

**PRESIDENT’S REPORT TO THE (57TH) 2020 SPECIAL ANNUAL SESSION OF THE
GHANA BAPTIST CONVENTION**

1.0 INTRODUCTION

We are grateful to God for another year in the life of the Ghana Baptist Convention and for the privilege to report to member Churches of the Convention our stewardship and management of the affairs of the Denomination. Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we are having a one-day Session this year instead of our normal four-day Session as had been the practice in previous years. However, we believe that those who are here in person and those who may read this report online, will have the opportunity to assess the denomination’s progress during the past year. We would like to place on record that due to the COVID-19 pandemic all major activities of the Convention were put on hold from March 2020 until the present.

The report will follow the Convention’s nine strategic objectives as outlined in the 2018-2022 Strategic Plan.

2.0 STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 1: EVANGELISM AND MISSIONS

To strengthen evangelism and missions, make them more widespread, effective, and efficient, the following programmes and activities were engaged in during the year to achieve that strategic objective.

A. Church Planting

- The 2018 to 2022 strategic plan of the Convention proposed the planting of 35 new churches each year during the period. In the year 2018/2019 a total of 54 churches were planted. For the year 2019/2020 reporting period, the projected number of churches envisaged to be planted was not achieved due to the COVID-19 pandemic and its related effect.
- The Pandemic did not allow for the full implementation of all planned activities during the year. Despite this challenge, a total of twenty-four (24) new churches were planted during the year, giving a cumulative total of 78 churches for the year 2018/2019 compared with the projected 70 churches, in the Strategic Plan. Even though the pandemic did not allow for all programmes to be carried out, we are still a little ahead in our projected Church planting objective.

The new Churches planted are in the following Sectors.

1. South-East Ghana Sector (10)

- a. Ten (10) out of nineteen (19) Churches planned for 2019 were planted. One of these churches was planted by the North Volta Home Missionary at Muboho.
2. **South West Ghana Sector (5)**
 - a. Two (2) Churches were planted by the Nzema Home Missionary at Asasetre in the Ellembelle district and Atwebanso.
 - b. Three (3) Churches were planted by the South West Sector Evangelist (Cine-van ministry) in Denkyira Amofo, Denkyira Boabinso and Daboase area.
3. **Mid-Ghana Sector (7)**
 - a. One church was planted by the Mid-Ghana Sector Evangelist (Cine-Van ministry) at Atwima Afrancho-Odumase.
 - b. Two Churches were planted in the Kumasi North Association by Living Word Baptist Church at Afrancho Bronkong and Maranatha Baptist Church at Kwapra.
 - c. The Golden Gate Association started a preaching point at Kyirifaso
 - d. Grace Baptist Church, Santasi New site in the Kumasi West Association started two churches at Konkori and Nkoransa.
 - e. The Bethel Baptist Association in collaboration with International Commission planted a new church at Muoho in the Sefwi Bekwai Zone.
4. **Northern Ghana Sector (3)**
 - a. One church was planted at Lingbinsi by the Evangelism and Missions Department (EMD) through a Mission Trip. During the mission trip, two thousand, five hundred and forty-one (2,541) persons were exposed to the gospel and nine hundred and thirty-four (934) persons prayed to receive Jesus as Lord and personal Saviour.
 - b. The Director, EMD led a Missions team to the Liberty Baptist Association in early February 2020. The team worked in partnership with the Liberty Baptist Association for one week. Churches in 9 communities were revived and one church, The Prince of Peace Baptist Church was planted in Daboya, the district capital with Rev. Samuel Bavug Asare as the Pastor.
 - c. Student's Holiday Outreach Programme, Northern Ghana Sector planted one church in Liberty Baptist Association. The Living Springs Baptist Church in Kumasi donated a motor bike, 60 plastic chairs and a set of locally manufactured drums to the newly planted church.
- B. **Cinema Van Ministry**
 - The Cine Van Ministry continued during the year under review. A total of one hundred thousand (100,000) people were exposed to the Gospel during the reporting period. About twenty thousand (20,000) of these prayed to receive Jesus as Lord and Savior.

- One hundred and eight (108) persons were trained to communicate their faith and to effectively disciple other believers.

C. Students Holiday Outreach Programme (SHOP):

- Students Holiday Outreach Programme (SHOP) for the Northern Ghana Sector took place in Damongo, the capital of the newly created Savannah Region from 22nd to 29th December 2019. Ninety-six (96) students and other individuals participated in the project. The Gonja JESUS film, door-to-door and one-on-one witnessing were employed during the period. 192 persons accepted Christ during the Mission and one Church was planted. Pastor Charles Sumani Dokurugu is the Pastor in charge of the new church.
- The All Souls Baptist Church of South-La supported this project with 15 members and GHS3,000.00. The Charismatic Baptist Church, Tamale is the Mother Church of the new church.
- Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, SHOP 2020 for the other parts of the country was cancelled. The Evangelism and Missions Department however, in collaboration with the Great Commission Movement of Ghana organized Social Media Digital Evangelism Training for some Youth and NUBS members. This was aimed at equipping them in digital evangelism.

D. Discipleship Training

- A one-day intensive discipleship training programme was organized for 8 staff and 17 students of the Baptist Vocational Training Centre. The Director of City of Hope Orphanage, Shai Hills (Dr. Troy) and his Community Impact team facilitated the training. This is part of efforts to make Christian Discipleship a key component of the Centre's training programme.
- Some members of the denomination attended a small groups Discipleship Training seminar organized by CAL Ghana under the sponsorship of Sarang Church of South Korea at Anagkazo Bible Ministry from Feb 4-7, 2020.
- Some Leaders were trained in the South West Sector for follow-up in the Sekondi-Takoradi Association.
- One hundred and eight (108) people were trained by the Mid Ghana Sector Evangelist on how to effectively communicate their faith and begin a discipleship ministry. In the Northern Sector, forty-five (45) key leaders in the Tatale area were trained by the EMD on how to share the Gospel effectively.

E. Church Revitalization

As part of our Strategic Plan, several Churches within the Convention were to be revitalised and equipped for growth. This project is due to the small sizes in terms of numbers of some of our Churches.

- The Eastern Baptist Association revitalized 12 Churches within the Association during the year under review.
- Eleven (11) churches were strengthened in the Bethel Association: They are:

Revival Baptist Asawinso “A”, Calvary Baptist Church, Afere, Power of Zion Grace Baptist Church, Asafo, Calvary Charismatic Baptist Church, Sankore, In step to Christ Baptist Church, Datwe, Living Hope Baptist Church, Wiase, Living Hope Baptist Church, Nsawora, Kingdom Baptist Church, Subiri, Nkunim Baptist Church, Sorano, Anidaso Baptist Church, Chirano and New Life Baptist Church, Tanoso.

F. Sunday School

- Two Sunday school books, “*Kingdom Loyalty*” Parts 1 &2 were published during the year.

G. Writers Workshop

- The Christian Education and Auxiliaries Department (CEAD) organized a writer’s workshop on December 07, 2019 to review our Sunday School literature with the objective to make it more effective. Conclusions from the workshop are being applied by the CEAD.

H. Church Buildings

1. Five Churches that were under construction with support from Evangelist Extraordinaire, Deacon Daniel Ofori, in Ofankor, Bunso, Anyinam, Tikobo N0 2 and Jewhe Wharf were completed during the year.
2. The Convention built two pavilions for the churches in Salugu and Tiegbang in the Liberty Association during the year. Soon after construction, a rainstorm razed the pavilion in Salugu to the ground. With support from one Sunday School Class in Tesano Baptist Church a total sum of GHS11,394.00 was raised for the reconstruction of the pavilion.
3. Shalom Baptist Church, Aflao in the South Volta Baptist Association roofed their 800 -1000 capacity Church building at a cost of GHS87,000.00 during the year under review.
4. With the help of Rev. Daniel Nartey, a Baptist Minister and his Church in Germany, a Church pavilion to seat about 80 people was constructed for a new church planted in Bundase.
5. The Golden Gate Baptist Association supported three churches to roof their church auditorium with fifteen thousand (15,000.00) Ghana Cedis. The churches are Victory Baptist Church, Nsuta, Maranatha Baptist Church Kwamang and Gospel Light Baptist Church, Jamasi.

I. Church Statistics

During the course of the year, an inventory of the churches within the Convention was undertaken. The statistics of the number of churches, numbers of members and the status of churches in the Convention to date has been compiled. It was observed that some churches either under reported or did not provide enough information as expected.

3.0 STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 2: VISIBILITY AND RE-BRANDING

A. Local Visibility

1. To enhance visibility and positive public image of the Convention a uniform signage project began in 2016. As at the last Session we had achieved over 90% compliance within the Convention. The remaining Churches were encouraged to complete their signages. During the year, many churches in the Northern Sector erected the Convention approved signage and billboards in various locations in the Sector. Some Church buses and motor bikes within the Sector were also branded with the Convention logo. This brings us close to 100% achievement.
2. The President of the Convention and Rev Dr. Nii Amoo-Darku both members of the National Peace Council participated in the negotiation between the National Democratic Congress and the New Patriotic Party in signing the Road Map to the Disbandment of Vigilante groups in Ghana during the period.
3. The President and Rev. Dr. Nii Amoo-Darku participated in the celebration of the International Peace day held at the University of Ghana by the National Peace Council.
4. The President participated in the Thanksgiving Service of the Ministry of Finance to thank God for the success of the Ministry with their Bond issue in February 2020.
5. The President chaired meetings of the Africa Forum for Religion and Government (AFREG) during the year.
6. The President was part of a delegation of the Christian Council of Ghana who met with President Nana Akuffo Addo at the Flag Staff House during the reporting period to discuss issues of national interest.
7. Participation in all the above programmes enhanced the visibility of the Convention within those circles.

B. Global Visibility

1. To enhance the visibility of the Convention on the African continent, the Convention participated in all activities of the All Africa Baptist Fellowship (AABF) during the year under review. The President participated in and chaired the annual meeting of the AABF in Zambia in February 2020. He presented two papers on *21st Century Leadership in the Church* and *Leadership Accountability* during the meeting. The meeting was attended by the General Secretary of the Baptist World Alliance, Dr. Elijah Brown.
2. The President participated in the Executive Committee, Budget and Finance Committee and General Council meetings of the Baptist World Alliance during the period under review.

3. Rev Dr Fred Deegbe, Chairman of the Denominational Board chaired the meeting of the Commission on Human Rights of the Baptist World Alliance in February 2020.
4. A 15-member delegation of Ghana Baptist Men's Ministry (GBMM) attended the All Africa Baptist Men's Fellowship Conference at Ikoyi Baptist Church in Lagos State, Nigeria. 187 men across Africa attended the Conference. The President of the Ghana Baptist Convention who also doubles as President of the All Africa Baptist Fellowship gave the opening address during the opening ceremony of the Conference.
5. The Director of the Christian Education and Auxiliaries Department was among the presenters via Zoom at the AABF conference on Students Ministry from July 23-24, 2020. He delivered a talk on "Sustaining a Lasting Student's Ministry."
6. Participation in all the above programmes helped to enhance the image and visibility of the Ghana Baptist Convention.

C. Shalom Broadcasting Network (SBN TV)

As part of its efforts to ensure that the Convention receives Publicity and Media Coverage of its programmes and activities, the Shalom Broadcasting Network (SBN TV) covered the following Convention activities during the year under review:

- The Annual Ministers Conference,
- Annual Women's Missionary Union Conference,
- Annual Convention Session,
- The Girl's Auxiliary Conference,
- All these programmes were given live coverage and repeat broadcasts several times during the year to showcase the Convention.
- SBN TV covered other major Christian programmes like, Harvest Praise, Women's Aglow monthly Prayer sessions among others.

D. Establishment of SBN Board of Directors

A new Board of Directors of SBN TV was established during the year to oversee the operations of the station. The Board was inducted into office by the Chair of the Denominational Board, Rev Dr. Fred Deegbe. The members are:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Deaconess Mrs. Margaret Amoakohene | - Chairperson / Communication |
| 2. Mr. Andrews Awuni | - Vice Chairman / Communication |
| 3. Deacon Peter Antonio | - Legal Officer |
| 4. Rev Victor Brew | - Rep. Ministers Conf./Lawyer |
| 5. Mr. Isaac Addai | - Businessman |
| 6. Mr. Edward Entee | - Media Practitioner- |
| 7. Deacon Christian Sottie | - Accounting |
| 8. Nana Sarfo | - Financial Consultant |

E. Social and Print Media

The Convention enjoyed extensive print media coverage during the year as all major programmes received media coverage. The Convention's social media presence (Website, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and Google plus) was enhanced during the year on all our platforms.

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

To promote and enhance our cooperative autonomy, programmes for educating Ministers, Deacons and Church leaders on our understanding of cooperative autonomy were rolled out during the year.

A. Annual Session Report

- In view of the fact that not all members of our Churches are able to attend the Convention Annual Session, this past year, attempt was made to bring the President's Report down to the members of our Churches by streaming the Annual Session live from the Women's Retreat Centre, Ejura. Subsequently, SBN streamed the report several times for members to understand the operations of the Convention.
- A meeting was held in Accra for all Deacons in Accra and Tema Central Associations where the President's report was presented to them by the President to ensure local ownership and buy-in.
- The Vice President (Administration), did same for the Churches in the South West Sector at Cape Coast and Winneba. The participants had a better understanding of the operations of the Convention. They also had opportunity to ask questions about issues of concern to them. The meetings helped attendees to further understand why Churches have to pay their 20% subscription to the Convention.

B. Ministerial Admissions

A total of 221 applications for all three categories of Ministerial Admissions - licensing, recognition, and ordination - were received. The arrangements to interview these applicants were halted in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. Renewed action will be taken later.

C. Minister's License Renewal

- The Ministers Conference initiated a membership License renewal policy in January 2019. The Conference has since processed 609 members for renewal. 547 members scored between A-C while 62 members failed the process. These members have been assigned mentors who are to groom them for better performance at the next membership renewal interviews to be held in 2021.
The Conference Executive Committee after implementing this policy realized some shortfalls in the process and hopes to make the necessary

amendments for the consideration of the next Annual Ministers' Conference.

D. Divorce and Re-marriage

The Conference Executive Committee started some work on the amendment of the constitutional provision on Divorce and Re-Marriage in the 2013 Constitution of the Ghana Baptist Convention. This was aimed at possibly resolving the outstanding issues on divorce and re-marriage among Ministers and church members in our denomination. The matter would be laid for discussion at the next annual Ministers' Conference meeting.

E. Full Time Association Heads

The South East Ghana Sector has almost completed the process of appointing Full Time Association Head for the Accra North and Tema Central Associations. The process has been delayed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

F. National Association of Baptist Deacons/Deaconess.

The following Associations had their Deacons/Deaconess Executives inaugurated during the year:

- Accra North Baptist Association
- Accra South Baptist Association
- Dangme East Baptist Association
- Association of Baptist Deacons was formed in all the six Associations within the South West Sector pending the inauguration of the Sector Association. This did not come on because of the onset of the Coronavirus pandemic. Executive members for each Association have been elected.
- Kumasi West Baptist Association has in place elected leaders, constitution and bylaws, and meetings have been going on.
- Sunyani Baptist Association inaugurated the Association last year.
- Golden Gate Baptist Association in the Mid-Ghana Sector has also set up the Association.

G. Youth & NUBS Ministry

- Mr. Albert Aidoo the National Youth Coordinator resigned in July 2019 to pursue his doctoral study in the USA. Pastor Robert Antwi-Boasiako, the former Programmes Officer for the Evangelism and Missions Department has been appointed the new National Youth/NUBS Coordinator. Currently he doubles as the Programmes Officer in the Evangelism and Missions Department until his replacement in the EMD is engaged.
- Mrs. Victoria Maame Esi Aidoo has been elected as the new National Youth President.
- Ghana will be hosting the All Africa Baptist Youth Fellowship congress from 10th - 15th August 2021 at the Baptist Women Retreat Centre, Ejura.

Let us keep the Local Arrangement Committee in prayer as they plan and prepare for this continental meeting.

- A joint meeting of Youth/NUBS Executives and NUBS Alumni was held during the year. The purpose of this joint meeting was to synchronize the activities and programs of the Youth & NUBS ministry to achieve the following:
 - Maximize resources, time, funds etc.
 - To reduce cost of various programs.
 - To cut down on duplication of programs.
 - Plan for NUBS Congress 2020.
 - Plan for National Youth conference and the Election of New Executives.
 - To discuss fund raising drives to support 2020 programs.

H. Women's Missionary Union

- The Women's Missionary Union donated One Thousand, Five hundred (1500) US Dollars (Eight Thousand Ghana Cedis equivalent) to support the roofing of a WMU Nursery School in Atitekope, Volta Region.
- The Union donated school uniforms worth Twelve Thousand Ghana Cedis (GHC12, 000.00) and Primary English Readers for Kindergarten and Classes one to three worth six thousand Ghana Cedis (GHC6000.00) to the Early Child Baptist Schools at Mafi.
- They also donated a Polytank worth Seven Thousand Ghana Cedis (GHC7000.00) to the Ghana Baptist University College Abuakwa campus.
- The Tema Central WMU cut sod for the construction of a four-classroom block for one of the schools in Mafi. This is part of Miss BYL 2014 projects.

I. Baptist Men's Ministry (BMM)

- A 15-member delegation of Ghana Baptist Men's Ministry attended the All Africa Baptist Men's Fellowship Conference at Ikoyi Baptist Church in Lagos State, Nigeria.
- BMM donated two sets of computers to Northern Ghana Baptist Theological Seminary during the 56th Annual Session in Ejura.

BMM donated one motorbike to the Evangelism and Missions Department for churches of the Lingbinsi Community. Living Spring Baptist church Men's Ministry provided funds for this exercise.

J. Children's Ministry

Rev. Alan Locke, the International Missions Board (IMB) Country Director has arranged for Ms Hillary Anderson, an IMB missionary, to serve as the Children's Coordinator of the Convention. She was expected in-country in May 2020 to serve an initial 22 months term. Unfortunately, the COVID-19 pandemic has affected her arrival. In the interim the CEAD Director is still acting as Coordinator in addition to his other responsibilities.

K. North America Baptist Association (NABA)

Due to the COVID 19 pandemic, there was no annual NABA Conference this year. The Association could not submit an official report on their activities before the publication of this report.

L. European Baptist Association of the Ghana Baptist Convention

The Convention continued to expand and monitor its evangelistic outreach into Europe. Below is a report on the activities of some of the Churches in the area.

M. Amazing Grace Baptist Church, Hamburg

The Amazing Grace Baptist Church was founded in Hamburg, Germany on 26th March 2017 by Rev. Dr. John Kwasi Fosu while studying for his doctoral degree in Germany. The Church was accepted into the membership of the Federal Union of the Free Evangelical Baptist Churches in Germany on November 22, 2017. Last year, it was also accepted as a full member of the Ghana Baptist Convention.

The Church has a membership of 65 people and regular worship attendance of 68. During the year, the Church raised funds and purchased an ambulance for the Baptist Medical Centre, Abuakwa.

N. Victory Baptist Church, Ghent. Belgium

The Church is headed by Rev Kwame Owusu Ansah. The congregation grew from 60 to 80 people during the reporting period. The Church celebrated 5 marriages and the death of their Chief Deacon during the year. There was no Baptism during the year.

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

To increase the financial base and the economic status of the Convention, several activities were engaged in during the year. Despite the COVID-19 pandemic and the fact that Churches were closed for about four months during the year, God was good to us in our financial mobilization.

A. Cash Inflows

- A total cash receipts of GHS8,134,229.93 was achieved during the year as against GHS7,270,780.00 during the 2018-2019. This represents about

11.78% growth. Even though there was growth despite the COVID-19 challenges, it was short of the yearly projected growth of 15%.

- The total expenditure for the year was GHS6,930,325.66 as against GHS6,781,809 during the 2018-2019 year. This represents about 3% growth in expenditure and 84.4% of the budgeted total expenditure.

B. Presidential Initiative Fundraising

During the year, the Presidency engaged in several activities to raise funds and logistical support for the Convention.

- The Convention received donations of One Maxus Van, One Maxus Minivan and One Maxus pickup truck. The Van replaced the Northern Sector cinema van that had become too old. The Minivan was assigned to SBN for location activities and the pickup truck assigned to the South East Sector Head.
- A total amount of GHS217,000.00 was raised as direct cash inflow from the Presidential initiative fund raising programme. This was over and above the projected GHS120,000.00 in the strategic plan for the year.
- Additional International Support of GHS559,779.70 was raised during the year by the Presidency.

• Facility Rentals

- In August 2019, the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) rented 264 square-metres of space on the ground floor of the Baptist House. The place is being used as the new location for the Canadian Visa Centre in Ghana. A five-year rent agreement was signed between IOM and the Convention.
- In November 2019, Kenpong Travel and Tours Limited rented 75 square-metres of the ground floor space at the Baptist House. We are left with a total of 180 square-metres floor space available for rent.

C. Baptist House Renovations

- The Baptist International Worship Centre (BIWC, Baptist House) funded the completion of works on the 4th floor of the Baptist House. All tiling and plumbing works were sufficiently completed. Ceiling joints were completed as well.
- The re-tiling of some portions:
 - The 3rd floor auditorium re-tiling was completed along with some painting works, in time for the induction service of the 2nd term of the Vice President Administration. The tiling works were very necessary because a lot of the original tiles were peeling off.
 - o The re-tiling of the office of the Secretary to the President was completed over the period. The original tiles in the office were peeling off and had to be replaced.

D. Mission Properties in the Northern Ghana Sector

- During the year under review the Estates Office visited the Northern Ghana Sector to inspect properties handed over to the Convention by the Ghana Baptist Mission. Of the eleven (11) properties intended for inspection, three (3) were not found. They are Plot 5 & 6, Choggu Road, Tamale, and a residential plot on the Bongo Road, Bolgatanga. The office has registered documents covering these properties but on the ground the Convention churches and leaders in the area contacted for assistance had no idea about those properties.
- The property of Second Baptist Church, Tamale which is no longer under the Convention (since the break in union in the late 1990s) has become an issue of concern. That property is under the control of the church and not the Convention, though documents covering the property are with the Estates Department. The Trustees have been advised to investigate this problem.

E. Agona Asafo Farmlands

- The Chief and Elders of Agona Asafo have sectioned out a substantial portion of the 176 acres of land belonging to the Convention, for sales to private individuals and entities. The Trustees have empowered the South West Sector Head to handle the problem with some local lawyers.

F. Baptist Women's Retreat Centre (BWRC Ejura) Redevelopment

- In October 2019, a complete cadastral plan for the Baptist Women's' Retreat Centre (Ejura) was completed. Following this, an Architect was charged to complete a re-planning of the layout of the entire space for consideration for any further development. This is in line with plans to ensure that BWRC is well structured and resourced to meet the growing demands of the Convention and affiliate ministries on the facility. Designs for individual structures and detailed floor plans are being developed by the Architect.
- The WMU is funding the completion of the Dormitory B Annex structure. Final block work to roofing level has been completed. Roofing and ceiling members and fixing of door and window frames have been completed while plastering of interior and exterior walls are currently underway. All sanitary wares, water closets, washing basins, plumbing accessories, main doors, louvre frames and blades, electrical supplies (wires, bulbs, fans etc.), and other main supplies for Dorm 'B' Annex have been purchased.
- To ensure that the Centre is self-sufficient in water supply, one new borehole was drilled to add to the pool of water supply at the centre. The Water system redesigning is currently underway to improve the flow of water to the various facilities. Three elevated concrete stands have been constructed behind the

White House where large poly-tanks would be located to smoothen the flow of water to the other facilities.

- Total Revenue for the period was approximately GH\$55,000.00. Due to the COVID-19 situation, all activities at the Centre were cancelled thus reducing revenue flow for the year.
- New roofing sheets and other supplies were procured to reroof Dormitory B. The work was completed in November 2019.
- The Main Auditorium was upgraded by replacing the old wooden windows with louvre frames and glass blades. This was completed in November 2019.

G. Sector Initiatives

- The South East Ghana Sector developed a DONATION project to encourage members to donate any amount ranging from GhC1.00 to GhC1,000.00 weekly, monthly, quarterly and annually to Sector activities. The areas to receive donations are:
 - Evangelism and Discipleship
 - Christian Education
 - Mission Trips
 - Rural Ministers
 - Sector Head VisitationOne person has already donated GHS 900.00 in support of Rural Ministers.

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

The goal of this strategic objective is to improve the quality and competence of Human Resources (Ministers and Workers) of the Convention and the engagement of experienced lay professionals in Convention initiatives and pastoral ministry. To this end various activities were engaged in to achieve the set objective.

A. Ministerial Training

- During the year, the Presidency renegotiated our scholarship programme with McCormick University in Chicago for Master's in Theological Studies. The scholarship was offered to Master Frank Fosu of Trinity Baptist Church, Patasi, Kumasi, a NUBS alumnus. Unfortunately, due the COVID-19 pandemic, he has not been able to leave for the US.
- The Convention continued with its sponsorship of 2 Ministers for PhD programmes in South Africa and at KNUST.

B. Staff Professional Training

- Pastor Albert Foli, the Accounts Officer at the Secretariat is being sponsored to do an MBA in Accounting at GIMPA.

- Ms. Michelle Addai the Personal Assistant of the Vice President, Administration is pursuing a Master's in Business Administration programme at GIMPA. This is a self-sponsored programme. (Have graduated)
- Mrs. Stella Laryea of the Human Resource/Admin Unit of the Convention is also under sponsorship to pursue an MBA in Human Resource Management at GIMPA. (Have graduated)
- The Vice-President Administration is pursuing a Ph.D in Administration, Governance and Leadership at GIMPA. This is a self-sponsored programme.
- The Administrator of the Baptist Vocational Training Centre participated in a training programme organized by the Council for Technical Education Training (COTVET) in partnership with the German Development Cooperation.
- The management of the Baptist Vocational Training Centre organized a ten-day Competency and Psychological Basis of Teaching and Learning workshop for the teaching staff at the Centre.

C. Staff Ministry Support Training

- Some Evangelism and Missions Department staff with the help of Great Commission Movements were trained in digital evangelism and how to use Social Media for evangelism and other ministries.
- EMD organized a day's Evangelism and Missions Consultation on 14th September 2019 with the Sector Heads, Home Missionaries and Sector Evangelists. It was facilitated by the Vice President - Ministries.
- A virtual library for EMD staff was uploaded with e-books, training materials and articles to help minimize their need for training tools.
- The BREDA Director represented the Convention at the launch of the Greater Accra Committee of Teen Challenge. This is an initiative of the Assemblies of God Church that seeks to apply biblical principles to help combat the upsurge of illicit drug addiction in Ghana. We are exploring collaboration with this ministry.
- BREDA participated in a workshop organized by the Christian Council of Ghana on plastic recovery. The workshop sought to build a network of religious bodies to create awareness about the environment and provide practical solutions to solve the plastic waste menace in the country

D. Discipleship Training

- One hundred and eight (108) persons were trained by the Mid Ghana Sector Evangelist on how to effectively communicate their faith and begin discipleship ministries.
- Forty-five (45) key leaders in the Tatale area were trained in how to share the Gospel effectively.
- About one hundred (100) church leaders including Pastors were trained during the EMD short- term mission to the Liberty Baptist Association.
- The Northern Ghana Sector Head conducted a training retreat for 9 area leaders of the North Eastern Mission Field at Yakubupe near Salaga in October 2019.
- The Northern Sector organized a 3-day training in Story Telling (Orality) in September 2019 at Tamale for 30 participants drawn from the Dagbanli, Gonja, Konkomba, Mampruli, Gurune and Kusaal speaking people groups. The 3-day training was led by Madam Beth Armes (IMB) while the cost of the training was borne by Rev Alan Locke and Madam Beth Armes.

E. Children's Ministry Training

- Two training sessions were organized for Children's Ministry teachers on *-Basic Course in Child Evangelism and Discipleship* in South West and South East Sectors. A total of 43 churches and 93 delegates participated in the seminar.

F. Men's Ministry Training

- A Leadership training facilitated by Rev. Bennet Elvis Niboi was organised for all Baptist Men's Ministry National Executive Committee members to educate them on the 10-year Strategic plan of the Convention.
- The Royal Ambassadors had a three-day (6-8 March 2020) leadership clinic at Grace Baptist Church, Amakom in Kumasi. Afterwards, the Royal Ambassadors did about 30 minutes evangelism walk around the Grace Baptist Church Premises and won some souls for Christ.

G. Institute of Emerging Leaders Africa (IELA)

- *The Mid-Ghana and South-West Ghana Sector in collaboration with the Institute of Emerging Leaders, Africa organized a 3-day training for some Pastors and Leaders in the Sector. 35 persons participated in the programme*
- The Vice President (Administration) used the training session to speak on the retirement scheme for Pastors which was well received.
- Other training programmes were suspended due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

H. Workers Conference

- The theme for the 2019 Workers Conference was “Towards a Better Sunday School”. It was held on November 16, 2019.
- The Conference discussed some critical issues affecting Christian Education in the Convention under the following topics: Building Effective Teacher, Teaching Standards, Evaluating Content Material Being Used in the New Converts Class, Baptismal and New Members’ Classes etc. Standardization of Sunday School Literature and Enhancing the CEA Department to serve the fundamental needs of our Churches.

I. Transitions

During year under review, several of our members were called to glory. They include:

- Rev. Thomas Sayibu Imoro, the Head of the Tahima Baptist Association who passed on June 5th, 2020 at the Korle-Bu Teaching Hospital in Accra after a short illness. He was buried on 27th June in Tamale.
- Mrs. Dweteh, President of the Baptist Ministers Wives Association
- Rev. Paul Ametewey - South-West Ghana Sector
- Rev. Kyeremah Williams of Calvary Baptist Church, Daboase- South-West Ghana Sector
- Rev. Mark Asare of Upper Room Baptist Church, Nyarkrom- South West Ghana Sector
- Rev. Albert Donkor, Kingsway Baptist Church- Mid-Ghana Sector
- Rev. Dr. Edward Osei-Bonsu, the Immediate Past Head Pastor of Lifeway Community Baptist Church, East Legon.
- Rev. David N. Ocansey, the Immediate Past General Secretary of the Ghana Baptist Convention

7.0 STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 6: PASTORAL SUPPORT

There were several initiatives undertaken to ensure that we significantly improve the level of remuneration, the retirement/end-of-service package, and general conditions of service for Convention Ministers on retirement. They include:

A. Personal Retirement Scheme Seminar

- Under the auspices of the Conference President, the Vice-President, Administration of the Ghana Baptist Convention organized a seminar in three Sectors, namely Mid-Ghana, South-East and South-West Sectors to enlighten members on the new Personal Retirement Scheme being proposed by the Conference. These meetings were successful in all three Sectors.

- Due to COVID-19, the Northern Sector is yet to have their turn. The entire scheme was expected to have kick started after this year's Annual Conference.

B. Support to Ministers

- As part of the Presidential initiative, Rev. Ebenezer Quainoo formerly of Dodowa Baptist Church, now in the USA provided financial support for five retired ministers of the Convention.
- A philanthropist supported the South-West Sector by donating a brand-new motor bicycle to Rev. Seth Nyarko of the Blessing Baptist Church, Ajumako Besease to facilitate his work since he was overseeing 2 churches (Blessing Baptist Church and Grace Baptist Church, Ajumako).
- Through the same philanthropist, 5 Pastors in the Sector are being supported with 200 Ghana Cedis each month to top up their stipend through the Sector Office.

C. Retired Ministers

- Rev. Emmanuel Asante-Kyei of Resurrection Baptist Church -Kade retired on 14th December, 2019.

Rev. Emmanuel Narh of Calvary Baptist Church -Aburi retired from the Church on 15th December 2019.

From the Ministers Conference office, the following are the list of Ministers who are retiring in 2020, subject to remaining at post by contract extension according to the Church Guide:

| NO. | NAME | YRS. OF SERV. | |
|-----|--------------------------------|---------------|--|
| 1. | Rev. Yaw Ofori | 40 | |
| 2. | Rev. Daniel Lamptey | 36 | |
| 3. | Rev. Michael Teiko Kwevi | 36 | |
| 4. | Rev. Mark Nti-Frimpong | 35 | |
| 5. | Rev. Kingsley Kofi Debrah | 28 | |
| 6. | Rev. Gyau Apraku | 27 | |
| 7. | Rev. Dan Kafui Dartey | 21 | |
| 8. | Rev. Albert Owusu Ansah | 21 | |
| 9. | Rev. Emmanuel Kwabena Mustapha | 20 | |
| 10. | Rev. John Ernest Kwofie | 20 | |
| 11. | Rev. Musah Mahama | 18 | |
| 12. | Rev. Alfred Appiah | 17 | |

| | | | |
|-----|----------------------------|----|--|
| 13. | Rev. Robert Kwabena Asante | 15 | |
| 14. | Rev. Jane Constance Sackey | 7 | |

D. Retried Baptist Ministers Association (REBAM)

- The Retired Baptist Ministers' Association (REBAMA) provides an avenue for Ministers who retire in our denomination to fellowship with their colleague Ministers on retirement.
- The Association pursues the welfare of its members as well as play roles that promotes the progress and development of both the Ministers' Conference and the Ghana Baptist Convention.
- A total amount of GHS1,500.00 was spent on welfare and medical support for its members during the year.
- Total Funeral Donations made during the past year was GHC500.00

An amount of GHC6,200.00 was disbursed to 28 Retirees as Christmas gifts or financial assistance during the period under review

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

During the year under review, there were activities carried out with the intention to strengthen and uplift the prayer and spiritual foundations of the Convention, its Associations and member churches.

1. National Prayer Conference

- The Twelfth (12th) National Prayer Conference was held in October 2019. A total of three hundred and fifty (350) Pastors, Deacons and Church members participated in the Conference.
- The 13th National Prayer Conference, which was scheduled to take place at the Baptist Women's Retreat Centre- Ejura from Wednesday March 18, 2020 to Saturday March 21, 2020 was cancelled because of Covid-19.

2. Virtual Prayer Meetings

- The Evangelism and Missions Department organized virtual prayer meetings on zoom and via telephone with the Prayer Teams across the country during the COVID-19 shut down period to pray for the Convention, her member churches and the country.
- Some churches used small groups and family units to maintain fellowship during the lockdown period.
- Some congregations used social media, FM stations and Shalom Broadcasting Network (SBN) Television to meet the spiritual needs of their members and the general public as well as for evangelism during the COVID-19 period

- Several churches however came to a literal standstill due to intimidation from the District Assemblies and traditional authorities in enforcing the COVID-19 protocols.
- Online fasting and prayer services to strengthen the spirituality of members was organised by the South-East Sector from 10th - 12th April and 29th - 31st May, 2020. Participation was very good and members were happy about the programme.
- The Sector also organised Online Bible study classes to boost the knowledge of the Youth in the Word of God. The maiden edition was held on Tuesday, 21st March, 2020.
- The South-West Sector held a one-day prayer retreat for all the Association Heads, auxiliary leadership and deacons at the Redemption Baptist Church where supplication was made for the Convention, the Sector and all the Associations.
- A three-day National Prayer Session led by Rev. Ray Degadzor, Rev. Felix Owusu all of Calvary Baptist Church, Adabraka and Pastor Emmanuel Tetteh of the Baptist International Worship Centre, Baptist House was held on SBN TV during the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic.

9.0. STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 8: SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES

The Convention implemented some socio-economic development programs that effectively complemented the evangelism and mission agenda of the Convention.

A. Support for Hole-in-heart Patient

- Master Franklin Awuah Okrah a hole-in-heart patient successfully underwent surgery at the Korle-Bu Teaching hospital through the efforts of the Baptist Relief and Development Agency.
- The 3 Foundations of Media General paid the full cost of the surgery while BREDA supported Franklin's upkeep while at the hospital for the surgery.

B. Distribution of Used items

- BREDA successfully distributed 21 large size bags (Ghana-must-go) of used items to assist the vulnerable people in our local churches. Reports received so far indicate that the items were greatly beneficial to the churches.

C. COVID-19 Support to Churches

During the initial stages of the COVID-19 period the Government through the Christian Council of Ghana, assisted the Convention to meet some needs of our members.

- Several food items and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) were distributed to our Churches through the Sector Offices.
- The Ghana Association of Bankers donated about 750 food packs to the Convention which was also distributed through the Sector Offices. Each package contained a 5 kg bag of rice, 1 litre oil, 5 sachets of Tasty Tom Tomatoes paste, 6 canned fish, half Olonka of Gari, sugar and biscuits.
- The packages were distributed as follows:
 - Northern Ghana Sector - 150
 - South-West Ghana Sector - 150
 - Mid-Ghana Sector - 200
 - South East Ghana Sector - 200
 - Convention staff - 50
- The Baptist World Alliance gave the Convention an amount of \$1000 to support needy families during the period. The amount was used to buy some food items and PPEs to meet the needs of 56 families in the Nsawam Zone.
- Several Churches across the country supported some members within their congregations during the period.
- The Tema Central Baptist Association built a Bore Hole for the people and church in Bundase during the year.

D. Baptist Child Development Programme-Tamale

- Leadership of the Baptist Child Development Programme changed during the year. The Executive Council Chairman, Rev. Abu Mahama (Rtd.) handed over to Rev. Jonas Nantogma, Head Pastor of First Baptist Church, Tamale while the Project Leader Rev. Sayibu handed over to Mr. Paul Napari a Project Management Specialist with USAID. The new officers met the Convention President and BREDA Director to foster better collaboration between Baptist Child and the Convention.
- Training in liquid soap and Parazone making was held for members in Lingbinsi to equip them with income generating skills during the EMD mission trip to the area.

E. Baptist Health Service

1. COVID-19 Donations and Support

- Christian Health Association of Ghana (CHAG) made five (5) different donations of assorted PPEs to various CHAG facilities to support COVID-19 activities. All facilities within the Ghana Baptist Health Services benefited from these donations.
- The International Missions Board donated an amount of US \$5,000 for the procurement of PPEs to be distributed to all Baptist Health Facilities.
- Other Baptist Auxiliaries and groups (WMU, Men's Fellowship, Youth Department and Accra North Association) made donations to the Baptist Health Services to support COVID-19 programmes.
- The Global Medical Aid, Denmark facilitated by the Ghana Ambassador to Denmark, H.E Mrs. Amerley Ollenu Awua-Asamoah donated two 40-footer Containers of Medical items to the Baptist Health Service during the period. These donations included Medical Items, Office Furniture and Accessories, PPEs and other consumables. These items are gradually being distributed to the various Baptist Facilities.
- Through the intervention of Nana Opuni Dua Oware, Chief of Opuniase, the Medico Lions Group of France and Germany shipped an assortment of medical equipment including a Dental set, Eye Clinic set, several hundreds of medicated glasses, and other items to the GBHS.

2. CHAG Staff Postings

- In February and June 2020 CHAG posted a total of Nine (9) Health workers of various categories to the BHS Network. They were made up of 4 Registered General Nurses (RGNs), 2 Registered Midwives (RMs), 1 Medical Officer, 1 Physician Assistant and 1 Biomedical Laboratory Scientist. CHAG again posted 52 nurses, midwives, and other health professional to the Baptist Health Service in late July 2020

3. CCBMC-Gyinyase

- Work is progressing steadily to put finishing touches to the hospital building to enable clinical work to commence immediately. Two floors of the four-floor facility are almost ready for operation as an Eye referral Centre, with the help of donated Eye Medical Equipment from the Global Medical Aid. The project came to a standstill due to the death of Dr. Kwadwo Attakora Ansah, a Consultant Ophthalmologist who was the lead person on the project.

4. BMC, Abuakwa

- Plans have been put in place to continue the upper floors of the administrative and maternity blocks of BMC (Abuakwa) through the support of the National Baptist Convention of America.

- Floor plans and estimates covering the structural frame for the construction have been submitted by the Estates Department.

The project is to equip the centre to have more beds for an upgrade to a full 'hospital' status by the Ghana Health Service.

5. **CCBHC-Atwima, Mim**

The Baptist Health Service has regained full control over the running of the Atwima Mim facility from the Ghana Health Service who were operating it as a CHPS Compound under the supervision of the Abuakwa Government Health Centre.

- The facility is an accredited CHAG Facility duly registered with its Budget Management Code. We have posted and stationed various Health and Administrative Staff at the facility.
- Rev Asuming of the Calvary Charismatic Baptist Church, London led by Bishop Francis Sarpong, who built the facility and gave it to the Ghana Baptist Convention, made a donation of Fifteen (15) Veronica Buckets and other assorted PPEs as their support to the Facility and the Mim Community to combat the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

6. **Tanoah Baptist Medical Centre:**

- This facility was closed and clinical activities suspended as a result of a violent burglary attack on one of the Nurses and the residence of the Physician Assistant in late November 2019. It was re-opened in February 2020.
- One major initiative that boosted attendance is an Eye clinic which took off in April 2020.
- The facility received a forty-footer consignment of Medical items from Medico Lions Group of France and Germany in April 2020. The items included, various Eye set units, a Dental unit, Hospital beds and Mattresses, various Eyeglasses, and many other medical items which are meant to be distributed to all the Baptist Facilities.
- Just before the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, the facility was selected as one of the first facilities to be accessed under the Safe-Care Program initiated by CHAG in collaboration with Pharmaccess.

7. **Nzema Baptist Hospital**

- Despite the COVID-19 scare, the facility recorded a steady increase in attendance across board.

- The facility was added to a CHAG / Pharmaccess piloting program called **MED4ALL** that seeks to provide quality drugs that will be available, affordable, and accessible to all Health facilities. Currently, four (4) pharmaceutical companies are on board the program with each company having specific drugs they supply. Being a part of this pilot program has taken off all the extra costs that makes drugs pricey and in addition, there is a 5% discount on the cost of drugs which makes the drugs more affordable yet maintaining its quality.

8. Baptist Medical Centre - Nalerigu

- The total bed capacity of the facility is 305.
- There was a total of 480 staff working at the facility as at June 2020
- OPD attendance from January to June 2020 was 31,204 with 5661 admission during the same period.
- The table below shows other statistics during the reporting period.

| | |
|-------------------------------|--------------|
| MAJOR SURGERIES | 671 |
| MINOR SURGERIES | 2,451 |
| MATERNAL DEATHS | 2 |
| CAESARIAN SECTIONS | 402 |
| TOTAL BIRTH DELIVERIES | 1475 |

- Total indebtedness of National Health Insurance to the facility as at June 2020 was GHS2,757,121.91.

9. Sadler Baptist Medical Centre (Kumasi Academy)

- During the year under review, 3 Registered Nurses, 1 Pharmacy Technician and 8 Enrolled nurses were posted to the centre.
- The facility was upgraded with new beds and other furniture during the year. The facility became a major support to Kumasi Academy in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.

10. Coast For Christ Baptist Hospital

- There has been a long standing litigation over ownership of the facility with Rev. Dr. Edward Enim, the matter has been referred to our lawyers

11. National Baptist Convention of America's (NBCA) Support

- During the 2019 Annual Session, Rev. Dr. Samuel Tolbert Jnr. The President of the National Baptist Convention of America made a 5-year pledge commitment of \$7,500.00 a month effective October 2019 to support the Baptist Health Service.
- We are pleased to report that the NBCA has honoured this commitment since October 2019 as promised.
- However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic and its attendant effect on fundraising, NBCA reduced the support in April 2020 to \$5,500.00 per month and promise that when things return to normal, the support will revert to the original pledge.
- This support has been a major boost to the Baptist Health Service especially during the COVID-19 period as costs of running our facilities increased tremendously.
- The support also helped with the payment of freight, duty and port charges for the five containers of medical items cleared from the ports as well as medicines cleared through the airport.
- All our Medical Equipment donors require that we pay for the freight of sea shipping except air freights that were all covered fully by the Global Medical Aid of Denmark.

11. Baptist Guest House

- Business was brisk at the Baptist Guest House until March when the COVID-19 pandemic struck the world. The situation led to the sudden cancellation of reservations. The subsequent closure of our country's borders, together with the closure of schools and stay home orders affected the hospitality industry adversely.
- It is hoped that now that the country's borders are opened the situation might improve.

10.0 STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 9: EDUCATION

The Convention continued to implement educational programs that educate, develop and train individuals to excel in influencing and impacting society through integration of academic learning and Christian faith.

A. Northern Ghana Baptist Theological Seminary

- Rev. Dr. Isaac Wuni, the Principal of the Northern Ghana Baptist Theological Seminary retired on 7th December 2019.

- He was replaced by Rev. Michael Aidoo, the former Dean of the School of Theology and Ministry of the Ghana Baptist University College, Abuakwa.
- 83 students were enrolled (79 males, 4 female) during the 2019-2020 academic year.
- Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the school was closed in March 2020. However, students were called back in July 2020 to complete the second Semester when the COVID-19 restrictions were lifted for schools to reopen.
- Due to Covid-19, the date for graduation was delayed until early October 2020. A total of 19 students graduated from Tamale Campus and 12 from the Tema Campus.
- A two year's Diploma in Ministry instead of three years as it used to be was approved by the Seminary Board.
- Ghana Baptist University College has agreed for NGBTS to run Diploma in Theology for two years in Tamale.

B. Baptist Vocational Training Centre

- A total of 73 girls are currently enrolled in the 2019-20 academic year at the Centre. There are 31 ex-Trokosi girls and 42 less privileged girls.
- The 31 ex-Trokosi girls include 10 ex-Trokosi girls rescued from the shines between October 2019 and March 2020
- 47 girls wrote the NTVI Examination at different levels in 2020. They include 21 ex-Trokosi girls.

C. English Literacy Training

- Three staff of BVTC received training in English literacy to help the girls improve their English literacy skills. The training was based on USAID basic school curriculum and it was facilitated by Ms. Rovaughna Richardson with support from a staff of USAID.
- An assessment of the proficiency levels of the girls has been conducted to assist the implementation of the training needs of each student.

D. After-care Programme

- 10 girls benefited from two contact sessions of the after-care programme being carried out by International Ministries Missionary, Ms. Rovaughna Richardson. The aim of this programme is to increase effective reintegration of former Trokosi girls and support other challenged graduates through the provision of Life Skills groups, case

management and Counselling. The girls have so far learned about finding purpose, creating vision boards, and visualizing their dreams.

E. Accreditation and Support

- BVTC has been fully registered as Council for Technical Vocational Education Training (COTVET) provider. The centre is currently completing Accreditation documents. The Accreditation would enable BVTC to offer competence-based-training for trade professionals and their apprentices. This is a programme being run by the German Development Agency - DIZ.
- A team from German International Television Station, DW TV visited the centre to interact with management, staff, and students. They carried out interviews for a short documentary on the Trokosi Practice and the intervention of BVTC to be telecast on DW TV and radio. The visit of the DW TV team was at the instance of Soronko Academy, a social enterprise organization based in Accra that seeks to train less privileged girls in ICT.
- This partnership was facilitated by Dr. Victor Atiemo-Obeng, a Ghanaian based in the USA and a friend of the Centre.

F. Donations and Support

- During the year under review the Baptist Vocational Training Centre received various donations within the Convention to support her activities.
1. Justice (Mrs.) Sittie provided funds for the purchase of a poly tank and GHS5,250.00
 2. The Tema Central Baptist Association WMU donated food items to support the Centre.
 3. The National WMU office donated food items and personal effects to the Centre.
 4. Edwin Animiley - GHS1,000.00 and some items in kind
 5. Kwabena Asante - GHS1,000.00
 6. Jemima Kwarteng - GHS100.00
 7. Accra South Baptist Association WMU donated food items
 8. South Volta Baptist Association donated some food items
 9. Mrs. Ahiabor donated food items
 10. Adenta Baptist Church donated an Oven, 2 cartons of fish, and 25 pieces of 5kilo rice. The church also donated beans to the staff during the COVID-19 lockdown.

The following donations came from individuals and organisation outside the Convention.

1. Bolton Foods Tema donated 5 bags of rice, cooking oil, fish, 2 cartons of milo and This-Way chocolate drink to the Centre.
2. The Rotary Club Accra-South presented items worth GHS 21,380.00 to the Centre. The items included:
 - a. 10 sewing machines
 - b. 5 hair dryers
 - c. 5 ovens
 - d. 4 cookers
 - e. 1 Kente loom and a chair
 - f. 2 batik design rollers
 - g. 10 table and chairs.
3. The Rotary Club also provided GHC 14,400 for capacity building of instructors in the area of competence based TVET.
4. The Centre received care items and some teaching and learning materials from Ms. Sherica Spencer of UK.

G. Early Child Development Centres (ECDC)

- Construction of two classroom pavilion for Adave ECDC with funding from the WMU of Tema Central Baptist Association resumed after a land dispute stalled the project for a while. The structure has been roofed now.
- WMU national office provided school uniforms for all the children under the Mafi ECDC project. About 308 school uniforms and some used footwear were distributed in December 2019. The WMU provided the children with lunch during the day of presentation.
- A logo for ECDCs has been designed to give a common identity to Baptist schools in the Mafi area.
- In consultation with the Denominational Board, approval has been given for the renaming of the schools under the Mafi Project after the illustrious son of the Convention (Rev. Evans Atiamoah). Rev Atiamoah was the pioneer Missionary who started the Convention's Mission activities within the Mafi area. He died through a motor accident during his wok in the area.
- A training session was organized for all the 15 teachers of the ECDCs under the Mafi Project. The session sought to build the capacity of the teachers in lesson planning and classroom management. The session was used to introduce the teachers to the new curriculum for schools in

Ghana. A Circuit Supervisor of the South Tongu Municipal Education Service facilitated the training.

H. Baptist Education Complex, Asokore

- The Baptist Education Complex began operations in October 2018 with 7 children. Currently there are 70 students in the school.
- A major challenge facing the school is a means of transport. A lot of people have shown interest in the school but the location (outskirt of the town) is discouraging them from enrolling. A means of transport to pick and drop students to and from school will be a great advantage to the project. We solicit your prayers and support.

I. School Supplies and Donations

- BREDA received 7 boxes of school supplies and toiletries from the Columbia Baptist Fellowship during the period under review. These donations were facilitated by the President of the Convention.
- The supplies were distributed to the Baptist Vocational Training Centre and the Early Childhood Development Centres under the Mafi Project.
- The National leadership of WMU donated 868 pre-school and primary level textbooks and workbooks to BREDA. The books cut across all subjects and classes at the preschool and basic levels. They will be donated to some rural schools.

J. Kumasi Academy

- Rev Sylvester Osei-Wusuh retired as headmaster of Kumasi Academy in February this year. A fitting retirement service will be held for Rev. Sylvester Osei-Wusuh when the COVID-19 pandemic situation makes it possible to do so.
- Mr. Samuel Gato a member of Agape Baptist Church, Ahinkro Ashanti is the new Headmaster of the school.
- A 34-unit Water Closet project began by the Convention was partially handed over to the school authorities in November 2019. Although the project had not been fully completed at the time, the pressure on the school to ensure students were comfortable going into the last Gold Track of 2019 compelled us to handover the project at that time.
- Doors for all the 34 WC cubicles were fixed and nettings were provided for the windows. There are a few things that must be done to bring the project to a desired completion.

K. Ghana Baptist University College (GBUC)

Student Population

- The Ghana Baptist University College runs four (4) Schools with a current student population of One Thousand and Seventy-Eight (1,078). The number of students per schools stands as follows:

| | | |
|----|--|-------|
| 1. | School of Theology and Ministry | - 208 |
| 2. | School of Business | - 715 |
| 3. | School of Art and Social Science Education | - 138 |
| 4. | School of Nursing | - 17 |

L. Faculty and Staff Development

- Two lecturers at the University College completed their doctoral studies during the period under review.
 1. Rev. John Kwasi Fosu completed his PhD at the University of Hamburg in Germany. He specialized in New Testament studies.
 2. Rev. Samuel Kyei-Prempeh completed his Ph.D in Leadership from Business University of Costa Rica.
 3. A total of 14 lecturers at the school are currently pursuing their doctoral degree programmes

M. Donations and Support

1. Cash Donations

- The University received various donations during the year through the effort of the University President. A total cash donation of \$1600, books and a laptop were received from the following:
 1. Abundant Life Baptist Church, New York - \$1,000.00
 2. Solid Rock Baptist Church, Denver - \$500.00
 3. Deacon Eck, Leader of Peace Baptist Church, Baltimore - \$100.00

2. Book Donations

- Pastor and Mrs. Obeng Agyapong of Abundant Life Baptist Church, New York, USA donated 145 nursing books to the University
- Rev John Asante Bio of New Creation Baptist Church, Worcester, USA donated 120 nursing and theology books.

3. Laptop Donation

- Rev Daniel Addai Smith of International Baptist Worship Centre, Toronto, Canada donated a laptop to the School of Theology and Ministry.

4. New Initiatives

- Some new initiatives were introduced into the University during the year for which some are bearing fruit. They included:

1. Ph.D Programmes

GBUC is now a Centre for Ph.D studies for Sumy State University (SSU) of Ukraine. Early this year, some students went to Ukraine for a two-week orientation. For the sake of those who could not go to Ukraine, two lecturers from SSU came to Ghana to teach nineteen (19) PhD students.

2. A **Research and Innovation** Directorate has been established to foster research at GBUC.
3. **Food Safety and Hygiene** programme was organised in collaboration with Manchester Metropolitan University for Senior High School matrons. This course was validated by Highfield Qualifications, UK.
4. **Palliative Care:** In collaboration with Oxford Brookes University, UK, GBUC organised a one-week Palliative Care course at the School of Nursing at Abuakwa in September 2019 which was attended by 36 participants.
5. **Pre-Medicine Programme:** GBUC is in collaboration talks with the Sumy State University (SSU) in Ukraine to start a Pre-Medicine programme. This programme will add Medical Biology, Medical Physics, Latin, and Russian/Ukrainian languages to the present curriculum of our Nursing programme. After completion of this programme, students can then continue full Medical School programme at SSU.

Refurbishment of IT Laboratory

- The IT Laboratory on the City campus has been upgraded with the purchase of new computing equipment and other accessories. This development has strengthened the new curriculum of the Business School. Several IT-leveraged, business courses have been introduced in the new curriculum.

Accra Campus

- With the approval of the University Council, GBUC is in the process of acquiring a facility in Accra for its Campus.
- The Accra Campus will be run in partnership with a businessman who owns the facility.

Adonai Theological Institute

- The of process of backing Adonai an off campus of GBUC in Cape Coast continued during the year per the decision of the 2019 Annual Session. It is hoped that the process will be completed by the close of the year.

11.0 CONCLUSION

We will like to express our sincere thanks to God, the Denominational Board, all Staff of the Convention, Pastors and Member Churches and Institutions of the Convention for your prayers, counsel and support during the year under review.

May the Lord bless you all.

Submitted by:

Rev. Dr. Ernest Adu-Gyamfi