaina Church. They also nurtured church leaders at all the locations. On June 9, 2019, 23 new believers from Sandema and Chaina were baptized. They also baptized 40 new converts in Sirigu on June 22, 2019. They continued with school ministry at Pinnacle Star Academy, Great Ambition School and Zainzamyia Primary School (an Islamic school) in Tamale. The Da Silva's continued their Bible study group with twelve teenage-Muslim-girls until their departure. The work will be followed up by the Missionary in Navrongo.

1.9 Discipleship Movement

Five persons representing the 4 Sectors and the Evangelism and Missions Department were sponsored to the Cal Seminar on Discipleship in South Korea. The team is back and are implementing the knowledge gained at various levels in their Sectors. A follow-up seminar was held from 13th to 15th February 2019. It was attended by Ministers from South-East, South-West and Mid-Ghana Sectors. The focus was on small group ministry. Participants will use their new knowledge to grow our churches.

The Mid-Ghana Sector Evangelist was able to run detailed Evangelism and Discipleship training for 219 key leaders from 7 churches within the Sector during the year. He has begun discipleship training with a team of 9 young people within the Sector.

The Convention in Conjunction with the African Strategic Discipleship Movement held a Discipleship Mobilization meeting at the Baptist House. A Discipleship Cohort has been established to continue the training for intentional discipleship under the leadership of the Vice President (Ministries). A Discipleship Policy is being crafted for the adoption by the Convention to guide our discipleship activities.

The Mid-Ghana Sector Office in partnership with the Great Commission Movement of Ghana held an Evangelism, Discipleship and Church planting training for 39 Pastors and Church leaders within the Sector. Participants received Android phones that served as a digital library. They also received a training manual to help in their study. The training has three levels in all, and participants are being prepared to complete level two of the training.

1.10 Sports Evangelism

The Mid-Ghana Sector Office partly sponsored Sports Evangelism training for 28 key young leaders within the Kumasi South-East Baptist Association in preparation for the World Cup in 2018. The trainees were able to plan and show strategic world cup matches in seven communities. This led to over 800 people hearing the Gospel clearly and 139 adults prayed to receive Jesus as Lord and Saviour.

1.11 Auxiliaries in Mission

The Women's Missionary Unions (WMU) of Accra North and Accra South Baptist Associations went for evangelism on February 16 and 17, 2019 at Abiriw with Rev. Samson Aduamah, the Association Evangelist. Sixty-two (62) souls were won during this outreach. Similarly, the WMU of the five Associations in Kumasi (Kumasi South-East, Kumasi South-West, Kumasi West, Kumasi North and Golden Gate) went for evangelism in Sekondi as part of Miss Baptist Young Lady's project. They did the evangelism with the New Site Abundant Life Baptist church at Harbour View. Twenty-Three (23) souls were won. They worshipped with Thirsty Souls Baptist Church at Takoradi during the period.

1.12 International Missions

1.12a North America Baptist Association (NABA)

The 13th Annual NABA Renewal Convention took place in Atlanta from July 26-29, 2019 under the Theme: Redeeming the Time, for the Days are Evil. They elected a new Executive Committee with the mandate to lead NABA for the next three years. The current Chairman of NABA is Rev. Seth Opoku and Rev. Kwasi Ofori heads the Ministers' Conference. The President of GBC was the Main Speaker for this year's Convention. In addition to addressing the main theme, the President used the opportunity to lead a session on Convention Update while the GBUC President also spoke about GBUC. During the session, a new Constitution was tabled for discussion which stated within the Preamble that "NABA is a Mission Organisation of the Ghana Baptist Convention to North America located in the USA". This statement was inserted to resolve NABA's relationship with the Ghana Baptist Convention once and for all.

Two NABA churches dedicated their own church buildings during the reporting period. They are Amazing Grace Baptist Church, Atlanta and International Baptist Ministries, Phoenix, Arizona.

NABA is currently made up of seventeen (17) churches in the USA and one (1) in Canada. In the year under review, NABA contributed a total of \$22,000.00 to the GBC. This contribution represents 3% of their tithes and Offering to GBC. All NABA Churches contribute 7% of their tithes and offerings. 4% goes into running the activities of the NABA and 3% comes to GBC.

Some of NABA activities include the following:

1. Planting new churches in strategic places.
2. Assist needy churches to pay for the rent of their worship places.
3. Helping Churches to acquire their own properties.
4. Assist some members who have a call into Ministry.
5. Official travels to visit churches by leadership.

Their contribution has helped the Convention to pay fully the outstanding debt of \$8,000.00 on the Children's Department pick-up truck, \$2,000.00 for Live U

for SBN live telecasts, \$10,000.00 as part payment of one (1) Hyundai i10 saloon car and \$2,000.00 for general Convention expenses.

Prayer Requests

1. New Church planting work in Manchester, CT and Austin, Texas
2. On-going discussion of employing a full-time Director of Missions
3. 9 locations for possible church planting in 2020.

1.12b Acceptance into Membership of Amazing Grace Baptist Church, Hamburg, Germany and Victory Baptist Church, Belgium

The Convention issued a provisional Executive acceptance into membership to Amazing Grace Baptist Church, Hamburg, Germany, under the leadership of Rev. John Kwasi Fosu and Victory Baptist Church, Belgium, under the leadership of Pastor Owusu Ansah subject to the approval of this Annual Session. The practices of the Churches have been observed by the Presidency since 17th August, 2017, with the President attending the joint Easter Convention of these churches in Amsterdam. The acceptance into membership of the Ghana Baptist Convention of AMAZING GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH, HAMBURG, GERMANY and VICTORY BAPTIST CHURCH, BELGIUM is hereby laid before the house.

1.12c Formation of Continental Europe Baptist Association of The Ghana Baptist Convention (CEBA)

During the year under review we worked with Rev. John Kwasi Fosu in Hamburg to lead in the establishment of the CONTINENTAL EUROPE BAPTIST ASSOCIATION of THE GHANA BAPTIST CONVENTION (CEBA). We have written to all Convention-member churches in Europe to facilitate this process. The 6 Convention Churches in Europe are namely;

1. Amazing Grace Baptist Church, Hamburg (Germany)
2. Grace Baptist Church International (Amsterdam) Holland
3. The Berean Baptist Church, Bergamo (Italy)
4. King of Kings Baptist Church, Amsterdam (Holland)
5. Christ Forever Gospel Church, Hannover (Germany) and
6. Victory Baptist Church (Belgium).

1.13 International Missions Board (SBC)

The Ghana Baptist Convention continues to collaborate with the International Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC). There are currently four missionary units of the IMB serving in Ghana. They are:

1. **Rev. Alan and Beth Locke** with their son Benjamin who live in Accra. The focus of their work is in leadership and discipleship training among GBC churches.
2. **Ms. Elizabeth Armes** serves with the West Africa truck driver ministry at Tema port. She also leads trainings on how to use Bible story telling as an evangelistic and discipleship tool.

3. **Dr. William and Heidi Haun** and their 2 children served in Nalerigu with Dr. Haun ministering as a surgeon at the Baptist Medical Centre
4. **Bobby and Taylor Johnson** and their 3 children. Their assignment is to partner with the GBC in reaching students and youth.

1.14 Seed Ministry

During the year, we were blessed by the Ministry of Seed Ministry led by Rev Bob Parker and his wife Bonnie, who are Missionaries from the US living in Tamale in Northern Ghana. The Seed Ministry helped many denominations around Tamale by building church auditoriums in the rural communities for them. 21 Convention churches have so far benefited from this project. Early this year he also built a parsonage for the Kpene Baptist Church. Convention churches who have benefited from the Seed Ministry project are:

1.Pigu	8.Zali	15.Limo
2.Kalpohine	9.Galenshegu	16.Zagyuri
3.Faith	10.Gua	17.Zinendo
4.Yoggu	11.Tampe-kukuo	18. Nakundugu
5. Nyoring	12.Sagnarigu-Kukuo	29.Galiwei
6. Sanga	13.Gunisani	20.Nanbagla
7.Disiga	14.Kpendua	21.Kpene.

2.0 STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 2: VISIBILITY AND RE-BRANDING

2.1 Uniform Signage

In 2015, the project requiring all Convention churches to change their signage to a uniform one, was proposed and accepted by this house. Compliance with the directives on the uniform signage has yielded good results and registered the following according to Association representation:

ASSOCIATION	PERCENTAGE
Nzema Baptist Association	90
Swedru Baptist Association	98
Winneba Baptist Association	70
Cape Coast Baptist Association	95
Sekondi-Takoradi Baptist Association	90
Hope Baptist Association	98
Golden Gate Baptist Association	95
Kumasi South East Baptist Association	96
Kumasi West Baptist Association	85
Adom Baptist Baptist Association	93

Adansi Baptist Association	95
Sunyani Baptist Association	60
Kumasi South West Baptist Association	100
Kumasi North Baptist Association	40*
Bethel Baptist Association	Few churches
Northern Ghana Sector	50%

To the glory of God, we have achieved over 80% of all churches using the new signage. We need to move visibility to another level, where every Baptist will begin to show commitment and allegiance to our great denomination and our Vision by using Baptist paraphernalia like stickers, T' shirts, pens etc. to promote Christ in our homes, work places, inside our cars, etc. so that the younger generation will have something to look up to.

2.2 **Broadcasting Network**

To enhance the visibility and positive public image of the Convention, Shalom Broadcasting Network began test transmission on the digital broadcasting platform on December 4, 2018. The station began full transmission on February 1, 2019 as a 24-hour television channel reaching the **whole of West Africa, Central Africa and parts of East Africa**. The establishment of SBN has ensured the airing of programmes of GBC churches and institutions on television.

Some major programmes covered by the station included the 2019 Ministers Conference, the 50th Anniversary of First Baptist Church, Tema, The Big House by Grace Baptist Church, Kumasi, WMU 2019 Annual Conference and the launch of Rev Dr. Nii Amoo Darku's book in Accra. Church services of several churches were covered and telecast by the station during the reporting period. We are glad to witness for the first time, a full live television broadcast of the opening ceremony of our Annual Session by SBN this year.

The operation of SBN has placed the Convention in a positive light and has enhanced the visibility of the Ghana Baptist Convention. SBN brings Christ Centred Entertainment and the Gospel message to the homes of many people within the operating space.

2.3 **Social Media**

During the period under review, the Convention's website was re-designed and re-modelled. Old information was updated to reflect the current state of the denomination. This project has enhanced the presence of the Convention on the social media space.

Social media account was created to promote activities of Baptist Vocational Training Centre during the past year.

The Baptist Women's Retreat Centre also maintained its social media presence throughout the period under review. Leaflet containing advertising information of the Centre were displayed on WhatsApp and Facebook consistently.

2.4 Documentaries

Two documentaries were produced during the reporting period. One was on Baptist Health Service while the other was on some of our Home Mission Fields by the Evangelism and Missions Department to promote Missions Week and for external fundraising. Two other documentaries on Ghana Baptist University College and the activities of BREDA are in their draft stages. It is our hope that more of such documentaries would be produced in future to cover all the activities of the Convention.

2.5 Brochures and Fliers

The Baptist Women's Retreat & Resource Centre continued with the distribution of Centre Brochures and fliers to spread awareness about the Centre to improve patronage and visibility. Some brochures have been placed at Challenge Bookshop, Presbyterian Bookshop, Bible society, A-life supermarket in Kumasi, Convention office in Kumasi as well as some selected supermarkets and filling stations.

2.6 Ecumenical and National Presence

In fulfilment of the strategic agenda that from 2019 onwards there should be frequent involvement and participation of Convention leaders in high profile national programs and platforms, the President by God's grace was nominated by the National Peace Council to represent her on the Electoral Commission's Representation of the Peoples Amendment Act Committee (ROPAA) to solicit the views of Ghanaians both in and outside Ghana on the operationalization of the Act to enable Ghanaians living outside Ghana to vote in Ghana's elections. The President participated in some of the mediation processes between the NPP and NDC during the vigilantism dialogue.

The Vice-President (Ministries) on behalf of the President participated in a special meeting between religious heads and the Minister of Finance.

In the ecumenical circle, the President during the reporting period was elected the Chairman of the Advisory Council of the Africa Forum on Religion and Government (AFReG) Ghana. This is a continental body that seeks to build African leaders of integrity who are committed to transforming Africa into a continent characterized by excellence and shaped by God-centred values.

The Bible Society of Ghana invited GBUC President to participate in the production of “Ghana Study Bible”. He was tasked to write on the Book of Micah and to submit an article on “Christians and Traditional Festivals,” both of which have been submitted.

2.7 *Conferences and Publicity*

The Women’s Missionary Union of GBC successfully hosted the 10th Biennial Baptist Women Union of West Africa Conference from October 8-12, 2018 at Baptist Women’s Retreat Centre. 444 participants from 10 countries were present. The conference was a great success. Unfortunately, we suffered the accidental death of one delegate, Mrs. Comfort Weaver, the President of WMU - Liberia, which occurred on Friday 12th October 2018. GBC participated in her funeral held in Paynesville, Liberia, on the 9th and 10th October 2018. The WMU appreciates the support of the Presidency and the whole Baptist family during the death of Madam Comfort Weaver.

In preparation for the 10th Biennial BWUWA Conference, eight rooms on the ground floor of the Jubilee Building were furnished by the WMU Ghana, to accommodate the delegates.

WMU Ghana participated in the centenary celebration of the Nigeria WMU at Ogbomosho, Nigeria from 24th - 27th April 2019. Twenty members from Ghana including the Coordinator participated in the event.

The Men’s Ministry annual congress was held from May 21-25, 2019 at Baptist Women’s Retreat Centre. About 462 participants were present, which is about a 100% increase over the 2018 attendance. The Director and new National Coordinator were introduced formally to the Congress. The Congress examined the role of the Men’s Ministry in achieving the 10-year Strategic Plan of the Convention.

2.8 *Supports to Kumasi Office and Bookstore*

To ensure that all departments and institutions of the Convention are adequately supported and to enhance our visibility in the Kumasi Metropolis, a pick-up truck donated to the Convention by Svani Limited was assigned to the Kumasi office and the bookstore for their operation during the reporting period.

During the year, work on the Mid-Ghana Sector Office located on the premises of Trinity Baptist church, Kumasi was completed. The Sector has furnished the office with furniture and other logistics to make the office more conducive for feasible operation. The Sector Head has operated from there since October 2018.

2.9 Partnerships

To enhance BREDA's public profile, partnerships were established with other NGOs. Three partnership agreements were signed during the period namely;

- a) With World Vision International - Ghana. This partnership will ensure joint actions and projects for the promotion of the well-being of children and young people in communities within World Vision's operational areas.
- b) With International Justice Mission (IJM). IJM is an American organization which deals with issues of human trafficking and is currently working on rescuing boys trafficked for fishing along the Volta Lake. The organization is planning to start a project to rescue girls who have been trafficked for sex and they are looking for a partner who will provide shelter for these girls.
- c) MOU with Compassion International Ghana. The agreement requires Convention to provide supervision and ownership of all Baptist Churches running Compassion programmes. Two Baptist Churches in the Mafi area: Anfoe Baptist Church, Mafi-Anfoe and Faith Baptist Church, Mafi-Zongo are beneficiaries of Compassion support. These two churches are supporting about 620 young people. The youth on the project are being trained in various skills, electrical, soap making, dressmaking, leatherwork, and basket weaving. Compassion has also assisted these Baptist churches to construct a simulation room and a toilet facility.

3.0 STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 3: COOPERATIVE AUTONOMY AND LOCAL OWNERSHIP OF THE CONVENTION

To ensure the promotion and enhancement of our cooperative autonomy and local ownership of the Convention, the following programmes and activities were carried out during the reporting period.

3.1 Sector, Association, Church and Institutional Visits

During the period under review, the President made visits to:

- a) All the 4 Zones in the Bethel Association i.e. Prestea Zone, Bogoso Zone, Ayanfuri Zone and the Dunkwa Zone. He used the visits to encourage the Pastors and Churches and unpacked the Convention's Strategic plan to them. During the visit the President cut the sod for the construction of the Dunkwa Baptist Hospital.
- b) The Adom Baptist Association; the President met with the Pastors, Deacons and Church Council members of all the 19 Churches in the Association. He used the visits to encourage the Pastors and Churches and unpacked the Convention's Strategic plan to them. In the Bethel Baptist Association he led in leadership training for all the leaders and Ministers in the Association.
- c) Churches including Kingsway Baptist Church in Buokrom, Kumasi, Calvary Baptist Church, Adabraka, Asakraka and Ntomem Baptist Churches in the Kwahu area and Rehoboth Baptist Church, Accra during the reporting period.
- d) Accra and Kumasi Ministers' Fellowships, the Faculty and Students of the Ghana Baptist University College, School of Theology and Ministry.

The Vice-President (Ministries) also visited the following during the period under review

- a. 55 churches, seven (7) of these in the Tamale area and two (2) in the Bolgatanga area.
- b. 10 Association meetings
- c. 5 institutional visits
- d. 8 Ministers Fellowship meetings

The Vice-President, (Administration) visits during the year

- a. The Northern Ghana Sector twice,
- b. 51 churches
- c. 2 Associations meetings
- d. 2 Ministers Fellowship meetings
- e. 2 Sector Committee meetings.

The Northern-Ghana Sector Head visited twenty-seven (27) local Church and seven (7) Associations during the reporting period.

The South-West Ghana Sector Head visited the Swedru Baptist Church, NUBS Cape Coast and the Hope Baptist Association during the period. He visited the Hope Baptist Association with the President.

The Mid-Ghana Sector Head visited seven (7) out of the nine (9) Associations in the Sector.

The South-East Ghana Sector Head visited thirty-five (35) churches, eight (8) Associations, 6 Association meetings except the Eastern and North Volta Association.

3.2 *International Visits*

On the international front, the President participated in the 2019 Annual Session of the North America Baptist Association of the Ghana Baptist Convention (NABA). During the year the President visited seven (7) NABA churches. He also participated in the Easter Convention of Grace Baptist Church, Amsterdam and Victory Baptist Church, Belgium as the Main Speaker in Amsterdam. He used these visits to deepen the relationship between the Convention and the churches and raised financial support for the Convention.

3.3 *Full-Time Association Heads*

The goal of having at least five full-time Association Heads by now was not achieved as projected. This was because the projected Association Executives had not positioned themselves very well to make the necessary transition. I will like to appeal to all Association Executives that this project is a Constitutional mandate and therefore all Associational Heads should commit to work towards its implementation from January 2020.

3.4 Children's Department

The Baptist Children's Teachers' Union (BACTU) held their 3rd Biennial Conference at the Baptist Women's Retreat Centre from May 1-4, 2019. About 227 participants attended the conference. During the session a new Constitution was promulgated. The conference discussed the Convention's 10-year Strategic Plan and confirmed new officers. The teachers adopted a new attire and logo to enhance the publicity and image of Baptist Children's Teachers' Union.

4.0 STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 4: INCREASING THE FINANCIAL BASE OF THE CONVENTION

Actual income received in 2018 was GH¢7,270,779 as against GH¢5,934,375 in 2017. This represents an increase of 22.52% over the previous year's income. Actual expenditure for 2018 was GH¢7,072,735 as against GH¢5,837,979 in 2017 representing 21.15% over the previous year's expenditure.

However, actual income received in the first half of 2019 was GH¢3,339,083 as compared to the actual income for the first half of 2018 which was GH¢3,466,171.93. Income for the first half of 2018 was therefore slightly better than 2019. Details of the Convention's finances can be found in the financial section of your report book.

To ensure an increase in the financial base and the economic status of the Convention, the following programmes and activities were carried out during the year under review.

4.1 *Dialogue with Churches and Fellowships*

The Presidency met with various Ministers' Fellowships, to bring to their attention their local churches' commitment to the 20% contribution to the Convention. They also met with Pastors, Deacons and Church Council members of some Associations to unpack the Convention's Strategic Plan to them and to encourage them to see the need to come on board fully. As a fall out of these visits, Sector Heads and some Association Heads have been empowered with official letters to collect Convention contributions and forward them to the secretariat.

The general performance of churches in the Mid-Ghana Sector regarding the payment of their 20% contribution to the Convention and 5% to the Association during the year under review was not very encouraging. The major reason given by the Sector Head for this poor performance was the banking crisis that affected First Allied Savings and Loans since most of the local churches and almost all the five Associations in Kumasi have their accounts with them. In a meeting between the Sector Head and the leaders of the Associations, the

consensus was that most of the defaulting churches planned to redeem their arrears after their annual thanksgiving fundraising programmes in November and December 2018. However, about 50% of the churches failed to redeem their arrears as promised. Certain steps are being taken by the Sector Head to resolve this problem.

4.2 Institutional Contributions

During the period under review, the Convention encouraged some institutions to start contributing to the denomination. The Baptist Medical Centre at Nalerigu made a first payment of Ten Thousand Ghana Cedis (GH¢10,000.00) during the reporting period. Similar agreements have been made with all Health Centres and Guest House.

4.3 Tenancy and Hiring of premises

A total of one hundred thousand Ghana Cedis (GH¢100,000.00) was recovered from Consolidated Franchise, tenants on the ground floor of the Baptist House. They have since vacated the premises. A total of \$96,000.00 covering two years rent was received from a new tenant who has occupied half of the ground floor facility. We are still looking for tenants to occupy the remaining half of the facility.

4.4 Association of Baptist Business Executives (ABBEX)

During the year ABBEX continued to support the evangelistic activities of the Convention. The Association provided funding for the first phase of the Students Holiday Outreach Programme (SHOP) 2019. To ensure the sustainability of support from the Association of Baptist Business Executives, the President initiated a meeting with all GBC businessmen and women in Accra and Tema in early July 2019. Unfortunately, the advert for the meeting did not go well and only four people attended the first meeting. However, the meeting was fruitful. A second meeting was scheduled for 11th August 2019 that was attended by 20 participants including the President and 1st Vice President of ABBEX. The participants were encouraged to recruit more participants for future meetings.

4.5 External and Internal Support

During the year under review the Baptist Vocational Training Centre received external support to the tune of \$23,500.00 and €200.00. Everyday Ministries contributed \$20,000.00 to support the 2019 graduation and the construction of an ICT centre. Southern Hills Baptist Church, OK, USA donated \$2,000.00 for the purchase of customized classroom desks for the catering and dressmaking department.

- A US-based friend of the Centre donated \$1,500.00 to the centre
- Mr Edward, Canada (€200.00)
- Ms. Sherica Spencer (personal items)

Internally, the following made various contribution totalling GH¢25,370.00 to the centre as well personal items and food. They included;

- WMU National
- Accra South Baptist Association
- Greater works Baptist Church
- Bethel Baptist Church
- Calvary Baptist Church, Adenta
- Abundant Grace Baptist Church, Tema
- First Baptist Church, Tema
- Mrs. Veronica Nkrahene
- Mr. Samuel Israel, Tema
- Mr. & Mrs. Edmund Animley, Mt Zion Baptist Church, Ashiaman
- Charismatic Baptist Church, Tiafa
- Accra Baptist Ministers' Wives Association
- Love Community Baptist, Church

4.6 Donations and Gifts to GBC

The following donations were received;

1. Rev. Alfred Walter Afful and family donated a motorbike to be used by Rev. Mark Asare the Zonal Minister for Swedru Baptist Association to serve three of the rural churches in the zone.
2. A brother from Believers Baptist Church, Tarkwa donated a combo to the Good Shepherd Baptist Church.
3. The Convention received a gift of an Apsonic Motorbike from Rev. Daniel Yirenkyi-Larbi of Living Streams Baptist Church. The motorbike was assigned to the Nalerigu Baptist Association to facilitate the movement of the Association Head whose personal motorbike had been stolen earlier.
4. Dr. & Deaconess Mrs. Francis Aboagye Otchere donated a completed chapel to Heaven's Gate Baptist Church at Apenkrom near Sefwi Bekwai in the Bethel Baptist Association. Dr. Francis Aboagye Otchere is a Senior Lecturer at the University of Ghana. He and his wife bought the land and constructed the chapel for this church as a thanksgiving offering in commemoration of his fiftieth birthday. The Sector Head represented the Presidency and officiated the dedication service of the Chapel on 1st July 2018. The whole Association celebrates this wonderful benevolence. The traditional and political leaders of the area were present to grace the occasion. The Mid-Ghana Sector presented cash donation of GH¢500.00 to the church and two citations to the couple on behalf of the Convention and the Sector respectively.
5. One of the Ministers in the Adansi Baptist Association, Rev. Ishmael Davis helped Agape Baptist Church at Kobro in the Amansie Central District to put up a modern church auditorium. The building was dedicated on 25th November 2018. This church building has become the "Town-hall" where all major activities in the town are held and we give glory to the Lord and pray that God will bless our brother Rev. Davis and his family abundantly.

6. As part of their Anniversary the WMU of Victory Baptist Church made a special donation to the Children's Ward at Korle-Bu Teaching Hospital.

5.0 STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 5: IMPROVING THE QUALITY AND COMPETENCES OF HUMAN RESOURCES

5.1 Trainings

With a view to increasing the proportion of Convention Ministers and workers with postgraduate qualifications and specialised competences in relevant theological disciplines, program management, administration, finance and leadership, the Convention is supporting two Ministers to pursue PhD programmes at KNUST and South Africa; and three (3) Convention staff currently pursuing Master of Business Administration (MBA) at GIMPA in Administration, Human Resource and Finance. The Vice-President, (Administration) is currently pursuing a PhD in Administration, Governance and Leadership at GIMPA and the Youth and Students Coordinator is currently in the USA also pursuing a PhD programme. Both are self-sponsorship.

Six (6) Convention staff who pursued Master of Art in Ministry programmes at GBUC will be graduating in November this year.

The Centre Manager and the Administrator/Accounts Clerk of the Baptist Vocational Training Centre attended a training programme organized by the Ghana Education Service on the Psychology of Headship during the reporting period.

In house training for staff of the Baptist Guest House has been on-going at every step of the upgrading process at the facility to improve the skill of personnel at the Guest House.

5.2 *Institute of Emerging Leaders Africa (IELA)*

To train Ministers, Deacons and other leaders of the Convention to be well informed with relevant information about the Convention, the Institute of Emerging Leaders_Africa (IELA) was inaugurated in February 2019. IELA seeks to provide practical cutting-edge skills in leadership and management for emerging leaders especially Pastors and laity within the Ghana Baptist Convention to reach their potential in their chosen fields. This project brought together some high-profile professionals within the denomination to provide training in specific tailored topics to meet the needs of the denomination. Five (5) Training programmes, three (3) in Accra, one (1) in Kumasi and one (1) at Ejura have been held by IELA since its inception. Over 380 Participants of the programme included all Sector and Association Heads, Directors of all Departments, Heads of GBC Institutions, Auxiliary Heads, some selected Ministers and all candidates for various stages of Ministerial admission this

year. The IELEA has also held two (2) training programmes in Accra and Kumasi for Music Ministers within the Convention. This programme attracted Music Ministers from other denominations too.

5.3 *Ministerial License Renewal*

To ensure that Convention Ministers operate at the optimal level, a Ministerial license renewal programme was introduced during the year to review the performance of all Convention Ministers. In all a total of 609 members appeared before the Committees out of a total membership of 671 (This data does not include Retirees, Licensed Ministers, Ministerial Assistants and Church Leaders).

All Ministers who attended the interviews were graded between A to D. As incentive for sustaining membership in good standing, the Ministers' Conference is proposing a policy of limiting recommendations for promotion, opportunities for scholarships, new privileged appointments etc., to category A & B Ministers. For example, no Minister scoring below the A & B categories shall be appointed as Association Head or Fellowship Chairpersons. All appointing groups within the Convention are to adhere to this directive.

5.4 *2019 Ministerial Admissions*

ADMISSIONS LEVELS	PASSED	FAILED	DEFERRED	DISQUALIFIED	TOTAL
Licensing	65	12	1	9	87
Recognition	71	12	2	1	86
Ordination	75	4	4	0	84
Total	211	28	7	10	256

A total of 256 applications were received for all three levels of Ministerial Admissions nationwide; 87 for Licensing, 86 for Recognition and 84 for Ordination. 28 of the applicants failed to be admitted. These were applicants who could not make the pass mark of 60%. Some of these candidates had low theological knowledge and were poor at Baptist History, Polity and Practice. Above all, some of these applicants could not express themselves in simple everyday English.

A total of seven applicants were deferred due to low performance. One candidate even though passed, was deferred for Licensing because he had separated from his wife. Ten applicants were disqualified at the screening stage. Seven Licensing applicants were disqualified because they were above the maximum entry age which is 50 years while two had applied with a Diploma in Music which had no theological content. 211 (two hundred and eleven) applicants passed and are due to be admitted into the various levels at this Annual Session.

The North American Baptist Association of the Ghana Baptist Convention, submitted one candidate, Pastor Samuel Antwi of United Faith Baptist Church,

Worcester, Massachusetts, USA for admission to the rank of a Recognized Minister. He has since been processed at the last Annual Session of NABA.

5.5 *Streamlining Ministerial Admissions*

The Ministers' Conference would like to submit for the consideration of the 56th Annual Session, a system that will streamline and safeguard Ministerial Admissions within the Ghana Baptist Convention. The Conference proposes the following:

1. There should be a Pre-interview process for potential Baptists seeking admission into GBUC or any of our Theological Institutions. This interview committee would be made up of Representatives of GBUC, Sector Head, Association Head, Fellowship Chairman etc.
2. That the maximum entry age for Ministerial Admissions be raised from 50 to 55 years. The 56th Annual Session is hereby mandated to discuss this resolution and conclude it.
3. No applicant whose Church is owing the Convention, Association, Conference or the Local Fellowship will be shortlisted for interview.
4. Applicants must first undergo screening by their Local Ministers' Fellowship before their names are submitted to the office of the Vice President-Ministries for further processing or short-listing.
5. Fellowship Chairpersons and Association Heads should give letters of reference to applicants on merit and not on friendship bases.

5.6 *Further Education*

The following Ministers have duly notified the Convention of their successes in higher education and we wish to direct that, these individuals be accorded the requisite titles they have worked for.

1. Rev. Dr. Joseph Adase-Bekoe, Head Pastor of Charismatic Baptist Church, Taifa, earned a Doctor of Philosophy in Theology Degree at the South African Theological Seminary.
2. Rev. Dr. Francis Amanor Nartherh, Head Pastor of Calvary Baptist Church, Adenta pursued a Master of Arts in Church Administration and a Doctor of Ministry Degree both at the Newburgh Theological Seminary, USA.
3. Rev. Dr. John Kwasi Fosu, of Full Gospel Baptist Church, Asokore Mampong and Amazing Grace Baptist Church, Hamburg, Germany, completed his PhD programme from the University of Hamburg, Germany.

We congratulate these Ministers for their achievements.

5.7 *Children's Ministry Training*

During the year under review the Director of Christian Education organised training seminars on the topic *Basic Course in Child Evangelism and Discipleship* across the four Sectors of our Convention. Twenty (20) Associations made up of 171 churches and 281 participants took part in the training. A second seminar to cover 80 churches will be held in November this year.

5.8 *Other Training Programmes*

Various training programmes took place during the reporting period. In October 2018, the Northern Ghana Sector Head in collaboration with the International Christian Ministries organized two-days training for pastors in Wa on the Purpose Driven Church.

Many of our Ministers and Church Leaders took part in a Muslim Evangelism Seminar organized in Tamale in late January 2019 and was facilitated by the Rev. Dr. Ahmad Agyei. Some Ministers in the Northern Sector attended a one-week course in various areas of ministry which was sponsored and run by a UK Ministry and Markaz Al Bishara, a Christian Ministry in Tamale.

The South Volta Association had a leadership conference at Shalom Baptist Church, Aflao in partnership with a Church organization from the USA. The Christian Education Department of the Convention organized a seminar for Sunday School Teachers and Pastors at Aflao.

5.9 *Appointments and Retirements*

During the year several appointments were made while some staff went on retirement. Rev. Alfred Walter Afful was appointed South West Ghana Sector Head and inducted into office in December 2018. Pastor Emmanuel Doku was appointed the Baptist Men's Ministry Co-ordinator. Deacons Samuel Busumbru and Francis Apekutu of the Bookstore and Kumasi Office respectively proceeded on retirement.

Rev. Thomas Abukari was appointed the Association Head of the Bolgatanga Association by the President.

The following ministers retired from active service in the course of the year:

1. Rev Alfred Sarkodie of Messiah Baptist Church, Mampong
2. Pastor Alex Bediako of Nhyira Baptist Church, Abofour
3. Rev. Osei Nelson of Unity Baptist Church, Akropong
4. Rev William Boateng of Emmanuel Baptist Church, Anhwiaso

5.10 *Pastoral Vacancies*

During the year some adverts were circulated to fill vacancies in the pastorates of some of our churches. Ministers are invited to carefully and prayerfully consider these vacancies and apply.

SECTOR	CHURCH
South-East Ghana Sector	St. John's Baptist Church, Accra
	Calvary Baptist Church, Aburi

South West Ghana Sector	Solid Rock Baptist at Kwesimintsim in the Sekondi Takoradi Association
	Believers Baptist Church - Tarkwa in the Sekondi Takoradi Association,
	New Life Baptist Church - Agona Nkwanta
	First Baptist Church - Wassa Agona
	Dago Baptist Church - Dago Near Apam
South East Ghana Sector	Resurrection Baptist Church, Kade

The following churches in strategic towns within the Mid-Ghana Sector are without Pastors and the Sector office is liaising with the Association Heads to fill the vacancies:

- a. Disciples Baptist Church, Wenchi
- b. Temple of Fire Baptist, Kintampo
- c. Royal Baptist Church, Bibiani
- d. Ebenezer Baptist Church, Sefwi Bekwai
- e. Gospel Baptist Church, Sefwi Edwinase
- f. Unity Baptist Church, Sefwi Wiawso
- g. Grace Baptist Church, Berekum
- h. Evangelical Baptist Church, Suame

5.11 Zonal Pastorates

Little progress was made in the area of the concept of Zonal Pastorate. Churches in proximity who are not capable of engaging and paying a full-time Pastor adequately are encouraged to form zonal pastorates, that is the concept of one pastor serving several churches at the same time while those churches pool resources together to pay the pastor. Association Heads should provide information about churches with this need to the Sector Heads for the necessary action in finding Ministers for such churches. Our reports so far show that some progress has been made in the South West Sector. Below is a table of Zonal Ministers and the churches they are servicing.

SECTOR	MINISTER	CHURCHES
South West Ghana Sector	Rev. Seth Nyarko	Blessing Baptist Church at Ajumako Besease, Grace Baptist Church at Ajumako and Peace Baptist Church at Ochiso Ajumako.
	Rev. Mark Asare	Upper - Room Revival Baptist Church at Agona Nyarkrom, Maranatha Baptist Church, Agona Odoben and Christ Baptist Church, Agona Nkum

5.12 Appointment of Association Heads

The 2013 Constitution, Article 13 (2) (e)(e) states that “the Executive President sets up and chairs recruitment panels for the appointment of Directors, Sector Heads and Association Heads”. All Associations are to take note of this constitutional provision and with immediate effect cease nominating and electing Association Heads at Association meetings and accordingly comply with this provision.

5.13 Deaths

The following Ministers went to be with the Lord in the period under report:

- a) Rev. Philemon Akanko of Sanctuary of Assurance Baptist Church, Buipe.
- b) Rev. Samuel Oware Dweteh (Rtd.) of New Life Community Baptist Church, Tema.
- c) Rev. Joseph Quansah (Rtd.) of Bethel Baptist Church, Dansoman and Victory Baptist Church, Ayigya.
- d) Rev. Joyce Akakpo of Tesano Baptist Church, Tesano.
May their souls rest in peace.

5.14 Disciplinary Issues

The following Ministers of the Ghana Baptist Convention were dismissed for various infractions of the Code of Ethics of the Ministers’ Conference of the Ghana Baptist Convention:

1. Kwasi Atta, Holy Baptist Church Tamso
2. David Gaanye, Victory Baptist Church, Vieri, Wa

5.15 Power Gift Ministers

The office of the Vice-President (Ministries) through the Evangelism and Missions Department is creating a database of people with power gifts in our denomination so we can use them for our prayer and revival events. The data will also allow us to organize meetings for skill training and fellowship among these individuals. All churches with such individuals should forward their names and contact information to the Director of Evangelism and Missions Department. Some data has been captured and churches in need of people to help with revival, deliverance and prayer ministry should contact the Department.

5.16 Resignations

1. Pastor Solomon Akwasi Boateng of Fountain of Life Baptist Church in the Bethel Baptist Association resigned his position as a Baptist Minister and his membership as a Baptist with a letter of resignation dated 15th November 2018. He has since taken his ordination in a different denomination.
2. Pastor Michael Yeboah of Grace Baptist Church, Berekum has also resigned his position as a Pastor of the Ghana Baptist Convention and his membership as a Baptist

6.0 STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 6: IMPROVING THE LEVEL OF REMUNERATION, THE RETIREMENT/END-OF-SERVICE PACKAGE, AND GENERAL CONDITION OF SERVICE FOR CONVENTION MINISTERS

To ensure that our retired Ministers were taken care of, an annual budgetary allocation for the activities and programmes of REBAMA was provided during the reporting period. Provision was made to support some retired but faithful Ministers to enable them to attend and participate in the last Ministers Conferences of the Convention.

The WMU of the Tema Central Baptist Association visited three Pastors (Rev. Nyarko who had an accident, Rev. David Ocansey and Rev. Samuel Oware Dweteh (D) who had been sick for a while and gave them some donations.

6.1 *Ministers' Retirement Fund*

In 2018, the membership of the Ministers' Conference reviewed their Rural Housing Levy from GH¢5.00 to GH¢50.00 to facilitate the building of at least a two-bedroom pastorium for active ministers in the rural areas of our Convention. By the grace of God about GH¢25,000.00 was realized. Rev. George Bongo of Sumniboma No. 1 Baptist Church in Nalerigu, in the Northern Ghana Sector has been selected to be the first beneficiary of this scheme. The Minister already has a land to his credit and the building permit from the Assembly has also been obtained for the commencement of work.

It is my hope that all Ministers and Churches will take interest in this scheme so that our Ministers in the rural areas could have a decent place to rest during their retirement.

6.2 *Outstanding Retirement Benefits*

In 2018, the Ministers' Conference at its Annual gathering approved a new policy on retirement allotments and benefits. Unfortunately, most member Churches have not followed this policy. We wish to remind all Churches that benefits to retired Ministers are not automatic. The 2006 Ministers' Conference stated clearly the qualification and disqualification for benefits. We would like to encourage all Conference members and member Churches to be consistent in their payments to the Conference and the Convention to avoid being disqualified for benefits on retirement.

6.3 *Personal Retirement Scheme*

All the modalities for the implementation of the Ministers Personal Retirement Scheme have been duly completed and the forms have been circulaed to be filled by interested Ministers and returned to the Ministers' Conference Secretariat. Please take advantage of this scheme to ensure that the retirement of our Ministers is secured.

6.4 *REBAMA*

The National Chairman of REBAMA Rev. Kojo Amo, paid a private visit to the USA during the year and while there promoted and raised funds for REBAMA. He visited eight States and was able to raise US\$4,230.00 from some NABA Churches and individuals for REBAMA.

The Executive Committee of REBAMA disbursed the Cedis equivalent of US\$4,000.00 to some members of the Association. The Executive Committee also disbursed from their Cedi Account an amount of GH¢4,500.00 to some Retirees as financial support and 2018 Christmas gifts. The number of Retired Ministers in the records of REBAMA as at the close of 2018 was 76 (seventy-six).

We would like to remind our churches of Resolution Number 2 of the 55th Annual Session which stated “That, a retired Minister who had worked for 15-20 years be given a minimum of 20% of the corresponding sitting Minister’s basic salary, and those who had worked for 20 years and above be given 25% of same.” Individuals and churches are encouraged to lend support to our retired Ministers by implementing this resolution.

7.0 STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 7: STRENGTHEN AND UPLIFT THE PRAYER AND SPIRITUAL FORMATION OF THE CONVENTION

7.1 *Sunday School*

Two Sunday school materials, “Living with Adversity Part 1 and 2” were published during the period. The Christian Education Department has developed and distributed lesson outlines to writers on our Convention’s 55th Annual Session theme - “*Kingdom loyalty for accelerated development*”. We plan to cover 2 quarters of this theme. Some of the sources for the lessons are based on the presentations of Rev. Dr. Ernest Adu-Gyamfi, Rev. Dr. Osei-Wusuh and Apostle Jude Hama at our 55th Annual session, and a recent book by Rev. Dr. Nii Amoo Darku, “*The Kingdom of God-the Ultimate Purpose*”.

7.2 *Prayer Conference*

The National Prayer Conferences continued during the reporting period. Two 3-day National Prayer warriors and Intercessors fasting, and prayer conferences were held in October 2018 and in March 2019 at the Baptist Women Retreat & Resource Centre. Associational Prayer meetings were held in various Associations during the past year to pray for the needs of the Convention and its institutions, Associations, local churches and the nation.

7.3 *Children Sunday School*

For the last two years we have been working on curriculum for children’s Sunday school programme. Patronage for the children’s curriculum (book 1) for the Sunday school has been good. We have sold over 85% of the stock of 1500 copies covering five age groups from Toddlers to Young Teens. We will like to

encourage churches that have not taken advantage of the benefits of the curriculum to do so urgently.

7.4 Youth Ministry

Leadership training programmes were organised at different levels for the Youth and the National Union of Baptist Students (NUBS). They included topics like:

1. The Spirit of Godly leadership,
2. Patience, an Essential Tool for Leadership
3. Walking in the Spirit
4. The Role of the Baptist Youth in Church Building
5. Intimacy with the Holy Spirit
6. Obedience is Better than Sacrifice

Youth Officers- The new Youth National President is Mrs. Victoria Maame Esi Aidoo. The National Youth Coordinator, Mr. Albert Aidoo has resigned since July 2019 to pursue his doctoral study in the USA. Adverts are already out for his replacement.

7.5 NUBS Congress 2019

The 2018 NUBS congress was held in April 2019. The Convention's 10-year strategic plan and NUBS's critical role in its success was unpacked. The Executive President of GBC, Rev. Dr. Ernest Adu-Gyamfi was the guest speaker for the program. About 615 students participated in this year's Congress. The Conference elected new national executive officers.

7.6 Women Missionary Union

The WMU in conjunction with the Men's Ministry successfully organized a programme for the single adults dubbed "Empowering the Singles to Achieve their Potential in Church". This meeting brought to the fore the need for Pastors and Church Leaders to pay close attention to the needs of single adults, care for them and engage their gifts and potentials for the advancement of our churches.

7.7 Workers Conference

The Christian Education Department could not execute the annual workers conference program this year because of financial challenges facing the convention at the time the programme was scheduled.

8.0 STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 8: SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES

During the reporting period, appropriate governance structures, management systems, policy frameworks and strategic plans were established to guide every institution of the Convention to ensure effective functioning.

8.1 Policy Documents

We have developed a Human Resource Policy Manual, Financial Policy Manual, Job Evaluation, Job Descriptions and Salary Rationalisation covering every staff position within the Convention.

To improve Administrative and Financial Management at the Baptist Vocational Training Centre, an Administrative and Financial Management Policy document has been developed.

8.2 Relief Work

During the period under review, a fundraising drive was initiated to support Franklin Awuah Okrah who is to undergo surgery to correct a hole-in-heart defect. In the course of the fundraising drive, George Faile Foundation who are partnering with GBC at Baptist Medical Centre, Nalerigu offered to support Franklin. A review of Franklin's situation showed that it was a complex case. GFF has referred Franklin to a team of surgeons from the USA who hope to conduct an operation on Franklin in November 2019 when they visit Ghana.

8.3 Baptist Child Development Programmes (Tamale & Tahima) - Christian Children Fund of Canada (CCFC)

The project operates a Village Savings and Loans Association (VSLA) as a livelihood intervention which encourages community members to form Savings Associations. To date the programme has formed 67 Associations in the operating communities. Among other things the Associations carry out educational activities and provide a social support fund for members. The total number of Village Savings and Loans Associations and Youth Savings and Loans Associations are 2,885 with a total savings of GH¢312,982.00.

8.3a) Education Intervention

To improve reading and learning among rural children, the CCFC trained 92 teachers to increase their knowledge in phonic structure to help the children improve their reading skills. The training helped teachers to prepare their own teaching and learning material using wood and card board.

8.3b) Health Intervention

To improve healthcare in the Wantugu Community, CCFC supported the district Assembly to construct a new health Centre to replace an old and dilapidated facility. The project supported with an amount of **GH¢197,000.00** and the Tolon District Assembly provided GH¢50,000.00. The total cost of the project was **GH¢247,000.00**. The project provided the facility with an ambulance.

8.3c) General Activities

CCFC supported and sponsored Children to carry out extra-curricular activities. A total of 2,627 children with 1,491 under the Tahima Project and 1,136 under the Baptist Project (Tamale) were supported during the period.

8.4 Medical Services Council / Baptist Health Service

The Medical Services Council (MSC) and the Ghana Baptist Health Service carried out several activities during the reporting period.

8.4a Chaplaincy Services

The Chaplaincy Department of the Baptist Medical Centre at Nalerigu, continued to share the gospel with clients who visited the hospital through morning devotions, counselling and community visits in the course of the year. A chaplaincy has been set up at Nvellenu Baptist Hospital at Nzema. Regular morning devotions are now conducted in all our Baptist Health Service facilities.

8.4b) Funding Partnerships

George Faile Foundation (GFF)

During the year under review our partners, the George Faile Foundation (GFF) continued their support to BMC, Nalerigu financially and materially. GFF donated over \$193,884.11 to support activities at BMC, Nalerigu. About 82% of this amount went into the purchase of equipment, remuneration for expatriate physicians and other expenses. The remaining 8% was used to support the nutrition centre at the hospital and to provide fuel for the hospital's generator.

International Mission Board

The International Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention secured funds for the construction of an incinerator for BMC, Nalerigu.

CVC Group of Cuyahoga, Cleveland, Ohio, USA

The CVC Group of Cuyahoga, Cleveland, Ohio, USA, continued to support the Nzema Baptist Hospital. From July 2018 - June 2019, the Group together with the Tapestry Board of USA, led by Dr. Ron Cleveland provided funds totalling \$140,000.00 to the hospital. This support has been used to purchase equipment, rent accommodation for staff and pay salaries for non-mechanized staff.

The National Baptist Convention of America Inc (NBCA)

The National Baptist Convention of America Inc (NBCA) has reached an agreement with GBC to provide funding to support Baptist Health Service in setting up EYE CENTRES in all BHS facilities. As a result, a Consultant Ophthalmologist has inspected all GBHS facilities to determine how to proceed with the establishment of the Eye Centres. It is anticipated that four of our facilities would be referral Centres for eye surgical operations when the

project takes off. An agreement to finalise this arrangement will be signed at this year's annual session.

The NBCA will be represented at this session by four (4) delegates including the President and the Director for West Africa and Ghana.

Negotiations for the full operation of the NBCA facility at Offinso continued throughout the year. A team of GBC members led by the Mid-Ghana Sector Head is following up on the matter.

Global Medical Aid of Denmark

A new relationship has been developed between GBC and Global Medical Aid of Denmark through the recommendation of Ghana's Ambassador to Denmark, Honourable Amerley Awua- Asamoah (Old Student of Kumasi Academy) to supply medicines and medical equipment to the Baptist Health Services. The first batch of such supplies arrived at the Kotoka International Airport on August 20th, 2019. Some more items are expected soon.

Helmsley Charitable Trust

In March 2017, BMC, Nalerigu received a grant facility of USD 1, 203, 076 from the Helmsley Charitable Trust to embark on infrastructure and equipment projects including the Construction of In-Patient Wards (Female Medical, Male Medical, Children's Ward with Neonate Intensive Care Unit), Mechanized Bore Hole with Overhead Steel Tank, Ambulance, Medical Equipment, Medical Gas Plant and Piping, Office Equipment and Internet service for the hospital.

A frontage fence wall and a gatehouse have been constructed for BMC, Nalerigu for aesthetic purpose and to secure the boundaries of the hospital. Details of the utilization of the funds are shown below;

- **The Male, female and children's wards** project has been completed awaiting furnishing and exterior works. Walkway and pavement of the compound around the ward is being done, it is about 96% complete
- **Construction of Mechanized Borehole.** The steel tank has been installed and the connection to the main hospital water supply completed. This has given the hospital 24-hour water supply.
- **Medical equipment.** All equipment under this project have been acquired waiting their installation
- **Medical Gas Plant.** The installation is complete and piping to various user points currently ongoing. It is about 90% complete.
- **Office Equipment.** All office items including Office chairs and tables have been procured and internet facility installed.
- **Ambulance.** The ambulance has been procured and currently in use at the facility.

- **Phase II of Laboratory Construction.** Bank Interest accrued on the money while awaiting disbursement at each given stage was used to construct phase II of the Hospital's Laboratory complex. This project has been completed and is currently in use.

8.5 60th Anniversary Celebration of BMC

The 60th Anniversary Celebration of BMC was climaxed on 8th November 2019 under the theme; "60 YEARS OF PROMOTING GOOD HEALTH AMONG RURAL FOLKS, THE CHRISTIAN WAY". The Vice-President of the Republic, Alhaji Dr. Mahamudu Bawumia graced the occasion with other government functionaries. The Overlord of Mamprugu chaired the occasion. The Vice-President, Administration (GBC), the Director of GBHS and the BREDA Director represented the secretariat during the occasion. Various awards were given to distinguished personalities and staff who have contributed immensely to the development of the facility. During the celebration, the MP for the Area and Minister for Local Government Hajia Alima Mahama donated an incubator to the hospital.

8.6 Other Health facilities

1. **Central Charismatic Baptist Medical Centre, Gyinyase, Kumasi.** Work continued steadily on this project and finishing touches to the hospital building is being done to ensure commencement of operations
2. **Calvary Charismatic Baptist Community Clinic, Atwima Mim,** has been fully equipped and operations have started. This facility was built by Bishop Francis Sarpong of Calvary Charismatic Baptist Church, London in 2017, to run as a Social health intervention for the Atwima-Mim community. Bishop Francis Sarpong later handed over the facility to the Convention.
3. **Sadler Baptist Medical Centre (Kumasi Academy).** The Infirmary at Kumasi Academy has been upgraded to a Clinic. A number of Health Professionals comprising: One (1) Physician Assistant, One (1) Pharmacy Technician, Six (6) Enrolled Nurses, and Three (3) Staff Nurses, have been posted to the facility and this has significantly improved quality health care delivery to the Institution.

We would like to commend the Headmaster of Kumasi Academy, Rev. Sylvester Osei-Wusu for his active support, motivation and encouragement to the Staff posted to the facility and for his willingness and readiness to offer assistance to the GBHS to ensure that the project succeeds.

We would also like to commend the Board of Governors of Kumasi Academy, chaired by the Convention President, Rev. Dr. Ernest Adu Gyamfi, for the keen interest shown in the project and for their active involvement in sourcing for

support and assistance for the procurement of medical and laboratory equipment and other supplies for the facility.

4. **Parkoso:** The first phase of construction works of this facility built by the Kumasi South East Baptist Association has been completed. The next phase will cover fixtures and fittings, the procurement and installation of medical and other equipment for commencement of full clinical operations.

8.7 National Health Insurance (NHIA)

As at June 2019 NHIS indebtedness to BMC, Nalerigu was GH¢2,419,792.58. This covers the period of October 2018 to April 2019). Claims for May and June 2019 are yet to be submitted.

8.8 Christian Health Association of Ghana

Through the effort of the Ghana Baptist Health Service, financial clearance was approved for 15 staff of various categories both clinical and Administrative, within BHS network.

8.9 GBC Support to Baptist Health Services (BHS)

The Convention provided 16 television sets, 7 refrigerators, 6 washing machines, 5 Air conditioners, 2 Maternity Delivery Beds, 5 adjustable Hospital beds and bedside lockers, some electrical and Electronic equipment, other assorted medical and non-medical equipment and other items to the Baptist Health Service, for distribution to the various facilities within the GBHS Network.

8.10 Staffing at GBHS

The staff strength of BMC, Nalerigu is about 378. However, the facility still lacks some essential staff like midwives. Two of the 4 local Medical Officers left the facility during the period under review. One left for school and the other requested for a release to the Tamale Teaching Hospital. As a result, BMC, Nalerigu on the average engaged two locum doctors a month, 21 locum midwives and two staff nurses to augment the Medical officers at the hospital.

Several workshops, CPDs, in-service trainings were organized to improve staff efficiency. These programs were attended by Staff from BMC-Nalerigu, BMC-Abuakwa, T-BMC, Opuniase, and Nzema Baptist Hospital.

The staff strength of BMC, Abuakwa is 68 whilst that of NBH, Nvellenu is 39.

8.11 Patient Care

Total birth deliveries at BMC- Nalerigu from January to June 2018 was 1,616. There were 300 Caesarean Sections during the period. A total of 961 minor

surgeries, and 647 Major Surgeries were carried out at the facility during the period. Maternal mortalities recorded were 3.

Outpatient Department attendance from January to June was 36,083 while admissions for the period was 6,895. The total bed capacity of BMC, Nalerigu as at June 2018 stood at 180.

During the period under review, OPD attendance at Abuakwa was 4, 924 with 721 admissions. The Abuakwa Eye Centre had 674 Eye Clinic attendants.

Total OPD attendance at NBH, Nvellenu was 5,286. Total birth deliveries for the period were 42. The Jomoro Health Directorate has given the facility a catchment area for Public Health and RCH activities. The hospital has started two-shifts and weekend services to meet the growing demand for the hospital's services.

OPD attendance at the Tanoah Baptist Medical Centre, Opuniase for the period under review was 1800. Eye clinic attendance was 184, and Maternity attendance was 58 with 8 deliveries.

During the year under review, GBHS facilitated the posting and transfer of health personnel to our facilities through CHAG. A total of 109 nurses of various categories were posted to BHS Network from CHAG.

Accreditation of all Baptist Health Centres was completed.

8.12 Baptist Guest House

The Baptist Guest House gave attention to enhancing the appearance of the facility this year. The frontage of the facility has been beautified and the lighting improved at night. Painting within the building is 90% complete. Streetlights have been introduced in front of the guest house for better visibility. New front desk counter has been installed to make the reception area more attractive. Some indoor plants have been introduced for beautification of the facility. Wifi reception is now available throughout the guesthouse. Some additional catering items have been purchased to speed up service when large number of clients use the facility.

To ensure that the facility operate within the laws of the country, we have registered the Guest House as a Company limited by Guarantee. We now have our Certificate of Incorporation as well as Certificate to Commence Business effective 6th November 2018. The process for registration with Ghana Tourism Authority and all other establishments necessary for operating a Guest House is under way while some have already been completed.

The Ghana Baptist Guest House is currently featured on booking.com, a worldwide accommodation reservations platform where we can receive bookings from all over the world. Other travel agencies are to be linked up in order to give the guest house maximum visibility for optimum utilisation of the facility.

8.13 Baptist Women Retreat Centre

To improve the general aesthetics of the environment at the Baptist Women Retreat Centre, new machines for lawn and shrub maintenance was procured during the year under review. The Lawns, shrubs and bushes were periodically managed to keep the natural beauty of the Centre throughout the year. Six concrete benches have been mounted as at the time of this report under some of the trees for easy relaxation by patrons during break-times at meetings here. Some additional ones will be added in due course.

The WMU is funding an extension to the kitchen to expand the space at the cooking area.

The Centre has been self-sufficient in water supply since March 2019. We currently have the ability and capacity to sustain about 700 guests with water generated from our bore holes. Pipes supplying water from the four boreholes have been redesigned to bring water separately into respective poly tanks. New pumps for the various boreholes have been procured and are serviced periodically to maintain the water supply to the centre.

Due to the positioning of the windows at the White House, some rooms and the verandas flood when there are strong rains. Window canopies have therefore been created to put an end to the flood occurrences.

9.0 STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 9: EDUCATION

The Convention through her educational institutions continued to provide good quality education to the Ghanaian society while advancing the gospel of Christ during the reporting period.

9.1 Ghana Baptist University College

We would like to express our sincere thanks and appreciation to the GBUC Council for dedicated and faithful service to the University for the past thirteen (13) years. After thirteen years, the Council is rotating out and a new Council constituted by the Chancellor with the advice of the Denominational Board. The proposed Council members are therefore place before this house as required by our constitution for your consideration. The members are:

NAME	BACKGROUND	CHURCH
Prof. Eric	Prof. of Plant Genetics University of	Legon Baptist Church

Yirenkyi Danquah	Ghana	
Deacon Kofi Kyei Akowuah	Businessman and CEO of MOFCO Group Ltd.	Central Baptist Church, New Tafo
Paul Adu-Gyamfi Esq.	Legal Practitioner Former President of Ghana Bar Association	Grace Baptist Church, Amakom, Kumasi
Rev. Washington Komla Darke	Vice-President, Admin., Finance and Investment	Baptist International Worship Centre, Abelenkpe, Accra
Rev Robert Kwadwo Asante	Finance / Accounting	Grace Baptist Church, Amakom, Kumasi
Dr. Mrs. Margaret Ivy Amoakohene	Member, Council of State Senior Lecturer and Acting Director of School of Communication Studies, Legon	Legon Baptist Church
Nana Dr. Appiagyei Dankwawoso 1	Traditional Chief President: Pan African Chamber Commerce and Industry	Former Baptist Methodist Church of Ghana

During our session last year, the financial needs of GBUC were placed before this house. Some churches and individuals pledged to give to meet that need. In all a total of one hundred and Ninety-nine thousand Ghana Cedis (GH¢199,000.00) has been raised as at today. An amount of one hundred and eighty thousand Cedis (GH¢180,000.00) to date has been given to the University to reduce their commitment to University of Cape Coast.

In May 2019, the GBUC Council in consultation with Management employed a new Registrar in the person of Mr. Emmanuel Dugbenoo of Legon Baptist Church to fill the vacant position. Some new programmes introduced into the University in collaboration with other institutions are:

1. MBA in Finance and General Management
2. MSc in Environment and Natural Resource Economics with Sumy State University, Ukraine
3. Palliative Care with Oxford Brookes University
4. Liberal arts with Texas A & M International University, USA
5. Master of Theology (MTh) and Doctor of Ministry (DMin) in collaboration with Nigerian Baptist Theological Seminary

9.1b Learning Centres

Beside City Campus in Kumasi and Abuakwa Campus, the University has established Learning Centres as follows:

1. **Accra:** Master of Arts in Ministry
2. **Sefwi-Wiaso:** Diploma in Business Administration

The City campus of the University now has a Dedicated Broadband internet that enables students to have access to fast internet service on Campus.

Transition

One of our lecturers, Dr. Jacob Donkor passed on in June this year. May his soul rest in peace.

9. 2 *Baptist Vocational Training Centre*

During the reporting period the goal of the Convention was to position BVTC as a leading Technical Vocational Education Training (TVET) Institution. A Governing Board made up of the following: Dr. Baffour-Awuah, Mrs. Joana Deegbe, Mrs. Dorothy Konadu, Mrs. Grace Akunor, Mr Eric Ocloo, Mr. Isaac Donkor and a Community Representative, of BVTC was constituted by the Presidency in consultation with the BREDA Director to help implement the strategic plan on the Centre. The Board will be inaugurated soon after this session.

A total of 71 girls are currently enrolled for the 2018/19 academic year at the Centre. i.e. 31 ex-Trokosi girls and 40 less privileged girls. This includes 15 ex-Trokosi girls rescued from the shins in October 2018. Admission of private students has remained low for the 2018/19 academic year. Only 10 students have so far enrolled. This may be due to the free SHS policy introduced by the government. 42 girls wrote the May/June 2019 NTVI Examination at different levels. This includes 16 ex-Trokosi girls.

To Improve existing infrastructure at the centre, work resumed on the 6-classroom block with funding from One Great Hour of Sharing Development Grant of American Baptist International Ministries. The last tranche of \$30,000.00 grant was used to roof the building and fixing doors and louvre blades for one classroom. The remaining works of the classroom are electrical, fixing of doors and windows in the remaining 5 rooms, ceiling, tiling, septic tank construction, completion of washrooms and painting.

All departments of the school were resourced to produce more items for sale and provide better services to patrons of the school's items and services. Income from the sale of products and services was about 24% of the total internally generated funds received during the reporting period. The centre is also engaged in farming to support its internally generated funds. Currently, the Centre is cultivating about one and a half acre of maize and rearing goats and pigs to augment feeding of the girls. The surplus would be sold to support operational activities.

9. 3 *Mafi Project - Early Childhood Development Centres (ECDCS)*

To enhance visibility of the Early Childhood Development Centres BREDA is collaborating with the Women's Missionary Union (WMU) to provide children under the Mafi ECDC project with uniforms starting from the 2019/20. In memory of the first Convention Home Missionary to the Volta Region, a proposal has been put forward for the naming of all the schools in the Mafi area after Evan Atiamoah for his illustrious work in the area. E.g. Evans Atiamoah Memorial Baptist School, Adave (EAMBS).

Two American ladies led by Gail Lipscomb at the instance of the WMU helped roof the Amen Baptist Church, Atitekpo which also serves as the classroom for the ECDC of the Church. The project cost was GH¢12,746.00.

The WMU of Tema Central Baptist Association is supporting the construction of a two-room pavilion classroom structure for the ECDC at Adave. There were some delays in the construction of this project due to a land dispute which the Association Head is helping the Church to resolve.

The WMU has cut the sod for a two-classroom block at Mafi in the Volta Region under the Miss Baptist Young Ladies initiative.

9.4 *Baptist International School (originally ILA Kingdom Academy), Asokore*

The Mid Ghana Sector through the leadership of the Sector head has worked assiduously to re-open the ILA Kingdom Academy; Effiduase Asokore donated to the Convention in December 2017. The school is now called Baptist International School. The school started in September 2018 and currently has sixteen children in the crèche. The enrolment has been low because of the location of the school. Therefore, the Sector committee organized a fundraising program and has managed to buy a used 207 Mercedes Benz bus to convey the pupils to school.

9.5 *Kumasi Academy*

Rev. Sylvester Osei-Wusu was officially installed the Headmaster of Kumasi Academy in March 2018 at a special service held at the school. The ceremony was led by the Vice President, Administration. Currently, four (4) GBC members are serving on the school's governing Board in addition to the Headmaster. The President of GBC is the Chairman of the school governing Board.

9.6 *Northern Ghana Baptist Theological Seminary (NGBTS)*

During the year, the Governing Board of NGBTS was reconstituted. The Vice-President, Ministries serves as the Chairman of the new Board. The 56th graduation ceremony of the Seminary was held on 22nd June 2019 at the NGBTS campus in Tamale. 33 (thirty-three) graduates made up of 20 (twenty) from the Tamale Campus and 13 (thirteen) from the Tema Campus were awarded certificates and Diplomas. There is an on-going process to make NGBTS an extension campus of the Ghana Baptist University College.

During the year, we received a cash donation from Grace Baptist Church, Amsterdam to support the NGBTS. The money was used to paint the schools. All the classrooms, office block, exterior walls and the exterior of the students' dormitory have all been painted. The only place left is the inside of the students' dormitory. Any additional gift received in future will be used to complete that.

9.7 *Success Training Institute / West Coast Bible College*

Through our partnership with the National Baptist Convention of America, a new educational opportunity was opened during the year with Success Training Institute for online Soft Skills Training and the West Coast Bible College for Theological Training at heavily discounted prices. The Success Training Institute courses cover areas like Entrepreneurial and professional development training while the West Coast Bible College provides training in Theology from Bachelor, Masters (M.Div & MA) and Doctoral levels (D.Min). All the West Coast Bible College courses are fully accredited online programmes. One therefore does not need to travel to the US to get a degree from there. One can study at the comfort of one's home.

The West Coast Bible College is also ready to host all Ghana Baptist University College course online for free at no cost to the school. GBUC has been informed to prepare themselves for the transition to run online programmes. We would like to encourage all our members to take advantage of these opportunities opened to the Convention.

10.0 AWARDS

During the reporting period some individuals contributed immensely to the achievements of the strategic plan of the Convention. We will like to take this opportunity to honour these individuals.

11.0 CHALLENGES

There were some challenges that faced the Convention during the reporting period

11.1 *Succession*

Some of our seasoned Ministers have reached retirement age or about to, while others are on contract after attaining 65 years. Some of our Ministers and Churches did not put in place adequate plans for succession even though the Ministers' Conference prompted most Ministers one year before their retirement. The end of the term of some Pastors has therefore opened-up our churches for litigation and conflict that could have been avoided. The issue of succession planning and its impact on our denomination has been of concern to the Presidency and has been flagged in various fora for the past five years. Unfortunately, much attention was not given to the concern and we are now being confronted with the issue.

It is my hope that during the breakout sessions at this meeting, this phenomenon will be discussed adequately and dispassionately, and some solutions proposed to end such crisis within our denomination.

11.2. *Loss of Churches and Leadership Challenges on Our Mission Fields*

According to reports from the Evangelism and Missions Department, the Convention lost almost two hundred (200) churches during the reporting period in our Mission Fields. Some of the reasons attributed to this loss, is lack of proper leadership in some of those churches. The School of Ministry programme has been conducted over a period in the Mission Fields to train leaders to lead our Churches. It has come to our notice that some of the people trained through this programme have very low academic backgrounds which makes it difficult to have the quality expected.

The Vice-President, (Ministries) and the Evangelism and Missions Department have been tasked to evaluate these programmes and to advice on the entry qualification of ministerial admission in the light of the government's free Senior High School programme. We will be grateful if this house could share with us some information on what pertains in your local setting to help us unravel the difficulties being faced in this area of ministry.

11.3 *Executive Power of the Presidency*

Since the inception of the Executive Presidency system, members of the Convention have expressed varied opinions about the executive power of the President. Even though some power appears to have been given to the President, the autonomy of the local church is enshrined in our Constitution. In critical situations, some Pastors and Senior Ministers of the Convention take a position of absolute autonomy of their local churches and disregard our Constitution, Church Guide and other documents that the denomination has agreed to and produced to govern all of us.

For example, what do you do in a situation where churches refuse to pay their 20% contributions and when they are confronted, they resort to local autonomy? Or when there are issues in a local church that needs to be addressed and you refer them to procedures and practices in our Church Guide, they resort to the fact that "it is only a Guide". It is like putting a muzzle on a donkey whilst it is treading out the grain. How do we move on as a denomination if these things are not addressed now?

I will therefore like this house to re-look at the duties and powers of the Executive Presidency in the context of our cooperative autonomy to avoid any ambiguity. I believe this clarity is necessary for the future of our Convention if we are going to make any progress.

CONCLUSION

The year 2018-2019 has been successful with the help of all our staff, Denominational Board, Pastors, churches, institutions, partners and individuals, who in diverse ways supported the Secretariat and the Presidency to implement the first phase of our Strategic Plan. Having the Plan in place has given GBC one-voice and uni-direction as we seek to fulfil the Great Commission.

To everyone, we say Ayekoo and we pray that the fire of GBC will remain aflame for Christ!