



LINK

MAY EDITION - 2017

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE BIBLE SOCIETY OF GHANA



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REASON TOGETHER:
THE BIBLE WAY** (ISAIAH 1:18)

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From the General Secretary



Our Mission as member of the United Bible Societies is to make God's Word available, accessible, affordable and to transform lives, our lives and others'. Even though we have run Bible engagement programmes over the years with various segments of the Ghanaian community the BSG has in the past two years increased this engagement ministry with special focus on reaching the youth with the Bible.

At the beginning of 2016, BSG started a special pilot programme 'Open The Book' with selected Upper Primary classes and Junior Secondary Schools in James Town, Mamprobi, Chorkor and Cape Coast. Various Bible stories are dramatized by trained, enthusiastic Volunteers to the Children at school worship and the lessons therefrom shared with the children. This programme has been received by both school authorities and Children with excitement and they look forward to receiving the volunteers every week. It has been hailed as a big success in attracting the attention of the Children to the Bible. BSG hopes to expand this programme to various other parts of the country after the two year pilot.

The 'Next Generation' (Next Gen) Cluster Project seeks to reach the youth between ages 12 and 17 years through a designed scripture engagement programme. This programme addresses some major youth concerns, such as Peer Pressure and Violence from the Bible perspective so that the youths engaged may experience transformed lives.

The BSG seeks to distribute 10,000 Bibles over a four year period through the 'Bible Campaign: Engaging The Youth with Scriptures' Project. This project focusses the participating youths on a relevant social subject such as 'integrity' or 'excellence' and encourages the youths to address these subjects by applying the subject to their lives. The young people participating are encouraged to write essays on how they will pursue these virtues based on their knowledge of Scripture. While Bibles are given to all participants the schools from which the winning essays come as well as the script writers also receive Lap top Computers. This is a project for youth of 14 to 18 years.

This year the BSG will further pursue the 'Rescue Mission for Vulnerable Girls Project' in the Western Region. The BSG will collaborate with identifiable counselling ministries to equip teenage girls with moral and life skills education to help them make informed decisions leading to transformed and healthy life of the girl child.

We shall once again organize the Youth edition of the African Biblical Leadership Initiative (ABLI-Ghana) this year to promote the ideals of servant leadership and integrity as virtues to live by, and if necessary, die for. It is part of our contribution to give Ghana, our dear nation, leaders who appreciate leadership by example and are willing to show themselves as such.

All the Projects mentioned as well as many others are being pursued, in addition to the traditional Translation, Publishing and Distribution programmes that BSG has been engaged in over the years, to bring our Children and youth closer to realizing the abundant life that Jesus Christ brings to all.

Once again I thank the Church in Ghana and all supporting Christians for their immense contributions that enable us to reach out into the nation for Jesus Christ. Your faithful contributions have made and are making positive impact in the lives of the youth whom we interact with. We know that our collaboration will yield great rewards for individuals, homes and ultimately our nation Ghana. We wish to reach out even more.

God bless you real good.

Rev. Dr. Erasmus Nii Bonne Odonkor!

LEADERS

must learn to exit

HONOURABLY

*Most Rev. Dr.
Aboagye-Mensah*

By Patience Gbeze, GNA

Accra, Feb. 27, GNA – The Most Reverend Dr. Robert Aboagye-Mensah, a former Presiding Bishop of the Methodist Church of Ghana, has admonished people in leadership positions to know when they are done and exit honourably.

He said: “most leaders do not know when to exit because they do not know what they were called to do”.

The Most Rev. Aboagye-Mensah, who said this at the induction service of the newly appointed officials of the Bible Society of Ghana (BSG), said “there are leaders who are so confused about their call and do not know how to exit”.

The service, which was held at the Evangelical

Presbyterian Church, Ghana, Dansoman Congregation, was to climax this year’s Bible Week celebration on the theme, “Come Let us Reason Together, The Bible Way”.

The Former Presiding Bishop, therefore, urged all leaders to exit honourably when their time came.

The appointed officials are Dr Joyce Rosalind Aryee, Chief Executive Officer of Salt and Light Ministries as the President of the Society; Dr Steve Asante, the immediate past President of the Ghana Baptist Convention, as First Vice President.

Others include Apostle Peter Okoe Mankralo, President of the Apostolic Church-Ghana, as the Second Vice President; Mrs Efua Ghartey, a



Corporate Lawyer, maintained her position as the Chairman of the National Council of the BSG, and Mr J.N.B Tetteh, a Retired Banker, as a Vice Chairman.

In all, 16 Council members and 36 committee members from various church denominations were also inducted to have oversight responsibilities over the operations of the Society.

The Very Reverend Francis Amenu, the District Pastor of the E.P Church, Dansoman Congregation, who performed the induction rites, said the officials were called by the Lord to be at the helm of affairs to produce and distribute His word (the Bible) to every corner of the word and urged them to deliver exemplary service to achieve the Society's mandate.

Dr Joyce Aryee, on behalf of other appointees, said their appointment was a big responsibility but also a great privilege to serve the society.

She pledged the commitment of members saying they would join hands with the Holy Spirit

and work together to ensure their usefulness throughout their tenure.

Mrs Elizabeth Taylor-Sampson, the Administration and Human Resource Manager of BSG, said every year they celebrated the Bible Week to promote unity in diversity in the word of God, family and the Church.

The Week, she said, was also to raise funds for the activities of the Society and expressed her gratitude to the past executives for their committed service to the Society.

For the first time, Ghana has been chosen as the venue for the 2022 UBS World Assembly. The World Conference would host National Bible Societies from 200 countries.

South Africa is the only other African country to have hosted this global conference.

The BSG is a non-denominational Christian organization registered under the Trustees Act, 1962 of the Republic of Ghana.



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Account Number: 1011130039150
Branch: High Street

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BSG MEETS CATHOLIC BISHOPS



Representatives from the National Council and Management of Bible Society of Ghana met with the Roman Catholic Bishops at the Catholic Bishops Conference of Ghana held recently, on Tuesday, 21st February, 2016, at the Catholic Secretariat, Shiashie Accra.

The meeting sought to foster the relationship between the BSG and the Catholic Secretariat which in a long time has been idle.

Addressing the eminent gathering of the Bishops, the General Secretary of the Bible Society of Ghana, Rev. Dr. Erasmus Odonkor, expressed gratitude to the Catholic Church for their continuous support over the years.

He cited the participation of Rev. Fr. Awuah-Ansah who has served the BSG in diverse ways.

Rev. Dr. Odonkor reiterated the core task of the BSG being the effective and meaningful distribution of Scriptures. Adding that the BSG was more than willing to work with the Biblical Apostolate in promoting the scriptures.

Bishop Palmer Buckle, noted that the meeting had been an enlightening one as both sides

shared the way forward for Bible work in promoting the cause of the gospel.

He bemoaned the fact that some persons misinterpret the Scriptures and use it as a tool of violence against other religions.

He thanked the BSG on behalf of the Bishops' Conference, and commended the work of the Society, such as, the free distribution of Bibles to Parliamentarians and Presidents during their swearing-in into office.

The Chairman of the BSG Council, Mrs. Efua Ghartey, said the BSG would be partnering with the Parliamentary Christian Fellowship to organize Biblical leadership forum for them to make an impact in Parliament and the country as a whole.

The following were the delegation to the meeting: Mrs. Efua Ghartey (Chairman of BSG Council), Mr. J.N.B Tetteh (Vice Chairman BSG Council), Rev. Dr. Erasmus Odonkor (General Secretary), Rev. Dr. B.Y. Quarshie (Council Member), Ps. Dr. Chris Annan Nunoo (Council Member) Ms. Patience Anthony (Manager, Communication and Resource Mobilization), Rev. Charles Adu Twumasi (Manager, Church Relations and Programmes).

This is a true story of a young man in one of the rural areas of Ghana.

DESPISED BUT NOT REJECTED



Kojo's childhood experience was a rough one. His father left home when he was 12 years old and so he was sent to live with his grandfather who was an idol worshipper; that was how he dropped out of school.

As a boy, Kojo never had friends to play with. Coming from the house of idols created some fear about him among the children of his neighbourhood, as a result, he had no friends and would often be found playing by himself. This made him feel different and lonely. It also created in him a sense of rejection.

"I would try to talk to people and make friends," says Kojo, "but they would just avoid me. They see me as weird, and gross." Kojo felt like an animal.

"I have nothing to look forward to, no one cares for me, no one loves me"; Kojo often thought.

"No matter how hard I tried, all I knew was pain, hurt, misery and loneliness."

He would go out and look upwards to the skies and shout to God in heaven to give him one

reason he shouldn't take his own life. On one of such days, Kojo heard an inner voice, so loud and yet peaceful, that said, "Don't do this, for I have plans for you,"

Kojo continued to have terrible treatment from his grandfather, since he was not interested in the fetish and idol business. He failed to learn the art of idol worship and so was beaten and deprived of food for days. On the contrary, Kojo loved to hide and sneak to Church to listen to the preaching there.

He was always encouraged after church and felt peace in his heart from the God of love who was very different from the gods his grandfather served, who were ruthless, and would be quick to inflict pain and even meted out death for offences committed.

The pastor of the local church in his village, not too long ago, invited the Jesus Film team from the Bible Society of Ghana to come and minister, and during the altar call, Kojo was among the multitude who rose to commit their lives to Christ. He later joined the

"I have nothing to look forward to, no one cares for me, no one loves me";

Kojo often thought.

church and participated in the Faith Comes by Hearing (FCBH) session.

His grandfather was highly disappointed and attempted to harm him spiritually but was unsuccessful. He claimed Kojo's newfound God was powerful and all efforts to destroy him had failed.

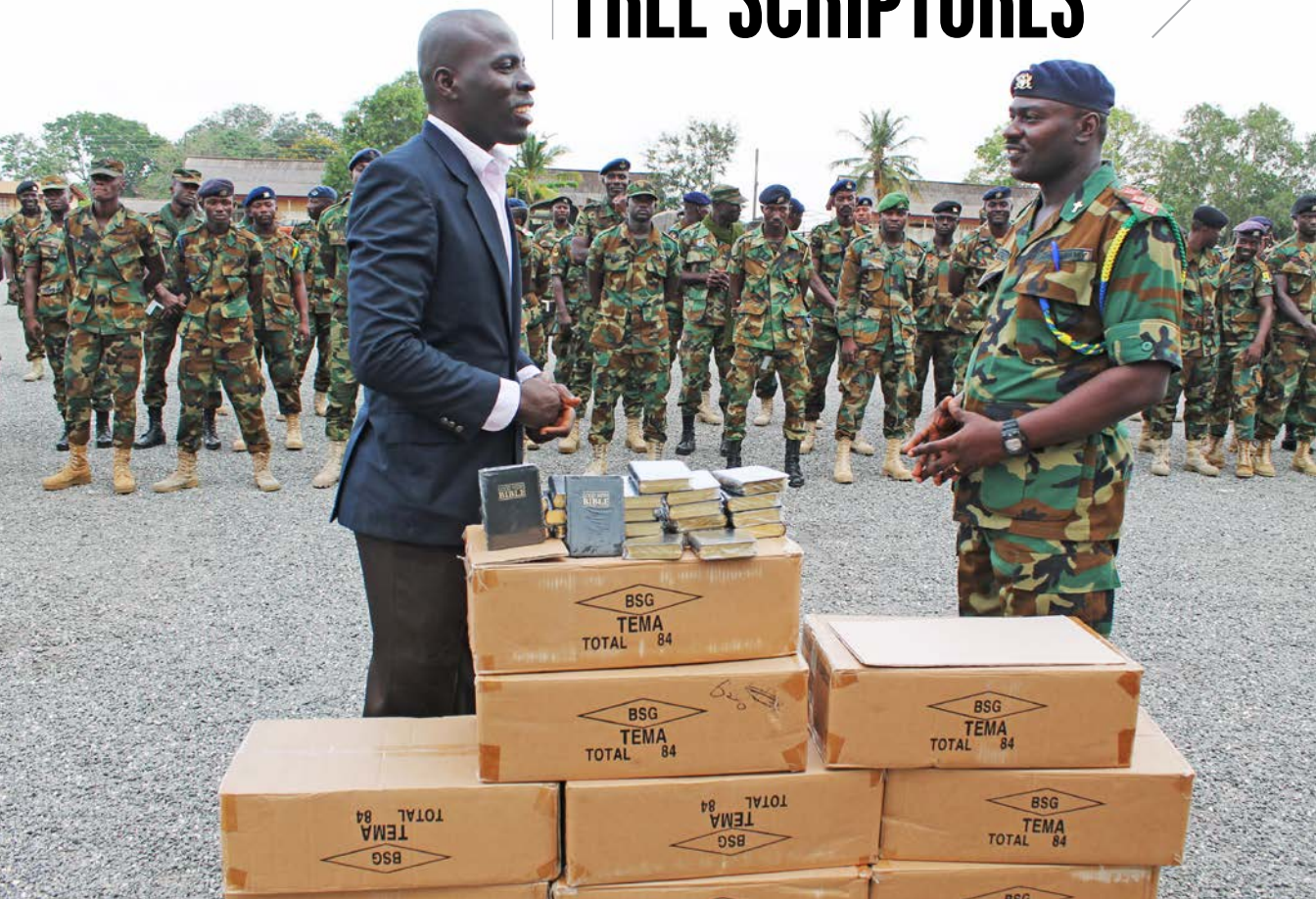
Kojo's desire to hear the Word of God led him to participate in the literacy class in the church. Within 6 months, he had mastered basic reading

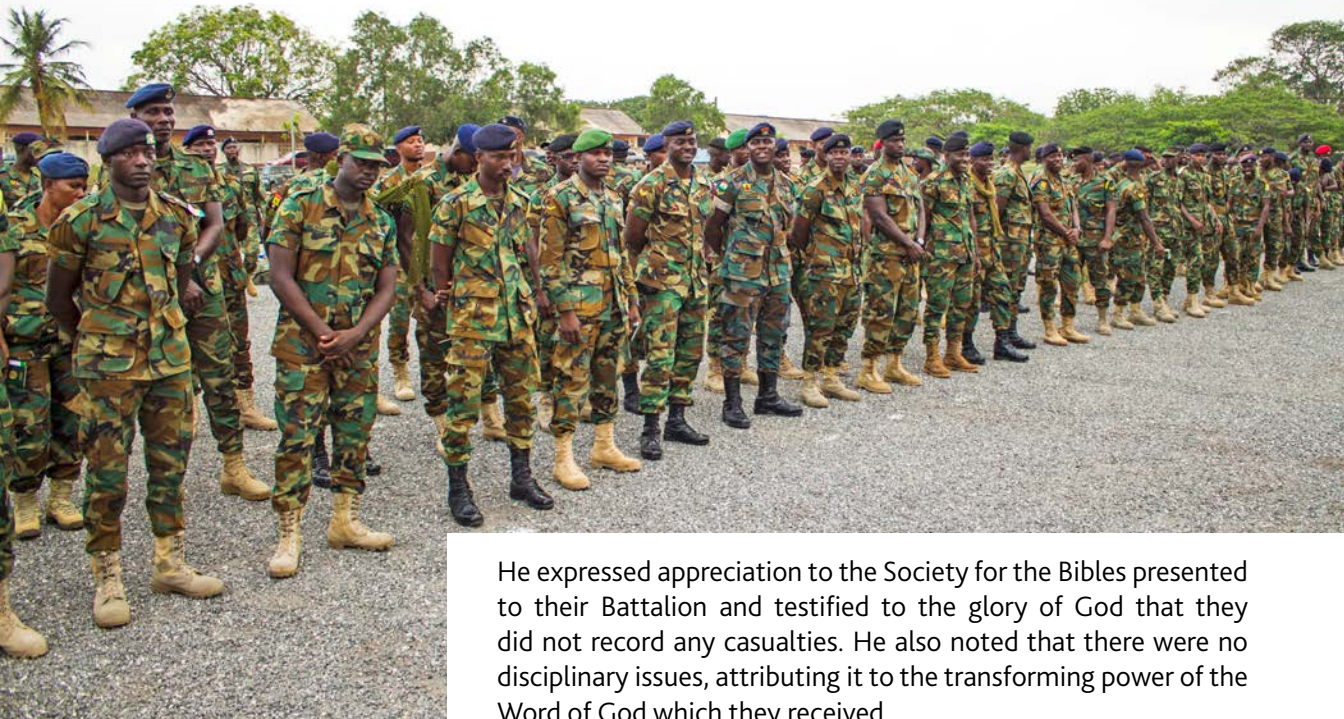
skills. This, therefore, qualified him to own his Bible, under a special program called the E2E.

"I want to take this opportunity to thank the team who came to our area to show the Jesus film, my life has changed completely"; Kojo shares. He now serves in the church, after his grandfather finally sacked him from the house. Thankfully, his mother's business is doing well now and so with her help he has gone back to school.

A Chaplain of the Battalion to South Sudan from 2016 - April, 2017, Flying Officer Rev. Asiedu-Perdison, visited the Offices of the BSG to make a generous donation towards the Peacekeeping project of the Society, out of their Church Services held in South Sudan.

PEACEKEEPING SOLDIERS TRANSFORMED BY FREE SCRIPTURES





He expressed appreciation to the Society for the Bibles presented to their Battalion and testified to the glory of God that they did not record any casualties. He also noted that there were no disciplinary issues, attributing it to the transforming power of the Word of God which they received.

Earlier, two other officers, who were direct beneficiaries of the free Bibles, had visited the Bible House to apply to become members of the Society. They mentioned that morning devotion at the peacekeeping camps came alive as everyone could open their Bibles and read along as the chaplains led them through Scriptures.

One of the two officers testified that he committed his life to Christ during one such devotion at the peacekeeping mission, while the other said he rededicated himself afresh to God. According to them, there were more who also gave their lives to Christ. Even more striking was the new determination of the one who received Christ to go to Bible school to learn more about the word of God.

Already, this year, peacekeepers to South Sudan from the Ghana Armed Forces have received 700 Bibles from the Bible Society of Ghana (BSG) as part of the Society's Peacekeeping Project to equip the Soldiers in the Word of God as they go about their duties on the battle front.

The presentation was made on 27th March, 2017, at the Burma Camp, by Mr. William Owusu Ansere, Mrs. Catherine Odjidja and Mr. Samuel Awuah Botwe, on behalf of the General Secretary of the Bible Society of Ghana.

Making the presentation, the team reiterated the Society's efforts to make the Word of God Available and Affordable and to encourage its use to transform lives.

The Chaplain of the Battalion, thanked the Bible Society on behalf of the Director of Religious Affairs of the Ghana Armed Forces.

He noted that Soldiers were very religious people contrary to perceptions about them. He said when they go on peacekeeping missions they always organize services to thank God for His protection over their lives.

He also called on Churches and individuals to continue to support the Bible Society of Ghana to carry out its mandate.

Come let us reason together: The Bible Way



The Dean of Graduate Studies at the Trinity Theological Seminary, Rev. Prof. David Nii Anum Kpobi, has called on Christians to allow the relationship we have with God reflect in our relationship with our fellow human beings.

He said today, many Christians take the Bible for granted because it is so common everywhere; we can buy it from every corner of the street, forgetting that many years ago, the Bible was so scarce. It is so common that we don't see its importance anymore.

Speaking on the theme for the Bible Week Celebration; "Come Let us Reason Together", Rev. Prof. David Nii Anum Kpobi noted that it was an invitation to come together to reason as one people, with the Bible showing the way. He said, in the Church today, importance is placed more on celebrations and activities than on mission work.

He said the Bible has become common because of the work of the Bible Society of Ghana, making the Word of God available and affordable.

So as we sit around the Bible today, it is important that we know what others have done in the past for us to have the Bible today. Without the Bible we will not know what the will of God is for our lives.

In like manner, God wants to dialogue with His children because of the state we found ourselves.

He recounted the Mary Jones story of a little girl's quest for her own Bible.

The 2017 Bible Week Celebration was observed from Saturday, 4th February- Sunday 12th February, 2014 on the theme, "Come Let us reason together, the Bible way" (Isa 1:18).

The Bible week is observed annually in the month of February together with churches in Ghana to thank God for the gift of the Bible. This also creates an opportunity for the Christian community to transcend denominational barriers.

The launch of the Bible Week commences with the Saturday Bible Sabbath Launch with the Seventh Adventist Church and then on following Sunday in the various churches across the nation. Weekly activities, that included presentations on the operations of the BSG, Bible Reading Marathons, Bible Quizzes and a symposium on the chosen theme, were organized by the Local Council of Churches.

The Local Council of Churches (LCC), made up of Churches within a particular area, spearhead

the organizations of these activities.

Proceeds from the celebrations go to support the translation projects of Society. The BSG is currently translating the Bible, from the original Greek, Aramaic and Hebrew, into the Gurune language for the people of the Upper East region and Esahie of the Sehwe. Other translations to commence in 2017 include the Bono Bible Translation Project for the people of the Brong Ahafo Region.

Support Bible translation today. Averagely, it cost the Bible Society of Ghana \$18.00 to translate a verse of the Bible into any of the local languages. Your membership and donation will be highly appreciated as no amount is too small for the Bible cause.



UBS

Day of Prayer



The Clergy and Leadership of Women Fellowships



Prayer time



Moment of Adoration and Praise



Sections of Women Fellowships @ UBS Day of Prayer

ICGC Holy Temple donates to BSG



Rev. Mrs. Felicia Annor, wife of the General Overseer of the ICGC Holy Ghost Temple presents a cheque to the BSG to support Bible work



Rev. Mrs. Annor writes her favourite Bible verse in the BSG 50th anniversary Bible

GURUNE BOOK of MARK launched





BSG Staff Begin the year with Communion Service



The Holy Communion was administered to staff to commence the year's operations. Present at the service, which takes place at the start of each new year, were management and staff of the Accra office of the Bible Society of Ghana.

During his address at the Communion Service, the General Secretary of the Bible Society of Ghana, Rev. Dr. Erasmus Odonkor, appreciated the Management and staff for the good work done in the past year. He thanked all for supporting their departmental heads in

achieving the targets set for them.

"It is the Lord who has brought us this far. It is by the grace of God that the Bible Society of Ghana is what it is today."

Reading from 1 Corinthians 1:4-9, Rev. Dr. Odonkor said the grace of God cannot be overlooked in what the Society achieved in the past year, and that same grace gives an assurance of tomorrow, that God will sustain to the end.



*Some members of
staff at the Service*

Rev. Dr. Odonkor called on Staff Members to pray that God would give them the strength to hold on to their faith even as they strive to meet their various targets for the new year.

He cautioned Staff Members to be blameless before God as each one will give an account for their work done at the Bible Society. He also urged them to improve themselves to become better and also to pray about their various tasks given them for grace to abound as they discharge their duties.

A special time was taken to pray for all BSG donors and supporters, including the Members, the churches and all who partner with the Society in one form or the other, for the Bible cause.



Outlining some key projects for the year, the General Secretary said, by the grace of God, the BSG will publish at least a diglot Bible and also start a new translation in the Bono language for the people of the Brong Ahafo Region.

The Holy Communion was administered to staff to commence the year's operations.

The Bible Society of Ghana website is getting **GETTING BETTER & INTERESTING**

Visit our website and get updates with **photos** on our **programmes**.

Join the noble cause of Bible work by becoming a member of the Bible Society of Ghana. You can become a member of the Society by simply filling a membership form online and then click a button! In no time, a staff will contact you. You will receive your certificate within a week.

Visit our online shop to see what Bibles are available and how you can purchase one.



Bible Society of Ghana; making God's Word available to all and affordable!

www.biblesocieties-ghana.org 



Members of the newly inaugurated Language Committees

BSG inaugurates Language Committees

The Bible Society of Ghana has inaugurated Language Committees for the eight local language Bibles published over the years.

The goal of the language committees is to add lasting value to the local language Bibles. With a three-year mandate, members of the committees have the responsibility to read the Bible at their own pace, but with a critical eye, to identify issues that need modification, removal or replacement, to improve the quality of the Bible text.

Addressing members of the committee, the General Secretary of BSG, Rev. Dr. Erasmus Odonkor, noted that the formation of Language Committees was significant because there has not been any of such since 1967, when the first one was put together.

He charged the members to be well acquainted with the various editions of their language, as it will enrich their knowledge to enable them do

quality job, which is the hallmark of the Bible Society of Ghana.

The General Secretary noted that challenges emanating from typos, errors in grammatical expressions, direct translation of idioms that may not provide true meaning in the languages, among others, have affected the level of acceptance of new Bible translations around the world.

“These challenges, no matter how small, need to be carefully identified and the requisite attention given to them, to maintain the value and relevance of the text”; he added.

Rev. Prof. David Ekem, the Translations Consultant of the Bible Society, also indicated that, the Committee members’ work would make Bible translations more reader friendly and also clarify idioms.



Prof. Gilbert Ansre, member of the committee makes a contribution

and reverence for the work they have been assigned and cited some excerpts from 'Early Scriptures of the Gold Coast', authored by him, to point to the tedious nature of translation work, and yet an invaluable service to the Christian community today.

The members of the Language Committees have a sound background in Linguistics in their various languages, backed by adequate knowledge and experience in Theology.

Below are the various Language Committees and their members:

- Mr. Opoku Asenso-Asante(Asante Twi), Rev. Dr. Philip Laryea (Ga), Dr. Mrs. Yvonne Ollenu(Ga), Mr. Emmanuel Adjetey-Adjei(Ga), Rev. James Abdulai, Mr. Ishahakku Alhassan(Dagbani), Mr. Razak Peter(Dagbani), Rev. James Abdulai(Dagbani), Rev. Prof. Gilbert Ansre(Ewe), Dr. Mercy Bo-Boafo(Ewe), Bishop Ato Brown(Mfantse), Mrs. Patience Obeng(Mfantse), Rev. Fr. Francis Mbro, Dr. Regina Caesar(Dangbme), and Rev. Samuel Larweh(Dangme)*



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GOD'S WORD
 EASY TO UNDERSTAND



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First ever **STUDY BIBLE** for **AFRICA** Launched

The first ever Study Bible for Africa has been launched by the Challenge Enterprises of Ghana, in partnership with the Bible Society of Ghana, Tyndale House Publishers and the Oasis International Limited.

The launching came off at a colourful event held at the Accra International Conference Centre, Accra, attended by the immediate past Vice President of the Republic, Kwesi Amissah-Arthur, who formally launched the Bible.



He said the purpose of the newly launched Bible, which was put together by over 350 contributors, was not to be “put on shelves to gather dust” but to be read to transform lives.

The Most Rev. Prof. Emmanuel Asante, former President of the Bible Society of Ghana, and Chairman of the National Peace Council, speaking on the theme, “God still speaks”, noted that God uses many channels like, special circumstances, nature and, ultimately, through His son Jesus Christ.

He said, through the Bible, God spoke to His people in a fragmented nature, through various media, adding that Jesus is the final Agent of God’s revelation. “Ignore Jesus and you ignore God’s definitive revelation” , he added.

He noted that the Bible was intended to facilitate the encounter between the reader and God. He, therefore, called on Christians to effectively use the Bible to encounter God.

The Africa Study Bible connects the scripture to life in an authentic African setting, taking cognizance of the proverbs and the rich culture of the African people. Bible passages that have parallels with a specific African proverb are highlighted to make the Bible come alive to the African and to enable them better appreciate the Word of God.

The ASB, which was birthed in Accra, Ghana, is best described as God’s Word through African eyes.

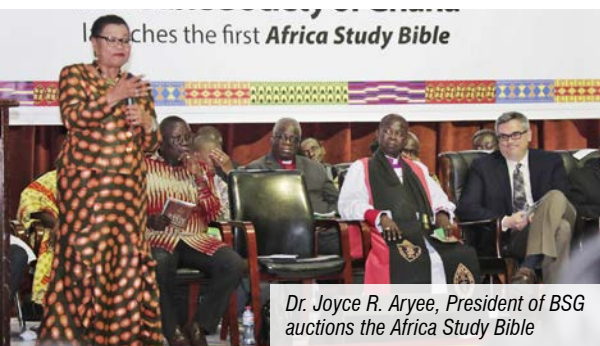
Speaking with the General Secretary of the Bible Society of Ghana, Rev. Dr. Erasmus Odonkor, he noted that it was a fact that the Christian faith is growing fastest in Africa. Even though the Bible is for all Christians, it was important that Africans would appreciate the Bible in the context of their home situation and also for Christians outside Africa to appreciate why Africa is in love with the African faith.

He indicated that the African was raised up

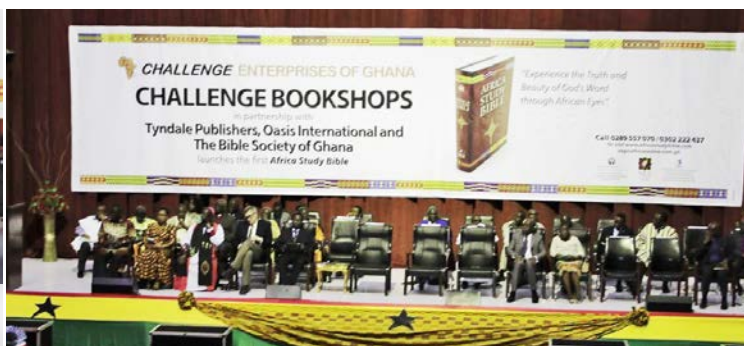
in basic admonition and proverbs that were unique to Africa. Most of those proverbs completely agree with the understanding of the Scriptures. For example, in the Ga language of one of the tribes in Ghana, we say, “Ataa-Naa Nyonmo (literally meaning God who is both father and mother) which agrees with Scripture that even though God is referred to as “Father” who created everything, yet it is in His motherly nature that He is compassionate and forgiving. As a result, it was not difficult to speak to the African about the reality of God.

He further explained that in Africa, the children were raised to naturally honour their parents, and also, not to raise children to have their own way but for their parents to determine. Thus, when the Bible entreats children to obey their parents in the Lord (Ephesian 6:1), it was in line with the culture and upbringing of the African.

Rev. Dr. Odonkor mentioned that soon work would commence on an African Women’s Devotional Bible.



Dr. Joyce R. Aryee, President of BSG auctions the Africa Study Bible



Apostle Prof. Opoku Onyiah (President of Church of Pentecost) presents a copy of the newly launched Bible to H.E. Paa Kwesi Amisshah Arthur.

H.E. Paa Kwesi Amisshah Arthur officially launched the Bible





BSG, Interacts With Graduate Hostel Students Fellowship University of Cape Coast

The Bible Society of Ghana, Cape Coast Office, on Thursday, 2nd March 2017, had an evening of interaction with the Graduate Students Fellowship of the University of Cape Coast. It was an eye opener to most of the participants since they did not know much about the Society and what it does.

The encounter, which was at the request of the Leadership of the Fellowship, was part of their first regular monthly meeting for the second semester of the 2016/2017 academic year. The meeting was held at the Sasakawa Conference Room of the Department of Agricultural Economics and Extension.

Representing the Takoradi- Cape Coast Area Office, were Mrs. Grace Asamoah-Yeboah (leader of the Cape Coast Team) and Andrew Ntsiful.

A brief presentation, on what the Bible Society of Ghana stands for, our duties and the various projects we embark on, was given. Participants were exposed to the role Mary Jones, as young as she was, played in getting the Bible and, thereby, motivating the widespread of the Bible to Christians worldwide. Members of the fellowship were challenged as young Christians to position themselves well in support of Bible work in their own small ways, by becoming Members of BSG.

There was also a display of the diverse Bibles the Society carries. It was a great opportunity for the office to talk about the Bible Society of Ghana to young Christians who would very soon take up prominent positions in our various churches and society. It also marked the beginning of a new relationship with the Graduate Students of the University of Cape Coast.



BSG Donates **Greek & Hebrew Bibles** to Valley View University

By: Rev. Charles Adu-Twumasi

The Bible Society of Ghana has donated Hebrew and Greek New Testament Bibles to students of the Valley View University to help in the study of these languages.

The distribution which was made possible with funding from the German Bible Society, took place at the Head Office of the BSG on ---.

The donation forms part of the Scholarly editions project of the Bible Society of Ghana, to donate to students and libraries of theological seminaries and universities across the country, to enrich their studies in biblical research, especially, in the original Hebrew or Greek texts.

It is expected that when the theological institutions are well equipped, biblical teachings in Churches would be improved.

Studies have shown that majority of first year students of theological institutions do not own copies of the Greek and Hebrew Bibles. This has resulted in numerous calls on the Bible Society of Ghana to help stock up libraries of these institutions with copies of the scholarly editions.

The presentation was done by the General Secretary of the Bible Society of Ghana, Rev. Dr. Erasmus Odonkor, to a delegation of lecturers from the Valley View University. He said the Bible Society of Ghana is ready to support the Church in any way possible, within the ambits of its mission.

He said, from time to time, the BSG will be making these scholarly editions available to the theological seminaries, to help the trainee ministers in their studies.

In a short interview, Pastor Felix Opoku Gyamfi, a lecturer of the School of Theology and Missions at the Valley View University, expressed gratitude to the Society for the books they had received. "We now have 100 students studying Greek, so the more we receive the more helpful it is. And since they are beginners, they normally need to have the feel of the language by reading and turning the pages of the Bible"; the lecturer explained, with excitement.

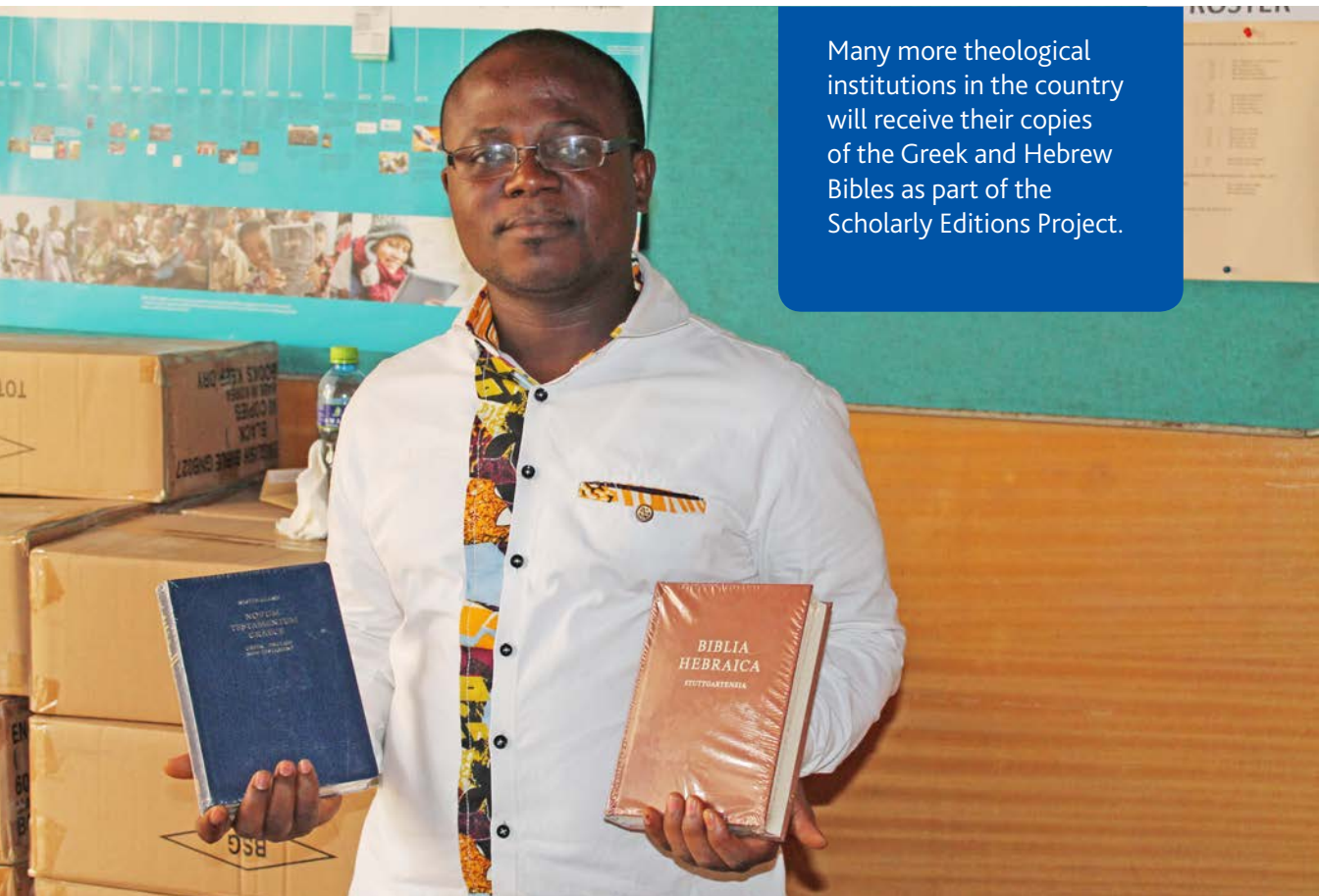
Sharing his personal testimony, Pastor Gyamfi related how he received a copy of the Greek Bible from the Bible Society of Ghana in 2001, as student at the Valley View University. According

to him, it was of immense help in his study of the language and still remains very useful to both his students and other colleague lecturers.

"I am still using that personal copy of the Greek Bible I received; I am still using it today to teach. So, this partnership is significant to help the Ministry in training the young people".

He said the BSG has been a faithful partner to the department of Missions and Theology of the University. He further appealed to BSG for students to receive individual copies in the future.

It is the hope of the Bible Society of Ghana, that these Bibles will assist major seminaries in Ghana to produce research students of strong Biblical grounding by international standards.





TAKORADI AREA “I STAND FOR INTEGRITY” ESSAY COMPETITION AWARDS

Award prizes of iPad and Bibles were presented to the winners and participants from various senior high schools who partook in the “NEXTGEN” essay competition dubbed, “I Stand for Integrity”, organized by the Bible Society of Ghana, in the Sekondi – Takoradi and Cape Coast Metropolis. The students were asked to write essays on the topic referencing biblical quotations. The goal was to aid in instilling in the young leaders the fast dissipating virtue of integrity in our Ghanaian society.

In all, 35 students participated in the competition. The first and second prizes went to Nowelina Aba Dadzie and Angelina Amissah, respectively. Both were students of Shama Senior High School. Master Paa Kwesi Anderson, of Ghana Secondary Technical School, took the third position.

The first three winners for both Cape Coast and Sekondi –Takoradi zones each received a TICHIPS iPad and a Bible. All other participants received Bibles, in appreciation of their participation.

The short but impressive presentation ceremonies, held separately at the schools, had the heads of the participating institutions (Shama SHS, Ghana Secondary Technical School

and Archbishop Porter Girls’ SHS, for Takoradi; University Practice SHS – UCC, Mfantshipim School and Wesley Girls SHS, for Cape Coast), chaplains and other members of staff present. The students were full of joy and cheered their colleagues on as they received their prizes.

In his remarks, at one of the presentation ceremonies in Takoradi, the Area Officer of Bible Society of Ghana - Takoradi, Mr. Emmanuel Menka Agyekum, was pleased with the efforts put in by each participant and commended the schools for the encouragement they gave their students to partake of this Bible based essay competition. He exhorted the students to be diligent in their studies, steadfast in the Lord and to read their Bibles, which would transform them into good Christians and responsible citizens in the country. Furthermore, he cautioned them to be law abiding and peaceful citizens of Ghana.

The heads of the schools also urged their students to be active participants in such competitions in the future. They commended the Bible Society of Ghana for the essay competition and for the good work they are engaged in.



BSG Hosts Workshop for African Bible Societies

The Bible Society of Ghana (BSG) has hosted Bible Societies from thirty-five African Countries for a 5-day Project Management and Finance workshop. The training took place at the M-Plaza Hotel in Accra from 1st – 5th May, 2017.

The purpose of the workshop was to enhance the knowledge the participants, who are from both Anglophone and Francophone Africa, to better run projects in their respective countries. Similar workshops have been organized in the past by the United Bible Societies, but this has

been the largest Project Management training group so far.

The Chairperson of the United Bible Societies Global Board and Chairman of the Council of the BSG, Mrs. Efua Gharthey, and the General Secretary of the BSG, Rev. Dr. Erasmus Odonkor, together with other Management members, visited the participants at the workshop.

Addressing the participants, Rev. Dr. Odonkor spoke on the theme, “Where is Jesus the Christ?”. He said, working in a Bible Society

was in fulfilment of the prophecy of Jesus in John 12:32; “And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself”. Adding that, Jesus uses the Church to draw men to Himself.

He entreated all to have a complete commitment to work and not work in a half-hearted manner. “It is easy to think that we are working with the Bible Society for our salaries. But that should not be the only reason we are here but rather, we should see it as a ministry to fulfil the great commission of Christ”, he advised.

He noted that for Bible work in Africa to progress, it would take workers who were willing to do things differently; workers who would make Jesus the centre of Bible work.

He, therefore, called on all to be sincere in their respective roles they play, in the Bible work, in their various countries.

Mrs. Efua Ghartey also welcomed all participants to the training session. She advised them to take their moments of learning seriously, as they being leaders in their own way, were being prepared to take the United Bible Societies and the National Bible Societies far in some years to come. She also challenged all to take some time to have personal quiet moments of reflection and study of the Bible.

The facilitators for the workshop were, Mr. Maxime Bakiono, Mr. Isaac Litali and Mr. Emmanuel Mbindyo. In all, 70 participants took part in the training.





REV. ERASMUS ODONKOR AWARDED A DOCTOR OF MINISTRY



The General Secretary of the Bible Society of Ghana, Rev. Erasmus Odonkor, has been awarded a Doctor of Ministry Degree (D.Min) upon a successful completion of his Doctorate Programme in Ministry with the New York Theological Seminary, New York - USA.

In all, eight Ministers of the Presbyterian Church of Ghana and one lay person were awarded the degree.

The graduation ceremony came off in January, 2017 at the Akrofi Christaller Institute of Theology and Missions in Akropong.

The ceremony was organized in collaboration with the Akrofi-Christaller Institute (ACI) of Theology, Mission and Culture. ACI is a postgraduate research institution established by the Presbyterian Church of Ghana and

accredited by the National Accreditation Board of the Ministry of Education (Ghana).

Rev. Dr. Erasmus Odonkor also holds Masters Degrees in Business Administration (Human Resource Management) and Master of Arts Degree (Religions), both from the University of Ghana, Legon. He is a Certified Human Resource Practitioner (CHRP) by the Institute of Human Resource Management Practitioners, Ghana (IHRMP).

The Council, Management and the entire staff of the Bible Society of Ghana are proud of his laudable achievement and thank God that the years of hard work and persistence has paid off.

***Congratulations
Rev. Dr. Erasmus Nii Bonne Odonkor!***

Mr. Abban Retires from Bible Society



To God be the glory for the great things He has done.

Mr. Samuel Kwesi Abban, Chief Transport Officer of the Bible Society of Ghana, has retired from active

work after sixteen years of dedicated service with the BSG.

The BSG is grateful to him for his sense of responsibility and cautiousness with which he discharged his duties. He was dependable and handle his assignments with great professionalism. His long years of service made him a repository of the addresses of almost all the old officers of the Society, hence with his assistance, locating any official was made very easy.

At a send-off service held in his honour in December, 2016, staff of the BSG presented parting gifts to show appreciation to Mr. Abban and his family.

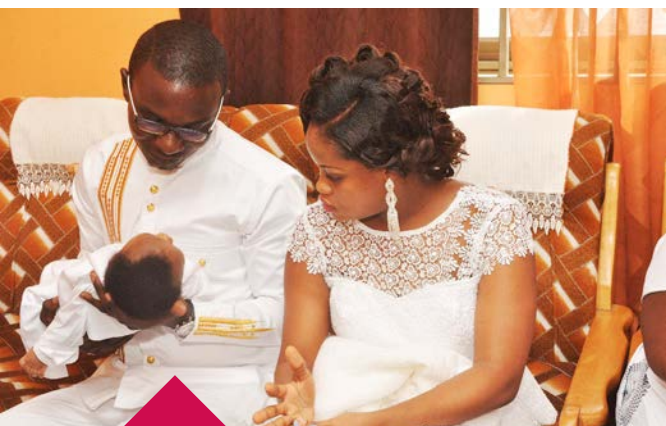
The General Secretary, Rev. Dr. Erasmus Odonkor, thanked him for his humility and exemplary attitude to work. He prayed for God's grace and protection as he retires from active service.

He read from 1 Corinthians 15:58: "So then, my dear friends, stand firm and steady. Keep busy always in your work for the Lord, since you know that nothing you do in the Lord's service is ever useless", and encouraged him to continue with his good works.

The Abban family was full of gratitude for the love shown them by the management and staff of the Society. Abban was also thankful for the opportunity to have worked with the Society for so long. He assured the BSG of his voluntary service should the need arise.

Abban is a man loved by all his colleagues and would be greatly missed.

The staff of BSG wishes you the best in retirement!



Behold, children are a heritage and a gift from the Lord, the fruit of the womb, a reward; Psalm 127:3 (Amp).

Mr. Samuel Awuah Botwe, I.T. Officer of BSG and his wife Ophelia, have been blessed with a bouncing baby boy! The naming ceremony of Baby Ethan, which took place on the 18th March, 2017, was attended by colleagues of BSG at their residence. Congratulations Mr. and Mrs. Awuah Botwe!



Estee @ 60

The entire Management and Staff of the BSG congratulates Mrs. Esther Lomo, Administrative Officer of the BSG on her 60th Birthday.



THE BIBLE SOCIETY OF GHANA
Making God's Word Available and Affordable

Translation Seminar

THEME:

LANGUAGE, CULTURE & BIBLE TRANSLATION



13th JUNE 2017

VENUE:
**THE ACCRA
RIDGE CHURCH**

TIME: **8:30AM**



RSVP:
**0262280759
0268991102**



THE BIBLE SOCIETY OF GHANA
Making God's Word Available and Affordable

invites you to its

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2017

Date:

**Thursday
3rd AUG
2017**

Time:

**1:00 pm
prompt**

Venue:

**Evangel Assemblies
of God Church**

Opposite Avenida Hotel, Kojo Thompson Road,
Adabraka, Accra.