

STATE OF THE CHURCH ADDRESS

Delivered By The Chairman, Apostle Eric Nyamekye, At The Opening Service Of The 16Th Session Of The Extraordinary Council Meetings Held At Pentecost Convention Centre, Gomoa-Fetteh, On Wednesday, May 8, 2019

1. SALUTATION

The General Secretary

The International Missions Director

Members of the Executive Council of The Church of Pentecost

Apostle Professor Opoku Onyinah, our immediate past Chairman

Delegates from the Elim Pentecostal Churches, UK

Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, National and Area Heads

Ministry Directors and Executive Committees

Ministers of The Church of Pentecost

Chairmen of Committees and Boards

Elders' Representatives

Invited Guests

Retired Ministers of The Church of Pentecost

Members of the Media

Ladies and Gentlemen

2. WELCOME

Dearly Beloved,

May grace and peace of our Father God and our Lord Jesus Christ, be with us all!

On behalf of the Executive Council, I warmly welcome you all to the opening service of the 16th Session of the Extraordinary Council Meetings of The Church of Pentecost in the name of God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.

I would like to extend a very special welcome to our friends, Pastors Duncan Clark and David Newton, who are here as special delegates from our sister church, Elim Pentecostal Churches, UK; Sirs, you are most welcome.

To our Area heads, national heads and missionaries who have travelled from very far and near places to join us in these meetings, I extend a very hearty welcome to you all.

I also welcome all other councillors, observers and well-wishers who have taken time off their schedules to be with us at this opening session; you are very welcome.

I would like to implore all councillors to fully participate and contribute on issues that will be tabled for discussion during the meetings.



3. ASSUMPTION OF DUTY

I assumed the administration of this church on August 25, 2018, taking over from Apostle Prof. Opoku Onyinah. Apostle Onyinah was retired honourably on August 26, 2018 after serving as Chairman of this church for 10 years. I am happy to inform you that, Aps. Prof. Opoku Onyinah (Rtd) is in this meeting.

4. APPRECIATION

4.1 GENERAL

Ladies and gentlemen, I take this opportunity to first of all express my deepest appreciation to God for how far He has brought this church. We can all together testify of His awesome grace upon the church since its inception. May His name be praised, now and forevermore. My heartfelt appreciation also goes to the Executive Council members for their love, commitment and support during the period under review. I would like to specially extend my deep gratitude to the office holders within the Executive Council – Apostle Alexander Nana Yaw Kumi-Larbi, the General Secretary and Apostle Emmanuel Gyesi-Addo, the International Missions Director for their selflessness and diligence. I also acknowledge Apostle David Tetey Tekper for deputising for me and the General Secretary when we were on official duties outside the country.

Area and national heads, missionaries, directors of ministries, the rector of Pentecost University College, the principal of Pentecost Theological Seminary and ministers on secondment to the head office are also appreciated for their contributions to the growth and development of the church. We thank God for our ministers on secondment to para-church organisations-the Ghana Armed Forces, the Ghana Prisons Service and the Ghana Evangelism Committee. These brothers are doing very well and I encourage them to continue to distinguish themselves in the various institutions in which they are serving.

Thanks also go to all ministers, presbyters, chairmen and members of boards and committees, as well as all other officers of the church, for your sacrifices, passion and love towards the work of the Lord. Your labour of love will not be in vain.

The staff at the Chairman, General Secretary and International Missions Director's offices are commended for their dedication to duty. The effective running of affairs at the headquarters and the various administrative areas of the church is as a result of the dedication and diligence of our

hardworking management and staff. We therefore acknowledge their commitment. May the Lord continue to bless them all!

The commitment of the entire membership of the church cannot be underestimated. They are highly commended for their hard work and dedication. May grace and peace from God our Father continue to abound to you in all your endeavours! Now shall we turn our attention to the State of the Church address.

The State of the Church address provides a report of our stewardship for the year 2018, and as well addresses some expectations from our Vision 2023 agenda of "Possessing the Nations". In reading out this address, let me first of all pay special tribute to my predecessor, Apostle Professor Opoku Onyinah (Rtd.), part of whose tenure of administration fell within the period under consideration.

Dearly beloved, the year 2018, like all the past years, witnessed massive support by many members of this church in various ways. Some supported financially, others put up church buildings, bought parcels of land, donated vehicles and evangelism equipment to the church.

In this regard, I would like to mention and acknowledge a few of them as we shall not be able to mention all here:

- Elders Dr. Joseph Siaw Agyepong (CEO of Jospong Group of Companies), Dr. Samuel Amo Tobbin (CEO of Tobinco Pharmacy), Prince Amoah of Kwadaso Area, Nana K. Gyasi of Suame Area, Patrick Danso of Kaneshie Area and Mrs. Eunice Asuma-Hene of Teshie Nungua Area continued to support the church in the payment of tithes and other financial commitments including the putting up of church buildings, mission houses and purchasing of vehicles.

4.2 CHURCH BUILDINGS CONSTRUCTED AND FURNISHED; PARCELS OF LAND AND BUILDING MATERIALS DONATED TO SOME DISTRICTS AND ASSEMBLIES

- Elder Patrick Danso and his wife, Dns. Gifty Danso of Abeka District, Kaneshie Area, donated a total amount of GHS194,700.00 towards several projects in Akim Asene District, Akim Oda Area.
- Elder Martin Dar and his wife of Michel Camp District, Ashaiman Area, purchased and donated a parcel of land worth GHS150,000 to Michel Camp Central for the construction of a car park, an ultra-modern conference hall and other facilities.

- Elder Prince Amoah of Asuoeyboah District, Kwadaso Area, supported Walewale Area with GHS120,000. This was used to purchase two (2) plots of land for the Walewale English Assembly and construct sixteen (16) laterite church buildings.
- Pastor John Mensah Yanney and Mrs. Rosina Yanney of Community One District, Tema Area, constructed a 350-seater church auditorium for the Alla-Bokazo Assembly in Anyinasi District, Axim Area. They also donated 100 plastic chairs and other items to the Assembly.
- Mr. Ntiamoah Kwaku Ahenkan, a member of Asene Central and based in U.S.A, donated a total of GHS91,300.00 to support some assemblies acquire chairs and roof their church building in Akim Asene District, Akim Oda Area.
- Deaconess Rose Appiah of Kurofofrom District built and donated a church building to the District.
- Pastor Samuel and Mrs Winifred Edzii Davidson constructed washrooms made up of six (6) seats of water closet, urinals and bathrooms for the Akwatia central church, Asamankese Area. They also supplied metals for building burglar proof to guard the galleries of the church building. All these amounted to GHS51,192.00. They again constructed washroom facilities for the Pentecost Montessori School, Akwatia, at the cost of GHS27,620.00.
- Elder Daniel Workman Atsu from Nigeria roofed Nogokpo chapel in Agbozume District, Aflao Area, at a cost of GHS 24,300.00 and also converted a public toilet to a 4-seater bio-digestible toilet facility to the tune of GHS8,000.00 at Adawukope for the community.
- Dns. Dorcas Oppong donated GHS10,000.00 towards the purchase of a District vehicle for New Abirem District and also bore the labour cost of Ntronang Assembly ceiling work and roofing Sheets for Asewase Assembly pavilion at the cost of GHS30,000.00.
- Dcn. Godwin Adu and his wife, Dns. Rebecca Adu, constructed a urinal facility and children's pavilion for Ntronang Joy Assembly in New Abirem District, estimated at a cost of GHS30,000.00.
- Hon. Eld. Osei Kwadwo donated GHS20,000.00 and 100 bags of cement to Terchere District, Sunyani Area.
- Elder Nelson Martey donated building materials to the tune of GHS18,200.00 towards the Akpoti church building in Dawhenya District, Tema Area.

- Elder Dr. Ernest Tweneboah Koduah of PIWC Atomic, Madina Area, constructed three (3) laterite church buildings for some assemblies in Walelwale Area.
- Elder and Mrs. Arthur Dennison of PIWC Tesano donated roofing sheets worth GHS11,000.00 towards the Emmanuel Assembly church building project at Enyan Denkyira, Mankessim Area.
- Elder Asiamah of PIWC Atomic and his team drilled a borehole at the cost of GHS10,000 for the Nemahyiri community, a suburb of Lassia Tuolu District in Wa Area.
- Deaconess Juliana Buckman of Tarkwa Area, a native of Akwatia, donated an 80 by 100 feet plot of land valued at GHS10,000.00 to Gethsemane Assembly, Akwatia District in Asamankese Area.
- Elder Nana Bonya Kofi VI, chief of Basake, donated an acre of land to Awiebo Basake in Axim Area for their prayer grounds project.
- Apostle Ekow Badu and Mrs Joana Wood donated two (2) plots of land to Pramso Assembly in Jachie District, Asokwa Area.
- Mr. Frank Anim donated a double plot of land to the church for the construction of a new Mission House for Akroso District, Akim Oda Area.

4.3 VEHICLES DONATED TO SOME DISTRICTS

- Elder Samuel Amo Tobbin of Dr. Wyatt Assembly, La Area, donated two (2) brand new Nissan NP 300 Pick Ups and twelve (12) tricycles to the Missions Directorate.
- Elder Abraham Obeng, PIWC Odorkor, donated a Pontiac Vibe car with registration number GT 7773-18 valued at GHS 50,000 to the District. He has also made available a 46-seater KIA bus with registration number GN 582-18 for use by the District.
- Elder Samuel and Mrs. Gladys Fredua Agyemang of Teshie Nungua Area donated a brand new 2016 model Toyota highlander worth GHS 200,000.00 to Old Tafo District, New Tafo Area.
- Hon. Dr. Lord Oblitey Commey donated a brand-new Renault Captur car worth US\$37,300.00 to Lartebikorshie District.
- Mr. Yaw Amponsah Marfo (Co-Director for VIP Buses) and family of Sepe-Buokrom Central Assembly, New Tafo Area, donated a Hyundai County bus with registration number AS 7325-18, worth GHS150,000 to the New Tafo Area Women's Ministry.

- Elder Eric Amankrah of Kutukrom District, Bogoso Area, donated a Land Rover Defender vehicle with registration number GT 4013-R at the cost of GHS20,000.00 to the District.
- Brother Francis Abeiku of Bogoso Adwenpa District, Bogoso Area, donated his vehicle to Bogoso Adwenpa District as an interim District vehicle.

4.4 DONATION OF CASH, GENERATORS, PA SYSTEMS, SETS OF MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS AND OTHER ITEMS

- Mr. Yaw Amponsah Marfo (Co-Director for VIP Buses) and family of Sepe-Buokrom Central Assembly, New Tafo Area, donated GHS300,000.00 towards the continuation of the church building project of his Assembly.
- Accra Newtown District, La Area, purchased a Honda CRV (2018) vehicle with registration number GS 6361 -18 at a cost of GHS222,000. Elder Samuel Nana Amoh Tobin donated GHS150,000 for the purchase of the car.
- Elder Prince Amoah of Asuoyeboah District, Kwadaso Area, donated GHS150,000 to support leadership training activities and infrastructural development in some Districts in Yendi Area.
- Elder Abraham Obeng of PIWC Odorkor in Odorkor Area donated a PA system worth GHS145,000 to the District.
- Elder Prince Amoah of Asuoyeboah District supported Anhwiaso District's (Sefwi Bekwai Area) crusade with an amount of GHS100,000.00.
- Elder Seth Yaw and Deaconess Doris Yanum Peasa donated six (6) pieces of three 5.0 Horsepower floor standing air-conditioners and other valuable items to PIWC – Ho at a total cost of GHS66,641.00.
- At Wassa Simpa District in Tarkwa Area, Mr. Victor Gadri donated GHS50,000 towards the purchase of a District vehicle.
- Elder Dr. Samuel Amo Tobbin of Dr. Wyatt, Newtown District, La Area, donated GHS20,000.00 towards the mission house refurbishment in Akwatia District, Asamankese Area. He also donated GHS20,000.00 to support evangelistic activities in La Area.
- Elder John Arthur, Area deacon for Tarkwa, donated hospital equipment worth GHS35,000.00 to the Pentecost Hospital at Tarkwa.

- ❑ At Santasi District, Kwadaso Area, Elders Nana Boakye and Nti Amoakoh together donated GHS5,000.00 to 53 widows in the District and items worth GHS26,000.00 to the Prisons Service.
- ❑ Elder David Yentumi and wife of Dabokpa District, Tamale Area, donated GHS3,500 for the construction of a toilet facility at Hospital Assembly and also sponsored the completion of Kudula CBCB project at the cost of GHS18,000.00.
- ❑ In Lamashegu District, Elder Samuel Agyei donated a metal platform at the cost of GHS8,000 as well as four (4) new tyres at the cost of GHS2,000.00 to the District.
- ❑ Brother Godwin Binlinla of Mt. View Worship Centre, Kasoa Area, donated GHS15,300 towards the construction of their church building. Elder Amissah, also of Mt. View Worship Centre, donated GHS10,000 towards the same project.
- ❑ At Kasoa Galilea District, Kasoa Area, Deaconess Evelyn Dorman donated GHS10,000 towards the construction of their mission house.
- ❑ Brother Boateng of Kokrobite Central, Kasoa Area, contributed GHS10,000 to support the construction of their church building project.
- ❑ The Millennium Assembly church building project in Newtown District, Kasoa Area, received financial support of GHS20,000 each from Aps. Dr. S. K. Baidoo (rtd.) and Deaconess Esther Amoah.
- ❑ Deaconesses Joana Yeboah and Georgina Gyasi of A-Lang Worship Centre, Odorkor Area, donated ninety-six (96) exotic chairs at the cost of GHS21,120.00, a desktop computer and a 65" Nasco television worth GHS6,000.00 to the District.
- ❑ Elder Dr. Djabletey made a donation of GHS12,700 for the plastering of the Dodowa English Assembly church building.
- ❑ In La-Nkwantanang District, Madina Area, Elder Felix Nyante of the Akan Assembly donated two (2) projectors and a laptop costing GHS10,000.00 to the Assembly.
- ❑ Dn. Richard Kabutey of Macedonia Assembly in Ashaiman Estate District, Ashaiman Area, donated a brand-new set of Musical Instruments worth GHS30.000 to the district.
- ❑ Elder Emmanuel Gati of Lebanon District, Ashaiman Area, donated an amount of GHS30,000.00 to support the Pentecost Preparatory School's building project.

- Elder Stephen K. Aidoo and his wife of Okornya District in Agormanya Area donated twenty (20) platform chairs to Okornya Central Assembly. In addition, they donated GHS10,000 towards the purchase of the Okornya District car.
- An Elder who wants to remain anonymous continued his usual support towards Mount Olivet Assembly in Abakrampa District, Cape Coast, with an amount of GHS 58,200.00.
- Deaconess Georgina Ashley of Cape Coast PIWC, Cape Coast Area, donated GHS20,000 towards the PIWC Cape Coast mission house project. Mr. Jeffery and Mrs. Angela Ofori Akurang also donated an amount of GHS10,000 towards the same project.
- Members of the Shiloh House Choir, the resident choir of PIWC – Cape Coast, donated a set of professional drums with accessories worth GHS10,000 to the District.
- Apostle S. Y. and Mrs. M. S. Antwi, formerly of Cape Coast Area, donated GHS 18,000.00 towards the purchase of a piece of land for future construction of a new Area mission house.
- Elder and Mrs. Addai of Dansoman Area donated GHS10,000 towards Sawua church building in Asokwa Area.
- Brother Kwaku Peprah of Kuntanase District, Asokwa Area, donated items to the tune of GHS15,000 towards the dedication of Kuntanase Central church building.
- Elder James Nsiah donated fifty (50) plastic chairs, a set of drums and a pair of speakers to the Denkyira Assembly in Dawuramong District. All these amounted to GHS13,350.
- Commander Awuku and his wife donated GHS10,000 to support Paradise Assembly in Community 12 District, Tema Area.
- Elder Ahwiring of the United States of America donated USD2,000.00 to support the Shalom Assembly in the Tema New Town District building project.
- Elder Prince Amoah and wife, Margaret, of Asuoeyeboah District, Kwadaso Area, supported some members with start-up capital of GHS15,000.00.
- Eld. Barimah Osei Hwedie (II), Ejurahene, donated an amount of GHS3,000.00 to Kasei District and GHS4,000.00 to four (4) officers who were retiring. He also gave GHS6,000.00 to Emmanuel Assembly in Sekyedumase, also in Mampong Area, towards the ceiling of their church building.

- The Municipal Chief Executive of Mfantseman, Honourable Kenneth K. Essuman, donated 18 sofa chairs, one (1) swing chair and fifty (50) new model plastic chairs worth GHS6,790.00 to Anomabo Central Assembly. He again donated GHS5,000.00 cash to tile the floor of the Assembly.
- Elder Acheampong of Bethel Assembly in Mankessim District, Mankessim Area, donated GHS10,000.00 to the Bethel Assembly.
- Sister Hannah Addai of Shalom Assembly, Atimatim District in New Tafo Area, donated a set of musical instruments at the cost of GHS22,000.00 to the Assembly.
- Mr. & Mrs. Adansi of PIWC Sakumono, Teshie Nungua Area, donated GHS40,000.00 towards the CBCB project for Anyabor No. 2 Assembly in Dambai Lakeside District, Nkwanta Area, and provided 150 plastic chairs to the Assembly.
- Elder James Yamoah of Madina Area donated GHS20,000.00 to Kwamoso, Koforidua Area, for their church building project.
- Elder Kingsley and Mrs. Boahen of Adwen-bu Central Assembly in Adwen-bu District, Kaneshie Area, donated to 27 widows and widowers as well as orphans within the Assembly and the District. Each received GHS50.00. This amounted to a total of GHS16,800.00.
- In Sokode Gbogame District, Ho Area, Deaconess Mabel Ntifu donated a six-seater washroom at a cost of GHS15,000.00 to the Central Assembly.
- Elder Fred Aklassou and family donated musical equipment and 150 pieces of chairs at a cost of GHS12,750.00 to Ziope District, Ho Area.
- In Dzemeni District in Ho Area, Elder Gatsi and Mrs. Rejoice Esinam Owulaku donated musical equipment worth GHS8,770.00 to the English Assembly and 50 pieces of metal chairs worth GHS3,250.00 to Shalom Assembly.
- Elder Kingsley Duah of Central Assembly, Nkrankwanta District in Berekum Area, donated GHS14,000.00 to support the purchasing of District instruments.
- Mr. Agyei Boateng of PIWC – Atomic, Madina Area, donated an amount of GHS10,000.00 towards the completion of New Nzulezo church building project in the Samenye District, Axim Area.
- Elder Alex Kwabinah Ayim Eshun of Western Transport, Tarkwa, donated GHS10,000.00 in support of the mission house refurbishment of Akwatia District, Asamankese Area.

- Ejisu Central Assembly in Ejisu Area received 100 metal chairs worth GHS13,000.00 from Rev. Joseph Owusu, an Associate Pastor of the Assemblies of God Church.
- Elder Joshua Assuman donated GHS 17,000 to Paga in Bolgatanga Area.

45 DONATIONS MADE BY AREAS, DISTRICTS AND LOCALS

- Teshie Nungua Area donated GHS 762,260.00 to support internal missions' projects and GHS133, 875.00 to foreign missions.
- La Area donated \$14,000.00 and GHS42,000.00 to support internal and external missions activities. They also donated these items to the following Areas:
 - a. Tamale Area: 35 half pieces of wax print and 35 pieces of store shirts given to ministers and wives, the Area staff and their wives and the Area Deacon.
 - b. Yendi Area: 30 half pieces of wax print and 30 pieces of store shirts given to ministers and wives, the Area staff and their wives and the Area Deacon.
 - c. Sawla Area: 27 half pieces of wax print and 27 pieces of store shirts given to ministers and wives, the Area staff and their wives and the Area Deacon.
 - d. Walewale Area: 31 half pieces of wax print and 31 pieces of store shirts given to ministers and wives, the Area staff and their wives and the Area Deacon.
 - e. Bolga Area: 43 half pieces of wax print and 43 pieces of store shirts given to ministers and wives, the Area staff and their wives and the Area Deacon.
 - f. Wa Area: 36 half pieces of wax print and 36 pieces of store shirts given to ministers and wives, the Area staff and their wives and the Area Deacon.
 - g. Tumu Area: 22 half pieces of wax print and 22 pieces of store shirts given to ministers and wives, the Area staff and their wives and the Area Deacon.
- Kaneshie Area made a total donation of \$5,000.00 equivalent to GHS42,650.00 to external and internal missions.
- Bompata Area donated \$3,000.00 to support missions' activities

in Liberia, Seychelles and Uganda. The Area also donated 200 half pieces of wax print, 14 bicycles and 10 bales of used clothing to the Missions Office – Headquarters.

- Suame Area donated GHS,5000.00 and GHS3,500.00 to Zuarungu and Bongo Districts respectively. They also donated one (1) tricycle each with a total value of GHS12,000.00 to Bolga Area and Togo. GHS7,000.00 was also donated to support other missions activities.
- Tema Area donated 57 new wax prints, 27 bicycles and a motor bike to Kete Krachi, Tumu and Nkwanta Areas. The Area also donated an amount of GHS5,000.00 to The Church of Pentecost – Zimbabwe National Head and a total of GHS10,517.00 to support medical and educational bills of members in some deprived communities.
- Achimota Area donated 130 pieces of cloth, 32 shirts, 38 scarfs, two bicycles, 20 flying ties, shirts, footwear, bedspreads, socks and 3 bales of assorted clothing to Taali, Nia and Gushegu Districts.
- PIWC – Graceland, Teshie Nungua Area, donated an amount of GHS265,121.84 to support projects in and outside the Area.
- PIWC – Sakumono, Teshie Nungua Area, donated GHS14,000 to Dambai Lakeside District in Nkwanta Area.
- Tema Community Four (4) District made the following donations: GHS15,000.00 and a 1000 litre poly tank for the construction of a bore hole at Asanyansu District in the Afram Plains Area and GHS2,000.00 to Congo Brazzaville.
- New Tafo District in New Tafo Area donated ten (10) half pieces of wax print cloths, US\$3,100.00 and GHS2,000.00 to the church in Zambia.
- PIWC – Kokomlemle, La Area, donated GHS10,000 to Ekye Aman from District in Afram Plains Area in support of their building project. They also donated Yamaha PSR 710S keyboard to Ethiopia at the cost of \$2,750.00.
- Dome District in Achimota Area donated a Yamaha Outboard Motor and life jackets at the cost of GHS13,500.00 to Akateng District in the Agormanya Area.
- All Districts in Ejisu Area in conjunction with the Area office donated the following items to Loloto District in Tamale Area and Gbingbani District in Walewale Area: One hundred (100) half pieces of cloth and ten (10) brand new bicycles at a total cost of GHC 3,000.00.

5. STATE OF THE CHURCH

5.1 OVERVIEW

In 2018, the church engaged itself in sundry activities and programmes including conferences, leadership trainings, Bible study and home cell meetings, prayer and fasting meetings, professionals' breakfast meetings, all-night prayer sessions, conventions, crusades, open air rallies and retreats. Others included Bible reading marathon, School of Apologetics, quiz competitions and entrepreneurial trainings. The church, at the various levels, continued to deliver social services in the form of financial and material support to institutions such as orphanages, prisons, hospitals, schools and some para-church organisations.

To the glory of God, the church over the period witnessed the opening of 1,098 new assemblies worldwide and the creation of 128 districts. During the same period however, some 98 assemblies were merged while others were closed due to varied reasons. Again in 2018, a total of 251,763 souls were won with 185,224, representing 73.6%, baptised in water. The church's overall membership also grew by 7.3%, reaching 3,257,943.

It is gratifying to note that, in the year under review, the districts, areas, ministries and headquarters together, supported the educational needs of our members to the tune of GHS2,716,112.36.

Mid-week church service attendance and Friday prayer meetings however recorded low attendance. Going forward, we all need to work hard at these areas.

5.2 MIRACLES

We thank God for the manifestation of His continuous presence in His church through diverse signs and wonders. In 2018, the church recorded many miracles by the power of the Holy Spirit. All the Areas and some Ministries reported spectacular events which led one to acknowledge that the God of our fathers is still at work in the midst of His people. Evil powers were neutralised, blind eyes were opened, the epileptic were

healed, mentally challenged persons were restored to sanity, the dead were raised to life, couples were blessed with children after many years of marriage, among many other miracles.

For reporting purposes, few have been selected for our attention:

- **Dead Raised to Life**

Deaconess Susana Kusi of Subri-Nkwanta (Sefwi Bekwai Area) was to be sent to the morgue after she was declared clinically dead at the Bibiani Government Hospital; but she came back to life after a four-hour intensive prayer by the husband and other members of the church.

In Wamfie, Berekum Area, Nana Adomah, a member of the Central Assembly was seriously ill. He was referred from Wamfie to Sunyani Regional Hospital. After being on admission for some time, he was declared clinically dead. The wife resisted all attempts to send the husband to the morgue and requested for the support of the church to pray for her husband. The husband came back to life after about 2-hour intercessory prayers were made by the church for him.

- **Child Birth After Several Years of Marriage**

52-year-old **Mrs. Beatrice Doku** of Kaneshie District, Kaneshie Area, who had no issue after 24 years of marriage, took seed and delivered a baby girl after times of prayers for her by the church.

Mrs. Comfort Marfo of Russia Worship Centre, Dansoman Area, who had not conceived after 30 years of marriage, was blessed with a healthy baby boy after fervent intercessory prayers by the saints.

- **Dysfunctional Kidneys Restored**

Daniel Adu of Adwen-bu Central, Kaneshie Area, was diagnosed with kidney failure. Test results at the Korle Bu Teaching Hospital showed that the two kidneys were not functioning and was being prepared for dialysis. The brother informed the church about his condition and prayers were said for him. Later reports from the hospital indicate that both kidneys were functioning perfectly.

- **Kidnapped but Rescued**

A boy from McKeown Assembly in Zenu District, Ashaiman Area, was kidnapped after close of school and sent to a bush near Michel Camp. He was asked to give certain details of his parents and the church he attends. He mentioned The Church of Pentecost. On hearing the name

of The Church of Pentecost, the kidnappers were shivering and ran away, leaving the boy who had to find his way home.

• **Paralysis Healed**

Sister Janet Galinor of Akpalukope Assembly in Forifori District, who got paralysed for 5 months received instant healing and started walking to the glory of God. This incident took place on Saturday, December 15 during the District's 2018 Christmas Convention held at Akpalukope zone. She was prayed for by the District Minister's wife, Mrs. Precious Teye Kanor and the elders during the convention. Having witnessed this miraculous power of God, her husband who was a staunch Muslim surrendered his life to Christ. He was baptized in water on Sunday, December 16, 2018. May the name of the Lord be praised.

Sister Hagar Oppong of Mamprobi District was paralysed in both legs. The doctors in Mamprobi Polyclinic and Korle-Bu Hospital declared she would never walk again. But the church prayed and to the glory of God, she was healed.

• **Other Sundry Miracles Reported**

Joyce Nkansah of Dome District, Achimota Area, who was mentally derailed for 12 years, had her sanity restored after being prayed for at a Friday morning prayer meeting organised by the district. This miracle has caused her and some members of her family to accept Jesus as their Lord and personal Saviour; they have since been baptised in water.

Sister Jessica Amenkudzi, member at Rehoboth in Adenta District, Madina Area, took ill and was hospitalised several times but the doctors could not diagnose the cause of her sickness. After much prayer by the local presbytery, she vomited ten (10) stones. At another prayer meeting by the Women's Ministry held at Aburi, she vomited the 11th stone and has since been well.

Madam Boatemaa of Offinso Namong, Suame Area, who was about to commit suicide as a result of a debt she owed was miraculously saved through Atonsu District's Radio Broadcast on Sunsum FM where the speaker preached on the theme, "Do Thyself No Harm". She made this confession during the programme's phone-in session.

A 36-year-old Level 300 student in Poltava Medical University in Ukraine, **Foster Addae**, who had come home due to financial challenges, had his fees graciously paid for the next three years by an unknown philanthropist

while serving as a counsellor during a cine evangelism outreach at Odina Oguaa District, Winneba Area.

Sister Idongesit Ukpe of PIWC-Phoenix (USA) testified about how the Lord healed her from cancer. At a certain stage, the doctors were reluctant to attend to her because per the diagnosis, the cancer was too advanced. However, after intensive intercessory prayers by the church, the Lord's arm prevailed, and she was miraculously healed from the disease.

Deaconess Charlotte Agyapong of Bethel Assembly, Tel-Aviv (Israel), who had been battling cancer for two (2) years was given a clean bill of health after the 2018 Christmas Convention. According to her, she felt some calmness within her during the last day of the convention and after visiting her consultant, a new test was conducted and it proved that there were no longer traces of cancer in her body.

On 1st November, a Muslim brother who has asked to remain anonymous for fear of persecution, boarded a plane from Iran to Istanbul (Turkey), just to convert to Christianity. He was baptised in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ afterwards.

5.3 MINISTERIAL VISITATIONS

From the reports, ministers continued to visit local assemblies, districts, areas and regions to strengthen members. There were indications from the reports that members attended meetings with joy and expectation. Some of the meetings addressed special needs and concerns of groups with unique challenges in the church. Such meetings brought life and joy into the hearts of these groups. It also emerged that the issue of pastoral care was being pursued in earnest in many of the local assemblies.

Apostle Prof. Opoku Onyinah (Rtd.) visited various areas of the church in and outside Ghana on official duty before his retirement on August 26, 2018. These included Kasoa, Teshie Nungua, Koforidua, Tumu and La Areas. His overseas trips also took him to Malaysia, South Africa, USA, Ethiopia and Rwanda. These visits served as motivation for the members, leading to improvement in their spiritual growth, increased zeal for evangelism, discipleship and leadership development.

On assumption of office, I visited some churches and shared with them the church's vision for the next five (5) years. Together with the General Secretary and the IMD, I visited all Areas in Greater Accra. In these meetings, we met with the pastorate, their wives and all officers. The

content of the Vision 2023 document was thoroughly discussed. The response and feedback we have received indicates that our leaders are ready to run with this vision and ensure that what God wills for His church in the next five (5) years comes to pass.

5.4 SPECIAL RECOGNITION

To the glory of God, some of our members keep possessing various spheres of society, exhibiting excellence and hard work in the discharge of their duties. In the year under review, some received awards. Few of such people who received awards and appointments are acknowledged here:

Entrance Pharmaceuticals, the brainchild of **Elder Samuel Amo Tobbin** of Dr. Wyatt Assembly in Accra Newtown District in La area, was adjudged the fastest growing company of the year by the Ghana Business Summit, pharmaceutical company of the year and best manufacturing company of the year at the Ghana Pharma awards.

Elder Michael Okai of Madina District, Madina Area, was adjudged the overall best student for the 2018 graduating class of the Ghana Institute of Management and Public Administration (GIMPA).

Dr. Mrs. Abigail Kyei was elected and inducted into office as the new President of the Ghana College of Nurses and Midwives (GCNM)

Miss. Peggy Ama Donkor received the Ghana Journalist Association award for the Best Feature Reporter – TV category for 2018. She fellowships with the Burma Camp Worship Centre, La Area.

Miss. Evangeline Abena Amonoo was adjudged the Best Graduating Student in Material Science Engineering and Best Female Graduating Student in the Faculty of Engineering at the 2018 University of Ghana graduation ceremony. She fellowships with Darkuman District, Kaneshie Area.

Master Samuel Ofori-Larbi was adjudged the overall best male student at the University of Ghana for the 2017/2018 academic year. He is also one of the youngest to have qualified as a Chartered Accountant at the age of 20. Samuel is a member of the church at PIWC – Kokomlemle, La Area.

Elder Samuel Waterberg of PIWC – Kokomlemle and CEO of People's Pension Trust was adjudged the overall best CEO for displaying the virtues of honesty, transparency and accountability. His company,

People's Pension Trust was also adjudged the best Pension Company of the year, best Pension Company for the informal sector and best Pension Company in education and sensitization.

Miss. Eunice Oppong of Darkuman District, Kaneshie Area, was adjudged the Best Graduating Student in Midwifery at the 37 Military Hospital Nursing and Midwifery School.

Master Blessed Charles Amankwah Amoah of Akyeremade District, Mampong Area, completed KNUST in 2018. At their graduation ceremony, he emerged the overall best student at the school's College of Engineering and overall best graduating student for the class of 2018.

Mrs. Comfort Kyei-Cobbina of Sunyani Regional Hospital received the National Best Ophthalmic Nurse of the year 2018 award. She is a member of the church at Fiapre District, Sunyani Area.

The African Heroes Foundation International awarded **Elder Dr. Seth Kwame Bofo** of PIWC Kasoa, Downtown Ofaakor Area, with the African Business Legend, Entrepreneurs and Traditional rulers award in appreciation of his outstanding contribution towards the poor, widows and needy in the Ghanaian society.

Master Isaac Nii Ofoli Anang of Old Tafo District in New Tafo Area, a final year Doctor of Pharmacy student at KNUST received the International Pharmaceutical Federation Mike How award for being the overall best Pharmacy student in Industrial Pharmacy. The International Pharmaceutical Student's Federation also adjudged him the best student exchange officer for the African Regional office.

Lance Corporal Joseph Quaidoo of Chemunaa District, Dansoman Area, was adjudged the Best Male Coordinator and Best Player at the 14th West African University Games held in Nigeria. Again, he emerged the Best Male Central Back player at the Ghana Handball Association awards.

Mr. Richard Twum Barimah of Fiapre District, Sunyani Area, received the overall best student in Taxation and Fiscal Policy award by the Institute of Chartered Accountants (Ghana) for the May 2018 ICA examinations.

Miss. Josephine Achim Gyimah of PIWC – Sunyani was adjudged the winner of the 1st Preacher Kids Contest organised by the Children's Ministry.

Deacon Fadda Dickson Narh was adjudged the most distinguished Media CEO for his excellent managerial skills. The Confederation of Governance Assessment Institute (COGAI) and the Bureau of Research on Governance

Commerce and Administration (BORGCA) conferred this award on him. He fellowships with the Dr. Wyatt Assembly in Accra Newtown District, La Area.

Elder Lawyer Dr. Ken Aboah of PIWC – Asokwa, Asokwa Area, won the Africa Legendary Clinician Award of the year 2018 by the Helleh Africa/Mediamen Group.

Pastor Jacob Asare of Teacher Mante District, Suhum Area, won the four following awards at the 2018 PUC graduation: Overall Best Graduating Student, Best Male Student, Best Student of Theology and Missions and the Rector’s Excellence Award.

Brother Moses Osei, a driver with the Ayalolo Transport Company Limited was adjudged the Overall Best Driver by the National Drivers Association of Ghana. He fellowships with Pokuase District, Achimota Area.

Elder Ing. Dr. Shadrack Kwadwo Amponsah of Kotei Worship Centre, Asokwa Area, received the Ghana Institute of Engineers (GhIE) award for the Most Published Author in Engineering for 2018. He was also selected to join the Mandela Washington Fellowship programme for 2018 by the USA State Department.

Elder Nana Kwadwo Gyasi of Suame District in Suame Area received the Overall Best Customer Award from CIMAF Ghana, an international cement manufacturing company based in Tema.

Master Kingsley Mante Kumi-Larbi of Osu District, La Area, was adjudged the Best Bachelor of Commerce Student, Best student of the Faculty of Business Administration and Best Auditing Student at the 2018 PUC graduation ceremony.

Miss. Gifty Addae of Merry Villas District, La Area, won the 2018 National Evangelism Quiz Competition. This was after she had won it in 2013, 2014 and 2015.

5.5 HEADQUARTERS

As of the end of the year 2018, there were four hundred and nineteen (419) non-ministerial staff on the official payroll of the Church. This number is made up of 224 employees at the Area offices and 195 at the Head office.

Nine (9) gallant workers were retired during the year under review. They are:

No.	Name	Years Served
1.	Comfort Owusu Afari	38
2.	Stephen Honu	35
3.	Abraham Opintan	32
4.	Charles K. Wiredu	26
5.	Mansfield Owusu-Darkwa	25
6.	Richard Amo	19
7.	Lawrence Adu-Kumi	19
8.	Francis Gyasi Manu	18
9.	Christian Agyekum	18

May the Lord bless them for all the sacrifices they made for the church. On behalf of the Executive Council, I wish them a peaceful retirement.

Forty-six (46) new personnel were also employed in the course of the year. Mr. Prince Kojo Asare of the Publications Unit and Mr. Prosper Akadi of Hohoe Area won the most valued Chairman's Awards for the Head office and Area office respectively. All departments within the administrative setup at the church's headquarters performed creditably well in the period under review.

5.6 STATISTICS AND ANALYSIS

5.6.1 Growth Statistics of The Church of Pentecost – Worldwide

Table 2: Worldwide Growth Statistics 2018

STATISTIC	GHANA		INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS**		AUTONOMOUS NATIONS		WORLDWIDE TOTAL		VARIANCE	% INCREASE
	2018	2017	2018	2017	2018	2017	2018	2017		
No. of Nations	1	1	98	96	2	2	101	99	2	2.0%
No. of Areas	67	63	-	-	45	42	112	105	7	6.6%
No. of Districts	1,379	1,301	680	652	322	300	2,381	2,253	128	5.7%
No. of Assemblies	16,270	15,647	3,375	3,165	2,157	2,051	21,802	20,863	939	4.5%
Overall Membership	2,759,642	2,566,818	304,272	283,064	194,029	187,186	3,257,943	3,037,068	220,875	7.3%
Adults Membership	1,852,996	1,717,492	214,220	199,766	134,665	131,724	2,201,881	2,048,982	152,899	7.5%
Children's Membership	906,646	849,326	90,052	83,298	59,364	55,462	1,056,062	988,086	67,976	6.9%
No. of Elders	36,412	34,803	5,105	4,810	2,362	2,018	43,879	41,631	2,248	5.4%
No. of Deacons	25,930	25,192	3,921	3,797	2,880	2,406	32,731	31,395	1,336	4.3%
No. of Deaconesses	49,103	46,747	6,703	6,292	5,446	4,894	61,252	57,933	3,317	5.7%
Total No. of Ministers	1,476	1,394	662	667	354	325	2,492	2,386	106	4.4%
Children Dedicated	97,282	93,817	7,150	5,835	4,705	5,009	109,137	104,661	4,476	4.3%
Rallies/Crusades Held	67,391	58,923	6,521	5,906	7,779	5,418	81,691	70,247	11,444	16.3%
Adult Souls Won	198,880	214,534	39,678	31,827	13,205	14,222	251,763	260,583	-8,820	-3.4%
Children Won for Christ & Retained ¹	56,843	58,325	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	56,843	58,325	-1,482	-2.5%
New Converts Baptised in Water	154,947	159,637	19,359	17,583	10,918	8,526	185,224	185,746	-522	-0.3%
New Converts Baptised in Holy Spirit	91,581	85,995	9,923	8,413	13,528	10,836	115,032	105,244	9,788	9.3%
Old Membs. Now Baptised in Holy Spirit	115,001	112,503	10,797	9,450	0	0	125,798	121,953	3,845	3.2%
Assemblies Opened	675	715	285	239	138	147	1,098	1,101	-3	-0.3%
Assemblies Closed	52	48	44	56	2	0	98	104	-6	-5.8%

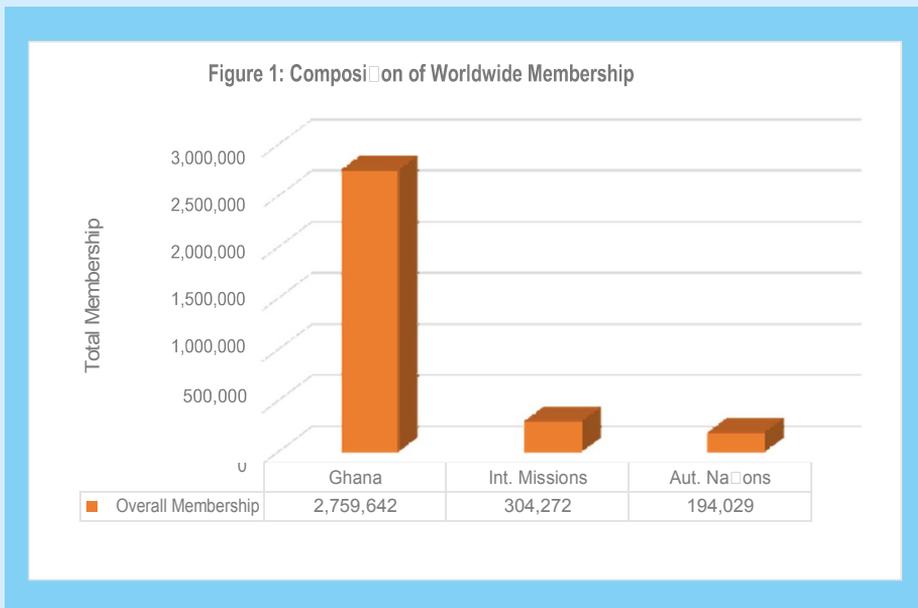
Source: 2018 Annual Statistics Report, Statistics Office, COP-HQ

**International Missions excludes Benin and Cote D'Ivoire, which are autonomous nations

5.6.1.1 Membership Growth Analysis – Worldwide

As of December 31, 2018, The Church of Pentecost operated in 101 nations with an overall worldwide total membership of 3,257,943 recording a growth rate of 7.3% over the previous year. The total number of assemblies stood at 21,802. These were distributed across 2,381 administrative districts of the church worldwide.

With a total membership of 2,759,642, the church in Ghana constituted 84.7% of the worldwide total membership. The remaining 15.3% was accounted for by external branches, including the two autonomous nations (Benin and La Cote D'Ivoire) as shown in figure 1 below.



5.62 Growth Statistics of The Church of Pentecost – External Branches

Table 3: Growth Statistics – External Branches

CUMULATIVE STATISTIC	INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS				AUTONOMOUS NATIONS ²			
	DEC. 2018	DEC. 2017	VARIANCE	% INCREASE	DEC. 2018	DEC. 2017	VARIANCE	% INCREASE
No. of Nations	98	96	2	2.1	2	2	0	0
No. of Districts	680	652	28	4.3	322	300	22	7.3
No. of Assemblies	3,375	3,165	210	6.6	2,157	2,051	106	5.2
Overall Church Membership	304,272	283,064	21,208	7.5	194,029	187,186	6,843	3.7
Total Adults Membership	214,220	199,766	14,454	7.2	134,665	131,724	2,941	2.2
Children's Membership	90,052	83,298	6,754	8.1	59,364	55,462	3,902	7.0
No. of Elders	5,105	4,810	295	6.1	2,362	2,018	344	17.0
No. of Deacons	3,921	3,797	124	3.3	2,880	2,406	474	19.7
No. of Deaconesses	6,703	6,292	411	6.5	5,446	4,894	552	11.3
Total No. of Ministers	662	667	-5	-0.7	354	325	29	8.9
Children Dedicated	7,150	5,835	1,315	22.5	4,705	5,009	-304	-6.1
Rallies/Crusades Held	6,521	5,906	615	10.4	7,779	5,418	2,361	44
Souls Won	39,678	31,827	7,851	24.7	13,205	14,222	-1017	-7.1
New Converts Baptised in water	19,359	17,583	1,776	10.1	10,918	8,526	2,392	28.0
New Converts Baptised in Holy Spirit	9,923	8,413	1,510	17.9	13,528	10,836	2,692	24.8
Old Members Baptised in Holy Spirit	10,797	9,450	1,347	14.3	0	0	0	0
Assemblies Opened	285	239	46	19.2	138	147	-9	-6.1
Assemblies Closed	44	56	-12	-21.4	2	0	2	-

5.62.1 Membership Growth Analysis – External Branches

In 2018, membership in the non-autonomous nations increased by 21,208, bringing to total an overall membership of 304,272. This represents a 7.5% increase over the previous year. Similarly, the autonomous nations recorded an increase of 6,843 members in the reporting period which resulted in an overall total membership of 194,029; an increase of 3.7% over the previous year. As of December 2018, the external branches of the church operating in 100 nations across the world recorded an overall membership of 498,301, representing a percentage increase of 6.0%.

Altogether, 50 new districts were created in the external branches in 2018, bringing the total number of districts to 1,002 whereas 2017 had 952. This represents an increase of 5.2%.

In terms of number of assemblies, there were 3,375 in the non-autonomous nations during the year under review as against 3,165 in 2017. With the

²Benin and Cote D'Ivoire became autonomous in 2009

variance of 210, there was a 6.6% increase. The two autonomous nations recorded 2,157 assemblies in 2018 as against 2,051 in 2017, recording an increase of 106 and this represented a 5.2% increase. The total number of assemblies in the entire missions field for 2018 was therefore 5,532, compared with 5,216 in 2017. The increase of 316 indicates a 6.1% increase.

5.6.3 Growth Statistics of The Church of Pentecost – Ghana

Table 4: Growth Statistics – Ghana

CUMULATIVE STATISTIC	DEC. 2018	DEC. 2017	VARIANCE	% INCREASE
No. of Areas	67	63	4	6.3%
No. of Districts	1,379	1,301	78	6.0%
No. of Assemblies	16,270	15,647	623	4.0%
No. of Home Cells	58,548	55,738	2,810	5.0%
Overall Registered Membership (Adults & Children)	2,759,642	2,566,818	192,824	7.5%
Registered Adult Membership (13yrs and above)	1,852,996	1,717,492	135,504	7.9%
Youth Membership (13yrs - 35yrs)	1,104,043	999,926	104,117	10.4%
Teen Membership (13yrs - 19yrs)	499,261	444,787	54,474	12.2%
Young Adults Membership (20yrs - 35yrs)	604,782	555,139	49,643	8.9%
Other Adults (above 35yrs)	748,953	717,566	31,387	4.4%
Registered Children's Membership (below 13yrs)	906,646	849,326	57,320	6.7%
No. of Elders	36,412	34,803	1,609	4.6%
No. of Deacons	25,930	25,192	738	2.9%
No. of Deaconesses	49,103	46,747	2,356	5.0%
Overall Ministers in Ghana	1,476	1,394	82	5.9%

5.6.3.1 Membership Growth Analysis – Ghana

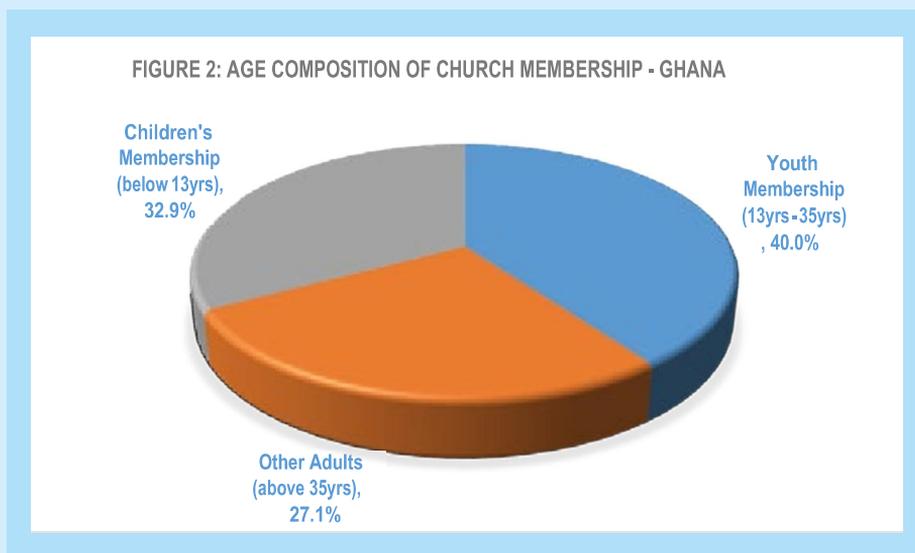
The church's total membership in Ghana by the end of December 2018 was 2,759,642, which constituted approximately 9.3% of the total estimated 2018 Ghanaian population of 29,614,337.³ It also constituted approximately 13.1% of the total Christian population in Ghana, which is estimated to be 71.2% of the Ghanaian population⁴. Reflecting on these statistics affirms the urgent call on us as a church to transform every sphere of our society with the values and principles of God as a means of possessing the nations for Christ.

³2015 - 2020 Projected Populations by Regions, Districts and Sex, Ghana Statistical Service. Accessed on 5th April 2019 via <http://www.statsghana.gov.gh>

⁴Ghana Religion. Accessed on 5th April 2019 via <https://www.indexmundi.com/ghana/religions.html>.

During the year under review, teens (13yrs – 19yrs) membership increased by 12.2%, while overall youth (13yrs – 35yrs) membership increased by 10.4%. Children (below 13 years) membership increased by 6.7%. Within the same period, the total number of members aged above 35yrs increased by 4.4%. Overall, the church in Ghana recorded a membership growth of 7.5%. Glory be to God.

The data further showed that the youth continue to make up the largest segment (40%) of the church's membership as shown in figure 2. Children membership constitutes 32.9%, while those above 35 years constitute 27.1%.



A further disaggregation of the data shows that the youth membership is composed of 57% young adults and 43% teens as shown in figure 3. This calls for the continuous need to effectively balance youth programmes to cater for both categories.

FIGURE 3: COMPOSITION OF YOUTH MEMBERSHIP



The overall analysis implies that 73% of CoP membership in Ghana is made up of children and youth (up to 35yrs), a further improvement over the previous year. This continues to give an indication that The Church of Pentecost is largely made up of young people, a factor that projects a brighter future for the church. It is therefore important for leadership at all levels to continue to give significant attention to nurturing these young people for leadership responsibilities, both within and outside church. They remain a great force in our quest to possess the nations for Christ.

In the year under review, four (4) additional administrative Areas were created, bringing to total, 67 administrative Areas for the church. The church established 78 additional districts in 2018. By December 2018 therefore, the church recorded a total of 1,379 administrative districts and 16,270 local assemblies in Ghana.

5.6.3.2 Home Cell Analysis

Out of the total adult membership of 1,852,996, 955,535 representing 51.6% participated actively in home cells. This is against the 48.5% engaged in active home cells in 2017. Although this represents an improvement over what was reported in 2017, ministers and officers are encouraged to intensify efforts in getting the 48.4% who are not involved in active home cells to do so.

5.6.3.3 Ministers - Ghana

The total number of ministers in Ghana as at 2018, stood at 1,476. This represents a 5.9% increase over the previous year. In the course of the year however, five (5) ministers were dismissed from the ministry for gross misconduct. During the same period, four (4) ministers in active service were also called into glory.

I, once again, on behalf of the Executive Council, express my appreciation to all ministers of the church both within and outside Ghana for their great exploits in the Lord's vineyard. We continue to encourage you to do more for the Lord, especially as we seek to equip the church to possess the nations for Christ.

5.6.4 Operational Results Statistics 2018 – Ghana

5.6.4.1 General Assessment

In 2018, the church in Ghana recorded positive percentage increase in some aspects of its operations when compared with progress made in 2017. These included rallies/crusades, new converts baptised in the Holy Spirit and old members baptised in the Holy Spirit.

However, there is room for improvement in some other operational areas such as assemblies opened, adult souls won and new converts baptised in water as captured in the operational results analysis in table 5.

5.6.4.2 Operational Results Analysis 2018

Table 5: Comparative Statistics of Operational Results – Ghana

STATISTICS	2018	2017	VARIANCE	% INCREASE
Children Dedicated	97,282	93,817	3,465	3.7%
Rallies/Crusades Held	67,391	58,923	8,468	14.4%
Adult Souls Won	198,880	214,534	-15,654	-7.3%
Children Won for Christ & Retained	56,843	58,325	-1,482	-2.5%
New Converts Baptised in water	154,947	159,637	-4,690	-2.9%
New Converts Baptised in Holy Spirit	91,581	85,995	5,586	6.5%
Old Members now Baptised in Holy Spirit	115,001	112,503	2,498	2.2%
Assemblies Opened	675	715	-40	-5.6%
Assemblies Closed	52	48	4	8.3%

In 2018, a total of 255,723 souls made up of 198,880 adults and 56,843 children were won for the Lord. Out of the adult souls won, 154,947 were baptised in water, representing 77.9%. This is against last year's figure of 74.0%. It is interesting to note that number of rallies and crusades held, increased by 14.4%. These resulted in the opening of 675 new assemblies. This however fell below the 2017 figure of 715. We will need to ascertain the factors that might have contributed to this decline.

In 2017, 54% of all converts baptised in water received the baptism in the Holy Spirit. In the year under review, 59.1% was recorded. Although this represents an improvement over the previous year's performance, we still need to intensify efforts to get more of our new converts baptised in the Holy Spirit.

56.43 Other Analyses

Number of adult members in the church doing active evangelism increased by approximately 77%. This is a significant improvement over the 2017 figure of 24%. This could likely be because of the renewed zeal towards evangelism, spearheaded by the Evangelism Ministry. With the introduction of the Gospel Sunday, it is very likely that the coming years will see a boost in our evangelistic activities. We encourage leadership at all levels to keep the fire of evangelism burning and ensure that members do not lose the zeal.

Whereas the church recorded 2% growth in backsliders won back, the analysis reveals that the backsliders won back accounts for only 43% of all backsliders. It means that the remaining 57% are yet to be won back. This should be worked on by intensifying follow-ups.

The Lord blessed the church with 48,513 new births in the course of the year. This represents a 3.2% increase over last year's figure. May the Lord's name be praised.

In 2018, 8,399 marriage ordinances were contracted in the church. This represents 5.6% increase in marriages blessed last year, which was an answer to our request to the Lord for more marriages.

We unfortunately recorded increases of 14% and 10% in child and adult deaths respectively in the year under review.

5.6.4.4 Ministries' Performance – Ghana

a. General Overview

The Political and Business Chamber training seminar held by the Youth Ministry sought to raise a well-motivated army of entrepreneurs, business and corporate giants who would have the spiritual and professional capacity to master their chosen fields and succeed in life and business. It was also intended to raise political leaders who would influence the society with the values and principles of the Kingdom of God.

PEMEM organised a two-day seminar for drivers at the Head Office and in the Greater Accra Area offices. The main facilitators were personnel from the Ghana National Road Safety Commission. Altogether, forty-three (43) drivers were certified after the training.

In the year under review, four (4) young women were sponsored to participate in the Empowered 21 conference held in South Africa. They were Mrs. Victoria Amoah of Asokwa Area, Mrs. Mercy Larbi of Sunyani Area, Ms. Faustina Aba Koomson of Kasoa Area and Ms. Josephine Terkpeng of Wa Area. The purpose was to offer them the opportunity to learn new and effective ways to transform and develop the Virtuous Ladies' concept and the entire Women's Ministry.

The Evangelism Ministry, in collaboration with the International Missions Directorate, organised crusades in South Africa and Kenya. In all, 116 souls were won for Christ, while 392 of the souls and some members were baptised in the Holy Spirit.

The Children's Ministry successfully organised the Preacher Kids' competition which took place at Pentecost Convention Centre on 7th September, 2018. The programme was aimed at building confidence in children by means of studying and applying the word of God. Teachers who had excelled in their activities were also awarded. This was to serve as motivation for these teachers.

Table 6: Comparative Statistics of Ministries' Performance – Active Members

Ministry	DEC. 2018			DEC. 2017			VARIANCE IN ACTIVE MEMB.	% INCREASE IN ACTIVE MEMB.
	Total ⁵	Active	% Active	Total	Active	% Active		
Women	1,129,470	489,599	43.3	1,052,606	431,410	41.0	58,189	13.5
Men	723,526	229,892	31.8	664,886	200,168	30.1	29,724	14.8
Youth	1,104,043	455,071	41.2	999,926	395,722	39.6	59,349	15.0
Evangelism	1,852,996	501,358	27.1	1,717,492	397,980	23.2	103,378	26.0
Children	906,646	641,478	70.8	849,326	590,459	69.5	51,019	8.6

An analysis of the performance of the various ministries showed that almost all of them recorded increases in the percentage of active members over the previous year. This is very good and should be kept up.

In 2018, the Children's Ministry recorded 70.8% of its members active in the ministry's activities. The Women's Ministry followed with 43.3% of its members, active in the ministry's activities. The Youth Ministry then followed with 41.2% of its members being active in the ministry's activities. Following was the Men's Ministry with 31.8% of all adult men in the church active in the ministry's activities. The Evangelism Ministry came next by recording 27.1% of its members, active in the ministry.

It is noteworthy that the 41.2% active membership recorded for the Youth Ministry could be as a result of most youth being in school for a greater part of the year (9 months each year) and are often not counted as active members in the ministry's activities at the local level. Meanwhile, the same people are very active in the PENSA groups to which they belong on various campuses.

All ministries are encouraged to work harder in the coming years to address the challenge of low active membership.

5.6.5 Operational Results Statistics 2018 – External Branches

5.6.5.1 General Assessment

By the grace of God, the church also experienced growth in the external branches through its operational activities; including seminars, retreats, conferences, conventions, rallies, Bible studies, home cells, prayer and fasting sessions. The assessment below is a comparison between 2017 and 2018:

Table 7: Comparative Statistics of Operational Results – Int. Missions

STATISTIC	NON-AUTONOMOUS MISSIONS				AUTONOMOUS NATIONS			
	2018	2017	VARIANCE	% INCREASE	2018	2017	VARIANCE	% INCREASE
Children Dedicated	7,110	5,835	1,275	21.9%	4,705	5,009	-304	-6.1%
Rallies Held	6,508	5,906	602	10.2%	7,779	5,418	2,361	43.6%
Total Souls Won	28,917	31,827	-2,910	-9.1%	13,205	14,222	-1,017	-7.2%
New Converts Baptised in Water	19,237	17,583	1,654	9.4%	10,918	8,526	2,392	28.1%
Holy Spirit Baptism (New Converts & Old Membs.)	20,459	17,863	2,596	14.5%	13,528	10,836	2,692	24.8%
Assemblies Opened	285	239	46	19.2%	138	147	-9	-6.1%
Assemblies Closed	44	56	-12	-21.4%	2	0	-	-

During the year under review, the non-autonomous nations won a total of 28,917 souls, representing a 9.1% decrease below the 2017 performance. Out of the total souls of 28,917 won, 19,237 were baptised in water, representing 66.5%; an increase over last year's figure of 55.2%. The year 2018 recorded a total of 20,459 persons baptised in the Holy Spirit, as against 17,863 in 2017, representing a percentage increase of 14.5%.

The two (2) autonomous nations won a total of 13,205 souls. Out of this, 10,918 were baptised in water, representing 82.7%. They also recorded 13,528 members baptised in the Holy Spirit. This was 24.8% increase over the previous year's figure of 10,836. This is a very good achievement worthy of commendation.

5.6.6 Infrastructure and other Assets Statistics – Ghana

Table 8: Comparative Statistics of Infrastructure and Vehicles – Ghana

STATISTICS	AS AT DEC. 2018	AS AT DEC. 2017	VARIANCE	PERCENTAGE INCREASE
PERMANENT CHURCH BUILDINGS				
a) Completed and dedicated	2,750	2,019	731	36.2%
b) Completed but not dedicated	254	314	-60	-19.1%
c) In progress	6,804	6,744	60	0.9%
d) Not started b'cos No Land	983	912	71	7.8%
e) Not started b'cos No Funds	5,134	5,381	-247	-4.6%
f) Not started b'cos Land Litigation	58	71	-13	-18.3%
e) Not started b'cos Other reasons	287	206	81	39.3%
CURRENT PLACES OF WORSHIP				
a) Completed Permanent Chapels	3,004	2,333	671	28.8%
b) Uncompleted Permanent Chapels	5,505	5,270	235	4.5%
c) Temporary Structures on Church plots	3,588	3,780	-192	-5.1%
d) Temporary Structures on rented plots	373	393	-20	-5.1%
e) Rented Halls	118	108	10	9.3%
f) Free Accommodation	540	485	55	11.3%
g) School Classrooms	1,529	1,691	-162	-9.6%
h) Under Trees	1,273	1,257	16	1.3%
i) Other Places	340	330	10	3.0%
DISTRICT MISSION HOUSES				
a) Completed and dedicated	1,060	937	123	13.1%
b) Completed but not dedicated	34	30	4	13.3%
c) In progress	247	286	-39	-13.6%
d) Not started b'cos No Land	3	11	-8	-72.7%
e) Not started b'cos No Funds	11	10	1	10.0%
f) Not started b'cos Land Litigation	0	1	-1	0.0%
g) Not started b'cos Head Office Residences are in use	7	3	4	133.3%
h) Not started b'cos Other reasons	17	23	-6	-26.1%
DISTRICT MINISTERS' CURRENT RESIDENCES				
a) Completed Mission Houses	1,094	967	127	13.1%
b) Uncompleted Mission Houses	157	185	-28	-15.1%

c) Rented Houses	77	100	-23	-23.0%
d) Free Accommodation	17	24	-7	-29.2%
e) Head Office Residences	10	6	4	66.7%
f) Other Residences	24	19	5	26.3%
VEHICLES IN USE BY DISTRICT MINISTERS				
a) District Cars	905	861	44	5.1%
b) District Motor Bikes	395	292	103	35.3%
c) District Push Bicycles	70	59	11	18.6%
d) Private Vehicles	276	243	33	13.6%
e) Head Office Cars	9	11	-2	-18.2%
DISTRICT MINISTERS' VEHICLE STATUS				
a) Ministers with Vehicles	1,331	1,255	76	6.1%
b) Ministers without Vehicles	47	42	5	11.9%
AREA MISSION HOUSES				
a) Completed	64	57	7	12.3%
b) In progress	2	5	-3	-60.0%
c) Not Started	1	1	0	0.0%
AREA HEADS' CURRENT RESIDENCES				
a) Completed Mission Houses	64	58	6	10.3%
b) Uncompleted Mission Houses	1	5	-4	-80.0%
c) Rented Houses	1	0	1	0.0%
d) Other Residences	1	0	1	0.0%

5.6.6.1 Infrastructural and other Assets' Analyses

a. *Permanent Church Buildings*

In 2018, out of a total of 16,270 assemblies, the church recorded a total of 3,004 (18.5%) completed permanent church buildings. Of this number, 254 were yet to be dedicated. During the same period, 6,804 (41.8%) buildings were in progress. The remaining 6,462 (39.7%) buildings were yet to be started due to sundry reasons; these included lack of funds, lack of access to land and litigation on acquired lands. It is worthy of note that the number of assemblies which had not been able to start their buildings due to land litigation decreased from 71 in the previous year to 58 in 2018, a 22.4% decrease. This is an indication that the recommendation to area heads and district ministers to ensure proper documentation for church lands to reduce these litigations has been taken in good faith and is being implemented. Ayekoo! Keep up the good work.

b. Current Places of Worship

In 2018, out of a total of 16,270 assemblies in Ghana, 3,004, representing 18.5% worshipped in completed and permanent church buildings, while 5,507, constituting 33.9% worshipped in uncompleted but permanent church buildings. The remaining 47.6% of the assemblies worshipped in temporary structures, rented halls, classrooms, under trees, and free accommodations. 1,273 assemblies, constituting 7.8% of all assemblies, worshipped under trees in the year under consideration.

It is important to note here that the Community Based Church Building (CBCB) grants disbursed from the headquarters in 2018 benefited 1,260 assemblies and this amounted to GH¢54,295,000.00. During the year under review, there was an overall reduction in assemblies worshipping in non-permanent church buildings including temporary structures, rented halls, free accommodation, school classrooms and under trees. Ministers are encouraged to plan for places where new churches will be accommodated in their annual budgeting, while not relenting on church planting, which is the mission of the church.

Following a successful four-year implementation of the flagship CBCB project, I am pleased to inform the house that Vision 2023 has introduced a counterpart fund for the CBCB in the urban centres to be known as the Urban Accelerated Church Building (UACB) project. The quantum of funds for UACB projects will be higher than that of the CBCB project. As such, fewer UACB projects will be approved per annum per Area in comparison to the CBCB allocations. This initiative is to support our churches in the urban centres to put up decent places of worship.

c. District Ministers and Area Heads' Current Residences

As of December 2018, 1,251 out of 1,379 (90.7%) district ministers and 65 out of 67 (97%) area heads were living in church-owned accommodation. The rest of the ministers lived in rented houses and free accommodation. Thank God for this blessing.

d. District Ministers' Vehicle Status

By the grace of God, 1,331 district ministers, representing 96.5%, were equipped with vehicles to facilitate the work.

5.7 SPECIAL COMMENDATIONS – GHANA

571 Membership Growth

A comparative analysis of overall membership growth in 2018 as against 2017 saw Krachi Nkwanta Area recording the highest percentage increase of 20.2% (6,720) over the previous year; Tumu with 15.7% (1,370), Sawla with 15.3% (3,173), Walewale with 12.9% (5,813) and Anyaa Ablekuma with 11.7% (2,649). Notably, all these areas, except Anyaa Ablekuma, are internal mission areas. Anyaa Ablekuma, therefore, is highly commended for attaining this great feat.

572 Proportion of Converts Baptised in Water

In terms of percentage of converts baptised as against souls won, Sogakope emerged first with a record of 98.8% (1,801). Following Sogakope was Tarkwa with 97.9% (2,531), Mampong with 97.3% (1,594), Walewale with 95.3% (4,923) and Agona Swedru with 95% (2,334). Kudos to all these areas.

573 Holy Spirit Baptism

With respect to the percentage of converts baptised in water who received baptism in the Holy Spirit, Ejisu Area recorded the highest figure of 87% (1,741). Following Ejisu was Krachi Nkwanta with 84.2% (3,743); Agona Swedru with 83.9% (1,959); Dansoman with 81.4% (1,750) and Bompata with 79.6% (1,146). Ayekoo!!

574 Home Cell Participation

With a percentage of 82.9% (20,083), Ejisu once again recorded the highest percentage of adult members engaged in active home cell activities. The area is applauded for this. Ejisu was followed by Bompata with 81.2% (20,791), Techiman with 74.4% (23,228), Asokwa with 72.3% (21,573) and Tema with 71.9% (20,218).

In terms of number of new cells opened, Walewale Area opened the highest with 143, followed by Kasoa with 111, Suhum with 111, Axim with 105 and Bogoso with 97. Currently, Asankrangwa Area has the highest number of home cells (1,563), followed by Assin Foso Area (1,438) and Suhum Area (1,436).

575 Assemblies Opened

Walewale Area is commended for opening the highest number of new assemblies (54). Krachi Nkwanta (30), Akim Oda (26), Bolga (25) and Sawla (21) followed in succession.

576 Weekly Prayer Meeting Attendance

Concerning weekly prayer meetings, Bompata Area with 82.5% (21,129) pushed Sawla Area, who for three (3) years running had occupied the top spot, to the second position with 57.6% (9,123). Following Bompata and Sawla were Ashaiman with 56.9% (18,719), Odorkor with 54.1% (15,191) and Tema with 53.6% (15,081). Good work done!

577 Midweek Service Attendance

Bompata Area recorded 78.2% (20,012) of adult members attending midweek service. They were followed by Dansoman with 61.0% (22,144), Sawla with 59.5% (9,416), Odorkor with 55.4% (15,563) and Tema with 53.8% (15,128). Keep it up!

578 Adult Membership Involvement in Active Evangelism

Akim Oda for the third time running emerged as the area with the highest percentage of adults involved in active evangelism with 87.2% (28,078). Akim Oda was followed by Dansoman with 86.2% (31,289), Techiman with 83% (25,909), Yendi with 68.6% (17,664) and Odorkor with 65.1% (18,267). Ayekoo!

579 Backsliders Won Back

Koforidua Area is commended for recording the highest percentage of backsliders won back, with 66%. The following areas followed in order of merit: Walewale (63%), Abuakwa (62%), Dunkwa (57%) and Sefwi Bekwai (55%). Well done!

5710 Marriages Blessed

Madina Area for the second time running recorded the highest number of marriages during the reporting period with 352. Madina was followed by Suame with 265, La with 261, Achimota with 257 and Kaneshie with 252. We wish them fruitful marriage.

5711 Child Birth

In childbirth, Asankragwa Area for the third time running took the lead with 1,662 births. In succession, Suame followed with 1,410, Abuakwa

with 1,318, Berekum with 1,174 and Sefwi Wiawso with 1,064. May the Lord grant the parents of these children the grace to raise them responsibly.

57.12 Deaths

Suhum Area recorded the highest number of deaths of 249, followed by Asamankese (215), Agormanya (180), Aflao (147) and Mankessim (146). May God strengthen their families and may the souls of the departed rest in peace.

57.13 Tithes and Offerings

The 2018 tithes and offerings exceeded the 2017 tithes by 9.7%. Once again, Teshie Nungua Area emerged the highest contributor to tithes and offerings, having contributed 10.3% of total tithes. They were followed by La (5.2%) and Madina (5.0%) Areas. In terms of percentage increase against the 2017 tithes, Kintampo Area came first with 43.2%, followed by Tumu Area with 33.0% and Suhum Area with 26.1%.

57.14 Convention Proceeds

The 2017 Easter Convention proceeds exceeded the 2017 figure by 14.8%, while that of Christmas Convention exceeded the 2017 figure by 13.7%. For Easter Convention, Teshie Nungua Area contributed the highest amount with 4.5%, followed by Kaneshie Area (4.2%) and Odorkor Area (3.4%).

Kaneshie Area also placed first with the highest percentage increase of 84.9% over the previous year's proceeds. Following Kaneshie were Asokwa (82.7%) and Ho (60.9%).

For Christmas Convention proceeds, Teshie Nungua Area made the highest contribution with 4.0%. The second and third highest contributors were La (3.1%) and Kaneshie Area (2.9%) respectively. In terms of percentage increase above the 2017 proceeds, Tumu Area emerged first with 53.7%, followed by Tarkwa Area (40.3%) and Odorkor Area (32.9%).

57.15 Pensions Proceeds

The Pensions proceeds went up by 11.3% when compared to the 2017 figure. La Area came first as the highest contributor with 5.02%. Madina and Kaneshie Areas followed closely with 4.19% and 4.18% respectively.

57.16 Missions Offering

The Missions Offerings for 2018 increased by 15.3% above the figure for 2017 but decreased by 2.8% below the budget. The Areas in Ghana contributed 82.8%, while the External Nations contributed 17.2%.

La Area became the highest contributor of missions offering with 5.3%. La was followed by Kaneshie (4.7%), Madina (4.4%), Odorkor (3.7%) and Achimota (3.43%).

Tumu Area placed first with the highest percentage increase of 58.5% above the 2017 figure. Tumu was followed by Kintampo (41.5%), Axim (35.7%), Ashaiman (35.0%) and Sawla (34.1%).

Tumu Area again had the highest percentage increase of 32.09% above the 2018 budget figure. Tumu was followed by Kintampo (17.9%), Axim (13.1%), Ashaiman (12.5%) and Sawla (11.7%).

5.17 McKeown Missions Fund

The McKeown Missions Fund for 2018 increased by 13.23% above the figure for 2017 but decreased by 3.58% below the budget. The Areas in Ghana contributed 68.36%, while the External Nations contributed 31.64%.

With the McKeown Missions Fund, La Area made the highest contribution of 6.66%. La was followed by Kaneshie Area (6.3%), Achimota Area (4.7%), Madina Area (4.3%) and Odorkor Area (4.1%).

Tumu Area had the highest percentage increase of 153.2% above the 2017 figure. Tumu was followed by Afram Plains (80.7%), Kaneshie (43.6%), Axim (43.3%), and Tema (40.7%).

Tumu Area had the highest percentage increase of 110.9% above the 2018 budget figure. Tumu was followed by Afram Plains (50.6%), Kasoa (28.7%), Tema (21.5%) and Kaneshie (19.6%).

5.8 INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS

5.8.1 General Overview

At the end of the reporting year, the number of nations in which The Church of Pentecost was operating aside Ghana had increased from 98 in the previous year to 100. The two (2) nations that were added in 2018 were Chile and Morocco.

With an addition of 28,051 members, our membership in the nations outside Ghana rose from 470,250 in 2017 to 498,301 in 2018. 194,029 of this membership, representing 39% are from the two autonomous nations, Côte d'Ivoire and Benin, while the remaining 304,272 are from the other 98 nations.

5.8.2 Field Personnel

The total number of ministers in the nations at the reporting period was 1,015 as against 992 in 2017. Of this number, 55 were missionaries compared to 57 in 2017. Twenty-four of the missionaries were from Ghana, while the remaining 31 were from the various nations as indicated: Cote d'Ivoire (5); Togo (1); Gabon (1); South Africa (1); Burkina Faso (1); Benin (3); and Mozambique (1). The following were also under the category of trans-national European/American transfers: Italy (4); USA (3); UK (6); Holland (3) and Germany (2).

5.9 SPECIAL COMMENDATIONS

5.8.3.1 Overall Membership

In terms of overall membership, Jamaica needs to be commended for increasing the overall membership by 275%. Guyana and Cyprus followed with 217% and 195% increases respectively. China followed with 128% increase and Philippines, 90%. Other nations that excelled in that category were Ecuador (82%), Libya (63%), Portugal (58%), Qatar (48%) and Turkey (47%).

5.8.3.2 Converts Baptised in Water

With respect to converts baptised in water, Togo again took the lead for the fifth time by baptising 6,419 converts in water and placing first among the external branches. Following Togo in converts baptised was Malawi (2,126) and then Burkina Faso (1,617). Bravo!

5.8.3.3 Assemblies Opened

Regarding assemblies opened, Togo deserves special mention once again for placing first among the external branches with 29 assemblies opened. Togo was followed by USA (24) and Burkina Faso (15).

5.8.3.4 Indigenous Membership among the Nations

The indigeneity of the missions work in some of the nations stands as follows: 100% indigenous membership in Mauritius, Congo Brazzaville, Namibia, Rwanda, Angola, Belize, Kenya, Malaysia, Nepal, Trinidad and Tobago, India and Malawi.

Congo DR, Madagascar, Mozambique, Guinea Bissau, Ethiopia, Zambia, Bangladesh, Jamaica, Zimbabwe, Uganda, Swaziland, Chad, Botswana, Burundi, Sierra Leone, Lesotho, Central African Republic, Togo and Kenya also recorded over 90% indigenous membership.

5.8.3.5 Missions Offerings

This fund recorded an increase of 15.3% above the 2017 figure but a decrease of 2.8% below the budget. Ghana contributed 82.8% of the total fund, while the external branches brought in 17.2%.

Once again, USA placed first as the highest contributor with 53.9% of total missions offering in the external branches. Following USA were UK (18.4%), Germany (9.6%), Canada (3.2%) and Holland (2.9%).

The nations with the highest positive variances when their 2018 missions offerings were compared to the 2017 figures were Japan (57.1%), Ireland (39.9%), Germany (32.1%), France (31.7%) and Holland (29.8%).

The nations with the highest positive variances when compared to the 2018 budgeted figure were Japan 40.2%, Ireland 24.9%, Germany 18.0%, France 17.6% and Holland 15.9%.

5.8.3.6 McKeown's Missions Fund

This fund recorded an increase of 13.2% above the 2017 figure but a decrease of 3.6% below the budget. Ghana contributed 68.4% of the total fund, while the external branches brought in 31.6%.

USA once again made the highest contribution of 52.3% of the total McKeown Fund from the external branches. USA was followed by UK (11.8%), Canada (6.4%), Germany (6.2%) and Australia (2.9%).

Finland had the highest percentage increase of 269.8% over their 2017 figure. Following Finland were Ireland (86.9%), Sweden (53.5%), Germany (34.4%) and Japan (27.9%).

The nations with the highest positive variances when compared to the 2018 budgeted figures were Finland (230.2%), Ireland (66.9%), Sweden (37.1%), Germany (20.0%) and Japan (14.2%).

5.8.3.7 Missionaries Recalled and Called in 2018

Together with trans-national transfers in Europe and America, the total number of ministers called to missions in 2018 was seven (7), as presented in table 9 below. Three (3) missionaries were also re-called to their various home countries and these included Apostle Daniel Kwadwo Sey who served in Brazil for eight (8) years, Pastor Samuel Asare who

served in Ecuador for seven (7) years and Pastor Fred Appiah Baah who served in Gabon for two (2) years. Ayekoo!

Table 9: Ministers Called to Missions

NAME	FORMER STATION	MISSIONS STATION
1. Apostle Angelina Binda Jequessene	Mozambique	Angola
2. Pastor Michael Agyen Brefo	Merry Villas (La Area)	Gabon
3. Pastor Mark Obeng Asiedu	Kpando Torkor (Hohoe Area)	Mozambique
4. Pastor Samuel Jojo Forson	USA	Jamaica
5. Pastor Appahou Marcellin	Noé (Côte d'Ivoire)	Morocco
6. Pastor Michael Matos	Dominican Republic	Ecuador
7. Pastor Elvis Nague	Northampton District (UK)	Cyprus/Turkey

5.8.4 Retirements, Resignations, Dismissals, Downgrading and Home Calls

One (1) minister was dismissed from the ministry for gross misconduct while three (3) ministers resigned. Three (3) ministers retired from active service while one was retired on health grounds and one (1) called to glory.

5.8.5 New Entrants' Training at Pentecost Theological Seminary (PTS)

Twelve (12) ministers from various nations went through training at the Pentecost Theological Seminary and eleven (11) are currently going through training in the same institution.

5.9 FINANCE

In 2018, the economy of Ghana recorded some fiscal and monetary challenges. The revenue and expenditure targets of the nation were not met, even though the economy remained stable with evidence of strong economic fundamentals.

This notwithstanding, the Headquarters income earned in 2018 increased by 8.02% as compared to the 2017 income. The major income items such as tithes, missions offering, pensions offering, Easter and Christmas convention proceeds exceeded the 2017 figures.

God's providence made it possible for Headquarters to release funds to sectors like the Pentecost University College, PENTSOS and Pentecost

Convention Centre for infrastructural development. The various Areas in the Church also benefited from grants such as CBCB, FIAT, AIDF and Headquarters grants for mission house and church constructions.

5.10 PASTORAL TRAINING AND LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

The church continued to build the capacity of staff with departmental in-service training programmes. Most of these training programmes were fully or partially sponsored by the church. Other training activities included the following:

- Eleven (11) ministers graduated with Masters Degrees while thirteen (13) others continued their Masters studies. Congratulations!
- We congratulate Pastor Dr. Nicholas Darko, the Finance and Administration Director, who has completed his PhD degree. Meanwhile, twelve (12) ministers are being sponsored for ongoing PhD programmes.

Many other ministers and staff continued their studies at various levels.

5.11 PENTECOST UNIVERSITY COLLEGE (PUC)

PUC, in 2018, successfully undertook the following: relocation of the Library and Administration offices to the 6th and 7th floors respectively of the 10th Anniversary Block (Phase II); organisation of a maiden homecoming event, Alumni Reconnect, on December, 7 2018, which attracted one hundred and seventy (170) old students of various year groups; organisation of a Staff Awards Ceremony to appreciate deserving staff. With the support of ENGISYS Ltd., a new website was developed to give the university college a facelift in that regard. The church in the USA greatly assisted PUC to acquire some books for the Physician Assistantship Medical programme. Frimps Oil also donated a brand-new Mazda pick-up to the university college.

PUC, in the course of the year, introduced two additional flagship programmes – Community Project and Entrepreneurial Week and Reading Week. Both programmes sought to positively impact the students, Sowutuom community and its environs.

PUC won several awards at the institutional and individual levels. Some of these are:

- Lifetime Achievement Award:** Prof. Kwame Boasiako Omane-Antwi, Vice Rector and Dean of Pentecost University College Graduate

School, received a prestigious Lifetime Achievement Award at the 4th Ghana Finance Innovation Awards 2018 in October.

- **PUSAG Games:** PUC students emerged the Overall Best Institution at the 2018 PUSAG games held in Kumasi, after winning thirteen (13) out of the seventeen (17) trophies.
- **ABE Global Awards:** Three (3) ABE students won Global awards in the June 2018 examinations.
- **Africa Tertiary Entrepreneurs Awards (ATEA):** Mr. Bender Owusu Bediako Antwi, a Level 6 Business Management (ABE) student and CEO of COCOBENZ, received the Most Industrious Student Entrepreneur 2018 Award at the Africa Tertiary Entrepreneurs (ATEA) Awards held on 24th November, 2018 in Accra.

Thirteen (13) new staff were employed to bring the total staff number to one Hundred and forty-six (146). Two (2) staff ended their post-retirement contracts, while nine resigned. A staff, Rev. Dr Joseph Quayesi-Amakye, who was the Dean of the Faculty of Theology and Mission, was called to glory in November. Five out of six staff were admitted into different universities (local and abroad) to pursue PhD and the sixth, an MA programme; another staff obtained his PhD in Cultural and Media Studies from the University of Kwazulu Natal, South Africa.

A number of programmes that sought to uplift the spirituality of students, staff and other members were also organised. These included Commencement Service, Community Joint Services, Staff monthly joint and daily devotions and PRAYERFEST. A Staff Devotional Guide was also developed for use.

5.12 PENTECOST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY (PTS)

One hundred and twenty-three (123) students comprising 112 from Ghana and 11 from external branches of the Church were admitted for the 2017/18 academic year which began on the 18th of September, 2017 and ended on 27th July, 2018.

More emphasis has been placed on personal development and spirituality in the ministerial formation programme. The personal devotions and prayer lives of the students have been strengthened with regular half-night prayer meetings and fasting. The students have also been supporting outreach programmes and revival meetings at the Anyaa-Ablekuma Area. The new chaplain, Apostle Dan Nii Teiko Tackie has been very active and instrumental in this new development.

The spouses of the students from Ghana were invited to join their husbands for a one-week course in Pastoral Studies from the 14th to 18th of May, 2018 with Apostle Dr. Alfred Koduah as facilitator. The course was well received by the students and their wives.

The Birmingham Christian College, in collaboration with the Pentecost University College (PUC) and the Pentecost Theological Seminary (PTS), organised a one-day conference and book launch in honour of Apostle Prof. Opoku Onyinah. The event which took place at the PCC on Friday, 24th August, 2018 brought together some Church leaders in Ghana as well as scholars from Europe and North America. The title of the book is 'African Pentecostal Missions Maturing: Essays in Honour of Apostle Opoku Onyinah, edited by Elorm Donkor and Clifton Clarke.

The Music Laboratory and Studio at PTS was completed within the period under review. A course in Church Music and Worship has been introduced for the Music Department since September 2018. Regular short courses for sound engineers and church instrumentalists have also begun since February 2019.

The Seminary was issued with a certificate of Authorization by the National Accreditation Board (NAB) for a period of three (3) years. This certificate permits the Seminary to put together all the needed human, physical, library and financial resources and submit documentations for institutional accreditation within the period of the authorisation.

5.121 Ministries

5.122 Children's Ministry

The Children's Ministry Directorate's vision of 'Operation one million membership by 2018' saw the need of gearing up the evangelism drive in the church. 56,971 souls were won and retained. 26,083 children were baptised in the Holy Spirit and 97,282 were dedicated. The children and teachers' membership as of December 2018 stood at 906,646 and 42,245 respectively. By means of capacity building among the children and to motivate the teachers, the Preacher Kids, Best Teacher and Best Area contests were successfully organised and the grand finale and awards ceremony took place at Pentecost Convention Centre in September, 2018.

The Ministry kept up its close collaboration with OCC – Samaritan Purse, CBN, World Vision International Ghana, Pentecost Theological Seminary (PTS), Theovision, ICM and Compassion International which is thriving in 40 project centres covering 10 Areas. PETRA Trainings were organised by the Children's Ministry Directorate in order to equip teachers to handle children effectively.

The six (6) Northern Areas and sixteen (16) other Areas across the country were beneficiaries of this training. AWANA organised evangelism and discipleship trainings in 22 Pentecost Schools out of a total of 83 through games. 4 Houses have been adopted by the Directorate in SOS villages in Tema, Asiakwa, Tamale and Kumasi in support of 36 orphaned children at a total cost of GHS80,000.00. Constant evangelising visits are being made by the respective Areas in a bid to winning the village inmates for Christ. On the other hand, 5 children are currently enjoying scholarships offered by the Directorate. Two beneficiaries have successfully completed their Senior High School education.

A child named Cyrus Sowah from Mt. Zion District, Kaneshie Area, had a dream in which he was asked to go and pray for a sick Sunday school teacher named Joshua Mills who was suffering from diabetes. The child did pray for him after the dream and to the glory of God, the teacher was healed.

5.123 Youth Ministry

The Youth Ministry recorded a total membership of 1,104,043. This comprises 499,261 teens, representing 45.2% and 604,782 young adults, representing 54.8%. PENZA membership also stood at 98,128, comprising 73,251 (75%) CoP members and 24,877 (25%) associate members. Within the period under review, five Area Youth Pastors and three PENZA Travelling Secretaries were appointed to sustain the leadership capacity of the ministry. The Youth Ministry continued to offer training for the youth through the School of Apologetics, Business Chamber and Political Chamber.

The annual youth quiz competition was successfully done, with Achimota and Techiman Areas taking the first positions in the Junior and Senior Categories respectively. Similarly, the National Writers Contest was also organised successfully. Participants of these competitions were given their respective awards at the PENZA Ghana Conference 2019.

The Pentecost Young Missionaries Outreach was successfully organised from 1st to 31st July, 2018 in Tamale, Sawla and Greater Accra Areas.

At the end of the outreach, 6 new assemblies, consisting of 4 from Sawla Area and 2 from Tamale Area, were opened. A total of 2,776 souls, which includes 572 children, were won. Six hundred and sixty-four people received water baptism immediately, while the remaining are being followed. Many healings and spectacular events were recorded.

Other programmes organised by the Youth Ministry included mega all-night prayer sessions, leadership retreats, entrepreneurial training, music

and drama events among others. In the coming years, the Youth Ministry envisions to train and release young people into the world to possess the nations with vigour and vitality.

5.124 Women's Ministry

The Women's Ministry was under the directorship of Deaconess Mrs. Grace Lucy Yeboah-Asuama and her executive committee. The Ministry's membership stood at 1,031,747 during the year under review. The Director visited seven Areas to share fellowship with the women. Activities carried out included Tuesday prayer meetings, retreats, health talks (on prevailing health issues), fire safety, debates, skills training using local materials to equip the women for financial independence, etc. Some of the Areas inaugurated Virtuous Ladies clubs in the Districts to mentor the young ones to achieve their lives' aim, to encourage the professionals to be active in the Ministry's activities, and to serve as role models. There were PEMEM and Women's Ministry joint services in some Areas on home management and preparation towards marriage. God continues to show Himself strong at the Women's Ministry meetings with spectacular events at the various meetings.

On social services, the Ministry donated GHS19,755.00 to Pentecost Vocational School, Gbawe, GHS20,000.00 to Teshie-Nungua Women's Resource Centre, GHS20,000.00 in support of Dormaa District Mission House project, and GHS2,000.00 to the Overall Best Graduating Female Student of PUC (2017/2018 academic year). Donation of 240 pieces of cloth was made to Togo Pastors' wives. There was also sponsorship of four brilliant but needy students at the tertiary level, including Pentecost University College (PUC).

Evangelism by the Women's Ministry in various Areas yielded 37,460 souls through rallies, house to house, personal, market and lorry station evangelism, whilst 14,728 backsliders were won back.

5.125 Evangelism Ministry

The various evangelism strategies employed nationwide by the ministry resulted in 167,222 decisions made for Christ. 102,265 received baptism in the Holy Spirit. 455 new local assemblies were planted and 343 new evangelism classes were opened.

Conventions were held at the Area, District and Assembly levels throughout the country, from June 4 to 10 under the theme, "Remain in Christ and in His Basic Message in Evangelism" (1 John 2:24-25).

The Director and different teams visited eight Areas for new initiative for instruction and training for holistic and contemporary evangelism.

The 2018 edition of the Evangelism Conference (EVACON) was held from September 24 to 28 at PCC under the theme, "Making Jesus' Priority our Ardent Passion: Evangelism in the 21st Century". It was attended by 3,084 participants. The Chairman, Apostle Eric Nyamekye, graced the conference and it was an unprecedented zeal awakening conference.

The Trainers' Consult was organised from November 20 to 23 at PCC to train Area leaders and assistants and some selected individuals who will in turn train other leaders on the Ministry's new holistic form of evangelism and effective new convert care and follow up. 117 Trainers have been trained.

As fallout of Trainers' Consult, the Leaders' Consult was organised on November 30 at 12 zonal centres throughout the country.

5.12.6 Pentecost Men's Ministry (PEMEM)

The ministry was under the directorship of Apostle E. Ofei Ankra-Badu. Marginal increase was registered in the several aspects of our programmes. As many as twenty-four (24) Area leaders were reviewed, largely through transfers and retirements.

PEMEM's current total membership stands at 407,673 (2.9% increase over the half year figure); active members have also increased from 223,886 to 238,297 (6.4% increase), an indication that gradually, PEMEM meetings are becoming progressively attractive to the menfolk. What is calling for attention is how to increase the participation of the younger men.

Significant among the projections achieved are, Bible Reading Marathon held at the Area level in February; Training Regimen for Leaders for the Areas; participating in the US PEMEM Triennial Conference; and participating in the Aduane Pa" Competition with the Women's Ministry. In addition to these, the directorate organised a two-day seminar for all the drivers at the head office and the Greater Accra Area offices (including Area Heads' drivers). A Bus Stop Shed was provided for Mamprobi (Dansoman Area) and a Foot Bridge for Osoroase (Akim Oda Area).

A number of the Areas carried out evangelism outreaches and these yielded a total number of 30,669 souls won for the Lord.

COMMITTEES AND BOARDS

5.127 Literature Committee

The Literature Committee operated under the leadership of Apostle J. K. Assabil. The following were carried out during the year under review: editing and proofreading of publications of the church. These included Pentecost Fire Issues 177 to 179, Streams of Living Water (Youth Devotional Guide) and the Ministerial Handbook. The Committee did extensive work on 'God's Faithfulness to The Church of Pentecost', and 'God's Power at Work, Vol. 4'.

The Committee also supervised the publication of the special edition of the Pentecost Fire which was dedicated to the life and ministry of the immediate past Chairman, Apostle Prof. Opoku Onyinah. Volume One of the book on the history of the church was edited and reprinted during the year under review. In addition to these, the contents of news/stories from the Areas were reviewed by the Committee.

5.128 National Media Ministry Committee

The National Media Ministry of The Church of Pentecost, under the chairmanship of Apostle Samuel Otu Appiah, continues to be a force to reckon with within the Ghanaian media landscape. Interactions with the various radio stations across the country revealed the great impact Pentecost Hour Broadcast messages made on the lives of listeners and viewers. Demand for the messages of Chairman and other speakers by media owners, as well as other stakeholders, was on the ascendency during the year under review. It is remarkable to indicate that five (5) radio stations, as well as three (3) TV networks, broadcast Chairman and other speakers' messages free of charge. One of the radio stations, Asempa FM 94.7, aired Chairman's messages from Monday to Friday at a peak time of 1.30pm, free of charge.

As at December 2018, 'Pentecost Hour' had two hundred and thirty-one (231) slots on the various radio stations and community information centres across the country. This number was made up of fifteen (15) at the national level and two hundred and sixteen (216) across the country. The counsellor, Apostle Philip Osei Korsah, expertly handled callers who had serious challenges with respect to marriage, moral issues and even those who were at the verge of ending their lives.

The National Media Ministry organised two separate seminars. The first one which was held between April 23 and 27, 2018 at PCC, Kumasi,

targeted TV production, directing, photography/cinematography, sound recording techniques and video editing. In all, fifty-four (54) Areas were represented at the two seminars.

The second seminar, also held at PCC, Kumasi, between June 18 and 22, 2018, was directed at Radio Pastors. In all, 100 participants attended the training programme. The Media Ministry Pastor visited six (6) Areas and ten (10) radio stations that broadcast "Pentecost Hour" across the country during the year under review. Our altar calls won us three hundred and sixty-four (364) souls to the glory of God. The headquarters, Area offices, District and local assemblies and a long list of individuals, sponsored "Pentecost Hour" broadcasts, during the year under review.

5.12.9 National Music Committee

Apostle A. L. Angoh chaired the Music Committee. The Committee organised a 4-Day National Music Seminar at Pentecost Convention Centre, with the climaxing evening devoted to the honour of Apostle Professor Opoku Onyinah. The Committee compiled and released 166 songs of Apostle Professor Opoku Onyinah in book and audio forms. A total of sixty-one (61) inspirational songs were received. Two albums of theme songs for 2018 in English and Twi were released.

Headquarters resourced the Committee's office space and music studio at the Pentecost Theological Seminary (PTS) to become fully operational. The Committee reviewed the first part of the Hymnal's solfa notation. The official choir of the church, Voice of Pentecost, featured in all major activities of the church including the Ministers and Wives' Conference, General Council Meetings and the Heads' Meetings.

5.12.10 National Estate Committee

Apostle A. K. Ahalivor led the committee. The Executive Council allocated GH¢54,295,000.00 for 1,260 CBCB projects nationwide in the year 2018 alone. The above figure excludes other Head Office and specific grants allocated for projects within the Areas. In collaboration with the Audit, Monitoring & Evaluation Unit, these CBCB projects were supervised and monitored nationwide. Reports from the Areas also showed the seriousness and sense of commitment attached to these projects.

This was evidenced in the monitoring and periodic inspections carried out in the reporting year. The Committee undertook periodic monitoring and supervision as well as randomly selected visitation of church building and mission house projects nationwide. The Committee also managed and supervised the construction of an Area Mission House and Area

Office each for the newly created Tapa and Bawku Areas. Through the Committee's technical assistance, the Missions Transit Quarters at East Legon was successfully completed and dedicated. The police station complex project at Gomoa-Fetteh was also completed and dedicated and has since been handed over to the Ghana Police Service.

Planned periodic maintenance works for six selected mission houses for key Head office staff were executed. During the year under review (2018), the Trustees executed fifty-nine (59) land documents and a land title certificate was obtained and deposited at the Headquarters.

5.12.12 Records, Statistics and Archives Committee

Under the leadership of Apostle Samuel Osei Asante, the following, among others, were done: The Committee gave direction and support to office personnel, evaluated and streamlined their activities. The Records and Archives Unit provided materials for 46 researchers, advised and guided them on research directions and the relevant materials that suited their needs.

The department continued to offer relevant administrative documental support to management and staff at the Head Office. Old documents were professionally evaluated and valuable ones selected for permanent storage. Almost 2,000 files including retired ministers' personal files, circulars, minutes and correspondence were scanned. More documents, photographs, graphs and charts were added to the historical resources.

The Statistics Unit generated reports from annual 2017 and mid-year 2018 Church Statistics, general trend analysis on the Church's membership, tithes and missions offering, facilitated statistical seminars for new staff and ministers, membership management for seven Areas of 148 Districts and 471 participants, analysed expenses on District Ministers, updated the Ministers' personal database, drafted new local statistical form and provided Statistical information user services.

5.12.13 National Discipleship and Leadership Development Committee

The committee pursued its mandate creditably during the period under review. Majority of the operational results witnessed significant improvements over the previous year. Currently, Cell membership stands at 53%, a 1% increase over 2017. Number of meetings and attendance to cell meetings recorded increases of 28% and 12% respectively. Cell evangelism was effective, culminating in the increase of converts won and retained in the cells by 15%. Leaders for both Cell and Bible Study units recorded respective increases of 10,555 (20%) and 10,350 (21%).

The mandate to build capacity of the lay leadership of the church was pursued assiduously. Thus, the committee facilitated discipleship seminars for some Areas and organised a two-day National discipleship seminar at PCC from March 1-2, 2018. The annual Lay Leaders Training School came off successfully in the various Areas with 79% of ordained officers attending. Also, significant progress was made in the effort to reach the oral constituents of the church by developing audio versions of Bible Study and Home Cell at Theovision International.

Finally, a collaboration between the church and Zoomlion Group of Companies for the Environmental Care Campaign (ECC) was facilitated by the committee. The national launch was performed by the Chairman, Apostle Eric Nyamekye, on 22nd November, 2018. Subsequent to this, the committee provided an implementation schedule for the various Areas to replicate the launch with focus on education, clean-up exercises and community-based initiatives.

5.12.13 Pentecost Press Board

Apostle Ekow Badu Wood chaired the Pentecost Press Board. The Press continues to reap the benefits of the expansion it embarked on in 2017 in terms of infrastructure and machinery. The production staff now have a conducive and healthy environment to work in and the installation of new machines has improved the speed of delivery and quality of products remarkably. However, the growth of the church and the resultant growth in the variety and volumes of publications still require additional machinery to enable the Press handle the increased volumes and improve its delivery timelines.

This must be tackled with utmost urgency. In the short term, the Press is considering the following additions to its machine stock: four Colour Original Heidelberg, Speedmaster Press with a perfecting unit, a Perfect Binder with collating and trimming units and a power generating plant.

The press engaged a substantive marketing officer to drive its marketing agenda. In addition, the press used Television and Print Media adverts, Product development and Innovation and Market segmentation to expand its client base and increase its sales. The Press registered a net profit after tax of GHS565,424.06 in its statement of Profit or Loss for the year ended 31st December, 2018.

5.12.14 PENT TV

PENT TV Limited, a Christian limited liability TV company established by the church, continued to run rich, innovative and educative programmes aimed at shaping societal values, equipping viewers and transforming lives for Christ on her network.

Our flagship programmes such as Pentecost Hour, Grace Hour, Asembi, Nyamesompa, Weekly Inspiration and intermittent live coverages continued to serve as major platforms for the propagation of the gospel, teaching on doctrinal issues as well as highlighting the theme for the year. These have attracted viewers from diverse denominational backgrounds. Many people have also testified of how their lives have been transformed by these broadcasts.

As the accredited TV station of the church, PENT TV continued to provide TV coverage for all the church's major programmes including the retirement and induction services of the immediate past Chairman and the current Chairman respectively. They also provided media coverage for major events such as the Heads Meetings, All Ministers and Wives' Conference, General Council meetings as well as some Area and District programmes.

Efforts have been deepened in our quest to secure the digital terrestrial television license for PENT TV to enable households without the decoders to also access our network whilst widening our viewership.

The station which has been in business for the past four years has witnessed significant growth in its production, content delivery and financial operational performance. It is gratifying to note that in 2018, the company recorded its first profit before tax of Eighty Thousand Nine Hundred and Twenty-Seven Ghana Cedis (GH¢80,927) after four years of operation.

We envisage great times ahead as we look forward to years of success in our bid to becoming the most sought-after Christian TV station in Ghana.

5.12.15 Pentecost Social Services (PENTSOS) Board

The church continued to evangelise and minister to the needs of society. The church at all levels, from national to local, met the needs of members and their respective communities. It has 86 Basic, 2 Senior High and 2 Vocational Schools and 1 Skills Learning Centre. These institutions offer quality education to their communities. 70 teachers were trained on 'Jolly Phonics Teaching Methods'. The aim was to introduce them to the use of the Phonics Method in teaching Reading; it enables the pupils at Kindergarten to read faster than the Alphabetic method. After the 2018

BECE results, the first 10 best performing Pentecost schools are: Madina PPS, Nkawkaw PPS, Dunkwa PPS, Kasoa PPS, Bubiashie PPS, Koforidua PPS, Kumasi Abrepo PPS, Techiman PPS, Ashiaman PPS and Tema PPS, in order of merit.

We have 8 health facilities. These facilities recorded an OPD attendance of 206,788, 17,644 admissions and 5,016 deliveries. These institutions won 162 souls for Christ through their usual Worship periods and other programmes and 25 received Holy Ghost Baptism. Our goal is to meet the spiritual and social needs of those who visit our health facilities. The church spent Five Hundred Thousand Ghana Cedis (GH¢500,000.00) on the infrastructural development of its 15 schools and 3 health facilities.

PENCO is operating in 33 church Areas. Currently, it has 37 Societies nationwide with 13 operating at District and 24 at Area levels respectively. PENCO Apex, which is an association of the various Societies, is fully registered in accordance with the Co-operative Decree (N.L.C.D 252). The nationwide financial sector challenges have hit most of the PENCO Societies, as their clients' deposits they invested are locked up in some notable Securities and Investment companies. Odorkor Area PENCO is the best performing Society for the year 2018.

5.12.16 Pentecost Convention Centre (PCC)

The Pentecost Convention Centre, since its inauguration in May 2013, has experienced phenomenal growth and development under the leadership of the board chairman, Prophet James Osei Amaniampong.

In the year under review, 65,231 guests, made up of churches, organisations and individuals lodged at the Centre during various programmes involving government agencies, banks and other corporate institutions as compared to the previous figure of 58,206. Out of the 65,231 guests, COP programmes represented 57.53%.

In our quest to meet the high demands of guests for accommodation and other related facilities, a five (5) storey-building project which commenced in August 2017 and is being financed by the Centre from its internally generated funds is still ongoing. Currently, structural works are ongoing on the second-floor level.

The Centre commenced its in-house catering service which serves as the main source of income for hospitality industries. The service, which began on pilot basis during the second half of last year 2018, has so far raked in more income to the Centre. Plans are far advanced for the expansion of the service to meet its required standard.

To enable the Centre have water all year-round for multiple and agricultural purposes, management has constructed a mini dam that harvests rain and running water.

In pursuit of finding solutions to the poor but expensive internet services rendered to the Centre, Comsys Ghana Ltd. has been contracted to provide the Centre with air fiber optic internet service at a higher and faster speed but cheaper rate as compared to the earlier service providers. In furtherance to boosting mobile networks and internet service, contacts were made and MTN network has been stabilised and made available in all rooms. Other networks are yet to fix their radii on the tower for good reception.

The Centre, which has become the hub of Christian spirituality in the country, saw over 1,300 foreigners, dignitaries, high profiled personalities of international repute, churches and schools who visited the Centre for excursions, prayer meetings, family gatherings, individual time with the Lord and fun games. It is worthy to note that, guests who frequent the Centre could not hide their joy for such a facility serving the needs of Christians and expressed their profound gratitude to leadership for such profound and bold initiative.

5.12.17 Pensions Board

Apostle John Appiah Aidoo chaired the Pensions Board. As at December 31, 2018, it had 167 retired ministers and 108 ministers' widows. The Board, as part of its scholarship scheme, also provided educational support to 46 Ministers' children who qualified under its scholarship scheme.

An amount of GH¢6,923,770 was spent on retirees and widows during the year under review. The said amount, when matched with the budgeted figure of GH¢7,971,016, shows a positive variance of GH¢1,047,246.

SUMMARY OF CHALLENGES RAISED IN REPORTS

5.13.1 General

Participation in home cell activities was low. The percentage of adult church members who actively participated in home cell activities stood at 48.5% at the end of 2018. This means that more than half of the adult membership of the church did not participate in cell meetings. This needs to be improved in the coming years by intensifying cell awareness in all locals, districts and areas especially with the new arrangement to have it organised once in a month.

Even though recording 73.6% of souls won and baptised is a great improvement upon the previous year's achievement, there is still the need for an intensive follow-up and discipleship to ensure that all souls won are baptised and discipled.

Similarly, even though 62.1% of all converts baptised in water also received the baptism in the Holy Spirit, there is also the need to intensify Holy Spirit baptism activities to ensure that everyone receives baptism in the Holy Spirit. The Vision 2023 provision to organise Holy Spirit baptism at least once in a month must therefore be pursued in earnest.

It was seen from the analysis that only 42.6% of backsliders were won back. That means 57.4% were yet to be won back. Ministers are encouraged to intensify follow-up in this area to ensure that all backsliders are won back into the fold.

Despite the efforts being made in the area of providing decent places of worship through the Community Based Church Building project, the 2018 infrastructure analysis revealed that 2,802 out of the 16,270 assemblies in Ghana still worshipped under trees and in classrooms. Ministers are once again encouraged to consciously plan for places where new churches will be accommodated in their annual budgeting. In doing this, they should also not relent in their efforts in the planting of new churches.

5.13.2 Other Specific Challenges

5.13.2.1 Areas and Districts

- Migration of fishermen and their families from the coastal communities to La Cote d'Ivoire and other places affected areas along the coastal communities.
- The banking sector crisis affected some areas and districts with some of them having their investments locked up with some financial institutions.
- High demand for assistance to further education and meet other needs by the youth placed a huge financial burden on some districts and areas.
- The high cost of land in the urban centres especially, hampered the acquisition of land for new assemblies and mission houses.
- Inefficient communication networks made it difficult to send information across.

- High illiteracy affected leadership development in some local assemblies.

5.13.2.1 Committees, Boards and Ministries' Specific Challenges

a. Music Committee

- A few Areas reported that members were having difficulty playing CDs produced by the committee.
- The level of noise in some churches is still a cause for worry.

b. NDLDC

- Late production and release of Bible Study outlines despite efforts to complete the script writing and translation of the manuals ahead of schedule.

c. Ministries

i. PEMEM

- There is a high rate of illiteracy among leaders, making it difficult for some leaders to teach the topics in the syllabus.
- Poor attendance by members to meetings.

ii. Evangelism Ministry

- Less commitment of some area leaders, district leaders and presiding elders towards the activities of the ministry.
- Frequent transfer of area leaders, hampering continuous training of leadership.

6. FELLOWSHIPS/FRATERNITIES/ PARA-CHURCH ORGANISATIONS

The Church of Pentecost continued to play a very significant and important role within the Ghanaian Christian fraternity.

In 2018, we continued to maintain our status as the highest financial contributor to the Ghana Pentecostal and Charismatic Council (GPCC), Ghana Institute of Linguistics, Literacy and Bible Translation (GILLBT) and the Ghana Evangelism Committee (GEC).

Many other para-church, state and other non-governmental organisations also received appreciable financial and logistical support from the church. These included the Bible Society of Ghana, the Scripture Union (SU) and Child Evangelism Fellowship. Other organisations included Salt and Light Ministry, African Forum on Religion and Government, Theovision International, Gideon's International, African Enterprise, Lausanne Movement, Pentecostal World Fellowship and Bible League.

Other institutions included Mental Care Home, Ghana Heart Foundation, Widows and Orphans, Countryside Children's Welfare Home in Bawjiase, Physically Challenged Action Foundation at Offinso, Royal Sparrows Ministry Band, La Dadekotopon Municipal Educational Directorate, Drug and Alcohol-Free Awareness and Rehabilitation Centre, Sickle Cell Advocates Ghana, Ghana Trust Fund and Reach the People Ministries. Most of these organisations are involved not only in preaching the gospel, but also bringing relief to the poor and marginalised in the society.

It is gratifying to note that, The Church of Pentecost contributed about GHS1,217,600.00 to support such organisations. Together with these faith-based organisations and NGOs, our agenda of possessing the nations is feasible. We are grateful to God for putting us in the position to be of assistance to the needy in the society.

It is also worthy of mention that our relationship with the Elim Pentecostal Church, UK, continued to be strengthened. In this regard, we hosted Pastors Simon Foster and Edwin Michael during the 43rd General Council meetings. Apostles Nii Kotei Djani and Mike Kwame Etrua were also delegated to represent the church at their 2018 annual Elim Leaders' Summit.

7. VISION 2023 AND THEME 2019

Ladies and gentlemen, by God's grace, Vision 2023, our medium-term strategic vision which spans from 2018 to 2023, has been rolled out successfully. The implementation of the various planned strategies has already begun earnestly at all levels of the church. As a measured-up strategy to ensure a smooth implementation process, a detailed monitoring and evaluation framework has also been designed to guide the process at all levels.

Guided by our overarching theme, "Possessing the Nations: Equipping the Church to Transform Every Sphere of Society with Values and Principles of the Kingdom of God", it is expected that the implementation of Vision 2023 will have positive impacts on both the church and society within the next five years and beyond.

We foresee a refreshed church that equips and releases its members into ministry as agents of transformation wherever they may be; transforming every worldview, thought and behaviour with values, principles and lifestyles of the Kingdom of God and thereby turning many people to Christ. Thus, we seek to contribute to a God-fearing society with hardworking and committed citizens; a society where there is the display of Christ-like behaviour and the demonstration of a high level of integrity; a society with a considerable reduction in social injustice, corruption, crime rate and other social vices; a society whose members are law-abiding citizens and where there is a reasonable reduction in wayward or deviant characters; a transformed society that is very concerned about the environment, keeping it clean and prompting others within the society to do same and a society where citizens in deprived communities have improved access to basic amenities.

It is my prayer that all Christian churches will buy into this noble vision and redirect their energies to raising a band of societal transformers. I believe as we all forge forward together with these ideals of Vision 2023, we shall be contributing to possessing the nations for our Lord Jesus Christ.

“I Will Build My Church” is the first part of Vision 2023. The purpose of this theme is to help bring to the fore the understanding of the dual purpose of the Church; that the Church is called out of the world to belong to God and sent back into the world to witness and to serve.

The relevance of the Church is not merely in its existence, but rather in its life-giving power. It lies in her ability to bring godly transformation to the society. In spite of the presence of churches in our societies, Christianity has not yet impacted the society adequately in a way that eliminates endemic evil and corruption to reflect our huge presence. Theme 2019 is therefore to help awaken ministers, local leaders and the entire Church of Pentecost members towards freshness in our worship life and to march out in the power of the Holy Spirit to possess the nations for Christ.

Scripture says “righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people” (Prov. 14:34). From the above text, we are made to appreciate that what brings transformation to a nation is righteousness and not the mere existence of churches. Living by the values and principles of the Kingdom of God is a sure way towards national transformation, but sin is a reproach.

This calls for the Church to spread Biblical holiness across nations. The presence of Christ brought transformation to His society; the presence of Christianity must bring transformation to our society.

8. HOME CALL OF MINISTERS/ MINISTERS' WIVES

Between the 43rd General Council Meetings and this council, the Lord has called home some of the retired ministers and others who were in active service. They include:

S/N	NAME	DATE
1	Pastor Owusu Baffour Buah	15/01/18
2	Apostle Robert Acquah (rtd.)	05/03/18
3	Pastor Joseph Garimah	10/03/18
4	Mrs. Faustina Arhin (rtd.)	26/03/18
5	Apostle S. K. Ofosu (rtd.)	15/04/18
6	Mrs. Gladys Narh-Affum (rtd.)	27/04/18
7	Mrs. Sophia Archer (rtd.)	06/08/18
8	Pastor J. K. Nkrumah (rtd.)	29/08/18
9	Pastor J. K. Ware (rtd.)	03/09/18
10	Apostle B. K. Arthur (rtd.)	22/10/18
11	Pastor Joseph Yaw Ofosu Koramoah (rtd.)	05/11/18
12	Pastor Walter Kofi Tawiah	11/11/18
13	Pastor Dr. Joseph Quayesi Amakye	22/11/18

Let us continue to pray for the families, especially the children of our departed ministers and their wives that the Lord will continue to sustain them and supply all their needs. At this juncture, I will kindly ask that we stand up and observe a minute silence in the memory of those who have been called into glory.

9. RETIREMENTS

After years of serving the Lord and His church, some of our ministers will be retiring from active service this year. I kindly invite all such ministers to come forward as follows:

S/N	DESIGNATION	NAME	SURNAME	AREA/DISTRICT	YEARS SERVED
1	Apostle	Anthony K. Miah		Berekum	36
2	Apostle	Kingsford Kyei-Mensah		Kwadaso	34
3	Apostle	Patrick K. Ennin		Ashaiman	33
4	Apostle	Anthony Kwabla Ahalivor		Madina	33
5	Apostle	Isaac K. Amoako		Goaso	28
6	Apostle	Daniel Prince Wiafe		Holland	26
7	Apostle	Prof. Peter Ohene Kyei		Winneba	11
8	Apostle	Pierre –Marie Bayala		Burkina Faso	8
9	Pastor	Lawrence K. Duodu		Gbegbeyise (Dansoman)	36
10	Pastor	Stephen Kwaku Teye		Assin Praso (Assin Foso)	36
11	Pastor	Anthony Peter Mensah		Akuse (Agormanya)	34
12	Pastor	Edward Arthur Quaye		Ofankor (Achimota)	33
13	Pastor	Emmanuel Mintson		Amamoley (Anyaa Ablekuma)	33
14	Pastor	Robert Odame		New Dormaa (Sunyani)	33
15	Pastor	Robert Gabah		Sogakope	33
16	Pastor	Dominic Dadson Day		Mayera (Achimota)	31
17	Pastor	Charles Afful Kankam-Boateng		Boadua (Asamankese)	30
18	Pastor	Dr. Samuel Kwesi Asante		Bubiashie North (Kaneshie)	27
19	Pastor	Joseph Padi Odonkor		Somanya (Agormanya)	27
20	Pastor	Kofi Anyane Asare		Wassa Akropong (Bogoso)	27
21	Pastor	Mark Egyir Arthur		Afrancho (Suame)	26
22	Pastor	Joshua Yirenyi-Smart		New Fadama WC Kaneshie)	25
23	Pastor	Kenneth Arthur		Nima (La)	25
24	Pastor	Emmanuel K. Antwi		Ashaiman Official Town	24
25	Pastor	Hayford Alfred Nartey		Akrade (Agormanya)	24
26	Pastor	George Nsiah-Afryie		Bibiani (Sefwi Bekwai)	23
27	Pastor	Eric Yaw Osei		Buokrom Estate (New Tafo)	22
28	Pastor	Samuel Wereko-Acheampong		Dormaa Ahenkro (Berekum)	21
29	Pastor	Lawrence Manu		Canada	15
30	Pastor	Pastor Ortiz Adoglin		Germany	8
31	Pastor	Rolando Salazar		El Salvador	7