



REPORT ON THE PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF GHANA (PCG) AND THE PROTESTANT (LUTHERAN) CHURCH IN AUSTRIA (EKiÖ) 2009

The year under review has been full of challenges but it was very interesting the way the Lord saw us through. We agree with Jeremiah when he says “Through the Lord’s mercies we are not consumed, because His compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness.” Lam 3:22-23

GHANAIAI CONGREGATION

Presbyters:

1. Agnes Nyonouvi Aziahomey – Chairperson
2. Stephen Opoku-Takyi – Deputy Chairperson
3. Seth Maxwell Koranteng – Treasurer
4. James Cobbina – Assistant Treasurer
5. John Kojo Ampia-Addison – Secretary
6. Nana Oppong Apraku – Assistant Secretary
7. Rev. Timothy Ernest Annoh – Pastor

Activities

The presbyters were able to meet four times in the year to discuss and plan for the congregation. Such meetings were open and frank but I think we should reconsider meeting every month as stated in our constitution since often there was need to call emergency meetings.

Children’s Department

The children in the congregation were well organized. They had separate services whenever the adults met for worship. Due to the interesting nature of their programmes they had some additions during the year to bring their number to ten. They always performed and acted what they had learnt to the adult congregation before the end of every worship service. When this is continued we hope to have children who are well nurtured in Christ to serve their community. We thank the teachers for the good work done.

Youth

The youth in the congregation are not many but very active. They did not get the platform to assert themselves in the congregation as was done by the children. Almost all of them are still in college but they find time to attend church services.

They were not found wanting whenever they were called upon to read the bible or say a prayer. Their role in providing songs during Church service was well appreciated. We hope they would be supported to initiate activities of their interest in the coming year.

Revival

There was a three-day revival in April 2009 on the theme: “Put on the whole armour of God”. Attendance and participation was far better than the previous year.

During evaluation of the programme the Presbyters decided to organize such revivals at least two times in a year. It was also suggested that we should seek the possibility of inviting other speakers who would contribute to enrich the programme even more. Thank God for the vision of the presbyters to introduce this activity in the congregation.



Prayer Meeting

Thank God the Thursday evening prayer meeting is growing from strength to strength. The Lord has been faithful and there are many testimonies of answered prayer by those who could make time to participate in this weekly exercise. We prayed for the Congregation, the church universal, individual requests, and the world at large. There was no aspect of life we did not commit to the Lord in prayer. Fortunately the doors are still opened to all who have the urge to join in this spiritual exercise.

General Church Life

The general life in the congregation is fairly good. Church services continue to be held every first Sunday and Bible Study on the third Sunday of the month. We are looking for the appropriate time where we can introduce every Sunday Service.

Pentecost service with the Ghana Minstrel Choir came on as planned in the Glaubenskirche, Braunhubergasse 20, A-1110 Wien in May. An advent service was also held together with the Choir in the Evangelische Kirche Arche, in November 2009. These two events have been a regular activity organized by the Congregation and the Choir.

The fellowship meal after service also gave us the opportunity to interact with new comers. This kind of association was very helpful for many of the members.

EAWM (EVANGELISCHER ARBEITSKREIS FÜR WELTMISSION)

The year 2009 began when Mr. Gottfried Mernyi left EAWM and was replaced by Mr. Lauri Hätönen in February. He took his time to settle in this new office, however the organization is still discussing what the future holds as the Evangelische Kirche in Österreich decided to cut down subvention as part of a restructuring exercise.

Board meetings were mostly to discuss this new trend and the challenges they bring. It is my prayer that we find a workable solution as we continue the discussions.

Supports for projects in Ghana continued during the course of the year. The Pastors' Association continued to support Programmes of Abokobi Women's Centre financially, especially the programme for the retired agents.

The students who were transferred from Dormaa Vocational Institute to Duayaw-Nkwanta Vocational institute continued to receive support from Austria to pay their fees and other bills.

PCG MINISTERS MEETING

With the Support of the Evangelische Church office, the Vienna diocese and EAWM we hosted the Presbyterian Church of Ghana (PCG) ministers in Europe to a four-day meeting from the 2nd – 5th July 2009 in Vienna. We were privileged to have Bishop Dr. Michael Bünker, Mag. Hansjörg Lein, Superintendent of Vienna diocese, and Mag. Manfred Golda, board Chairperson of EAWM took turns to address the meeting. In addition they donated in cash and in kind to support the programme.

One great advantage was that the meeting gave all PCG ministers in Europe opportunity to know each other and to share experiences. During evaluation we decided to make the meeting a regular affair.



VISITS

We were invited to work in Schools more than congregations during the year. In June we attended the Gustav Adolf fest at the Kreuzkirche in Hietzing. In February the whole family was invited to Kärnten where we visited congregations in Ferffenit, Hermagor, and Klagenfurt. We shared with these congregations the story of Ghana and showed some artefacts peculiar to Ghanaians.

Some of the schools visited were:

- Hauptschule Feistritz/Drau and BG/BRG - Kärnten
- (Bundesgymnasium und Realgymnasium) Spittal an der Drau - Kärnten
- Oberstufen Realgymnasium – Landstraße Hauptstraße 70 Wien
- Wiedner Gymnasium A-1050 Wien
- Volksschule in St. Andrä-Wördern, (Greifensteinerstr. 22-24, 3423)
- Die Informatik-Hauptschule in St. Andrä-Wördern (Greifensteinerstr. 31-35, 3423 St. Andrä-Wördern).

Our visits to these schools were very helpful for the children. Some of them became aware for the first time that Africa is a continent which has over fifty countries and different cultures. We were also able to connect some of the Children in these schools with some children in Ghana to exchange letter and share their experiences thus helping them to improve their writing skills. The only problem which needs to be improved is that when these children move higher in the academic pursuits and change schools it is difficult to monitor the exchanges which goes on between them.

This success chalked by the children in these schools suggests that we can connect congregations in Austria to Ghana so that they could directly share their faith experiences in a way that will be useful to both parties.

Vacation

During the summer of 2009, Rev. Timothy Annoh and his family was given the opportunity to enjoy a mid-term vacation back home in Ghana. It was a great time of relaxation and reunion for the family. We are grateful to God and our partners for this rare opportunity.

NOTABLE EVENTS

- a. Mr. Gottfried Mernyi retired from the EAWM office after about 17 years of service.
- b. Mr. Läuri Hätönen, from February 1, 2009 took over from where Mr. Gottfried Mernyi left.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT & CONCLUSION

Once again the Lord has been faithful to us this year under review. Despite the little challenges here and there he has proved that he is the one leading us. He gave us the vision, inspired us and provided the encouragement to do what we were able to do in the past year. We hope that this year we will be able to enhance our partnership, especially congregations, Districts, dioceses (Presbyteries) and the synods will explore new areas of co-operation where our people will be in contact not only at the leadership level but the grassroots to share ideas and experiences.

Secondly in every organization there is always a time for restructure and planning after so many years of missionary work of the Church through EAWM it is my prayer that the Spirit of the Lord will guide us as we look for better ways this organization will be able to serve the Church.

As long as there are people, our missionary activities will never cease because in people we find God. One cannot ignore people when God is looking out in their eyes at us. In the tiresome, the invalid, the rebellious, we are faced with God. What we need to do is to deal with our failures to love and this comes only through effort and practice.

I would on behalf of my family and my own behalf thank the Bishop and his staff, the board and staff of EAWM and the leadership of the Ghanaian congregation for their support through another successful year. Such unflinching support would be required this year and the years ahead.

Submitted by Rev Timothy Ernest Annoh

Distribution

1. The Director Ecumenical and Social Relations PCG, Accra
2. The Clerk of General Assembly, PCG- Accra
3. The Moderator of General Assembly, PCG- Accra
4. The Bishop, Protestant Church in Austria
5. The President of Synod, Protestant Church in Austria
6. The Superintendent, Diocese of Vienna
7. Members of the EAWM-Executive Board
8. The Minister-in Charge Protestant Church, Braunhubergasse 20, A-1110 Wien
9. The Senior Presbyter Ghanaian Congregation Braunhubergasse 20, A-1110 Wien