

PART 1

COUNTRY PROFILE



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In Matthew 16:18, Jesus declared, "And I say also unto thee, that thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it" *KJV*

In our midst today, Christ is still building His church; in Ghana, Burkina Faso, Benin, Togo, Kenya, Mali, Niger, and many other African countries we are serving.

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Missions support services
Ministry partnership (*Praying, Giving & Advocacy*)
Business as Mission (BAM)



MINISTRIES

- ◆ Church Planting
- ◆ Pastoral
- ◆ Medical
- ◆ Church support
- ◆ Short term
- ◆ Career missions
- ◆ Evangelistic campaign
- ◆ Cross-Cultural Missions
- ◆ Discipleship Training
- ◆ Community Development
- ◆ Project
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GHANA PROFILE

Ghana is located in West Africa boarded by three French speaking countries, namely Burkina Faso, Cote D'Ivoire and Togo to the north, west and east respectively. To the south of the country lies the Gulf of Guinea providing social, economic and aesthetic coastal value. The country gained independence on 6th March, 1957 becoming the first country in sub-Saharan Africa to attain independence. English is the official language. Currently, Ghana has 16 administrative regions represented in the map in *Figure 1*.

260 Districts

Ahafo	6
Ashanti	43
Bono	12
Bono East	11
Central	22
Eastern	33
Greater Accra	29
North East	6
Northern	16
Oti	8
Savannah	7
Upper East	15
Upper West	11
Volta	18
Western	14
Western North	9



Figure 1: Administrative Map of Ghana

Population

Ghana has a population of over 30 million people. It is more densely populated along the coastal to the middle belts and sparsely populated in the regions in the north. This has worsened over the past two decades because of rural-urban migration where there is an influx of people into the cities and other urban areas due to the rapid urbanization. The number of migrants from other parts of West Africa such as Togo, Niger, Nigeria, Mali, Burkina Faso and Cote D'Ivoire keep growing every year.

Table 1: Population Increase Rate in National

Year	Population	Percentage Change	Population Density
1991	14,821,000	-	62.1
1992	15,222,000	2.7%	63.8
1993	15,634,000	2.7%	65.5
1994	16,056,000	2.7%	67.3
1995	16,491,000	2.7%	69.1
1996	16,937,000	2.7%	71.0
1997	17,295,000	2.1%	72.5
1998	17,865,000	3.3%	74.9
1999	18,349,000	2.7%	76.9
2000	18,845,000	2.7%	79.0
2001	19,328,000	2.7%	81.0
2002	19,811,000	2.5%	83.1
2003	20,506,000	3.5%	86.0
2004	21,093,000	2.9%	88.4
2005	21,693,000	4.1%	92.1
2006	22,294,000	2.7%	93.5
2007	22,911,000	2.8%	96.0
2008	23,544,000	2.8%	98.7
2009	24,196,000	2.8%	101.4
2010	24,233,000	0.2%	101.6
Growth Rates	3.2%	-	3.2%

Source: NRSC, 2010

(Units: person, person/km², 1991-2010) Area: 238,533 km²

Regional Population

The Greater Accra region is the second most populated regions in Ghana after the Ashanti Region though the region is the smallest in terms of area among the 16 administrative regions in Ghana. Greater Accra had a population of 4,010,054 in 2010, accounting for 16.3 % of Ghana's total population. The region's share of the national population was 15.4% in the year 2000 and this increased to 16.3% in 2010. The growth rate of Greater Accra's population over the 2000 and 2010 period was 3.8% lower than the growth rate of Eastern Region over the same period. In Table 2, the new regions are integrated to give a picture of the current number of regions. With the 2020 projections, Ashanti region still stands as the most populated region with 5,924,498, little ahead of Greater Accra.

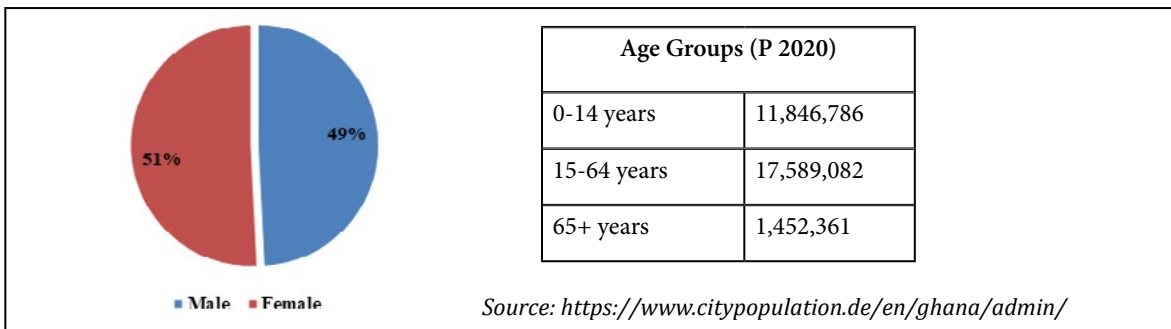
Table 1: Population Increase Rate in National

Region	Area (km ²)	Population		
		2000	2010	2020 (Es.)
		Persons		
GHANA	238,533	18,912,079	24,658,823	30,955,204
Western	23,921	1,924,577	2,376,021	
WESTERN	13,847		1,664,586	2,214,660
WESTERN NORTH	10,074		711,435	949,094
CENTRAL	9,826	1,593,823	2,201,863	2,605,492
GREATER ACCRA	3,245	2,905,726	4,010,054	5,055,883
Volta	20,570	2,106,696	2,118,252	
OTI	11,066		605,725	759,799
VOLTA	9,504		1,512,527	1,907,679
EASTERN	19,323	1,635,421	2,633,154	3,318,853
ASHANTI	24,389	3,612,950	4,780,380	5,924,498
Brong Ahafo	39,557	1,815,408	2,310,983	
AHAFO	5,193		484,210	613,049
BONO	11,107		922,617	1,168,807
BONO EAST	23,257		904,156	1,133,768
Northern	70,384	1,820,806	2,479,461	
NORTH EAST	9,074		465,005	588,800
NORTHERN	25,448		1,544,946	1,948,913
SAVANNAH	35,862		469,510	594,712
UPPER EAST	8,842	920,089	1,046,545	1,302,718
UPPER WEST	18,476	576,583	702,110	868,479

Source: Ghana Statistical Service (2010) & <https://www.citypopulation.de/en/ghana/admin/>

» Greater Accra region had five times the density of central region and about 35 times the density of the Northern Region. The region with the least population is North East region with an estimated population of 588,800. Though the Savannah region has the highest land surface area, the region only has 1.9% of the national population.

» During the last census in 2010, it was noted that Ghana has a young age structure. Among the various age groups classified in Table 3, most of the regional population of Ghana falls within the economically active population (15years-64years). Ashanti Region tops all the regions in terms of having the highest population per each age group except for the 25-29, and 30-34 years' groups which Greater Accra leads with 443,383 and 357,070 respectively for the age groups mentioned. The age group that recorded the lowest number of people for all the regions was the age group 95 and older. The table shows that Ghana's population for the regions turns to be very young.



Religion

Religion is deeply rooted in every facet of life in Ghana and there is a great level of tolerance, freedom and respect for other religions.

» There are three major religious blocks in Ghana and they are Christianity, Islam and the Ethnic traditional religion. However, there is a growing number of Buddhist, Bahai, communities and other religious bodies. Significant, there is a sporadic growth of pseudo-Christian groups such as the Jehovah's Witness and Latter Days Saints who have worship centres in every nook and cranny of Ghana.

» It is also important to note that most of the ethnic groups to the south were much influenced by Christianity whereas those to the northern parts have much been under the influence by Islam. These influences must not be seen as entirely pervasive in both scenarios as Catholic has a strong hold in some parts of the north and Islam has a great influence on some major areas along the coast of Ghana.

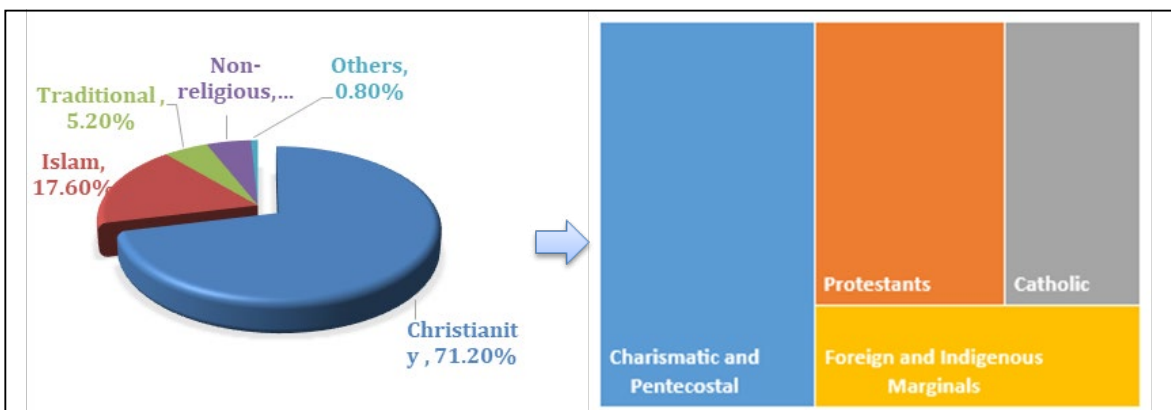


Figure 2: Major Religious Affiliations in Ghana

Sources: 2010 population census reports, GSS

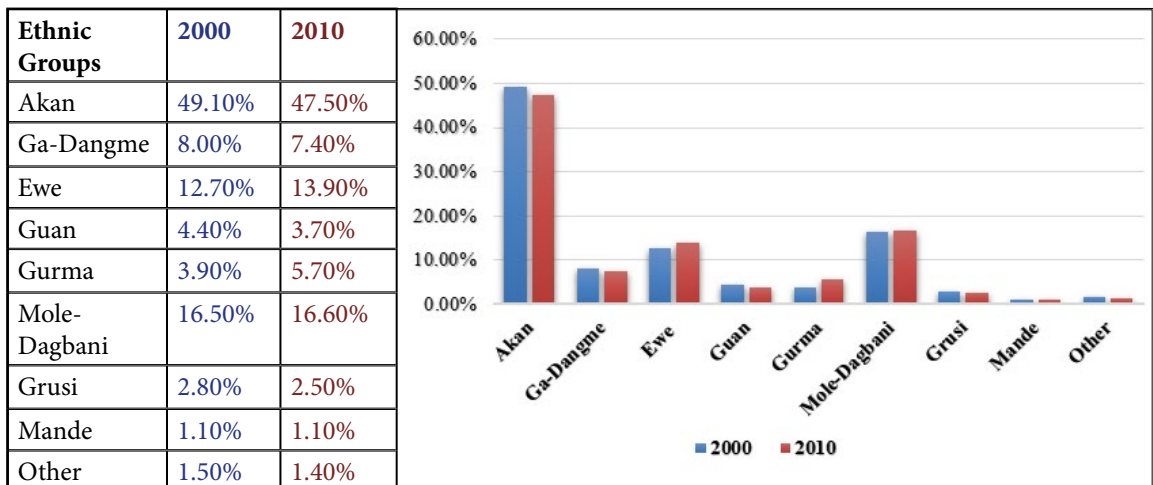
- » There are numerous Zongo communities in the big cities all across Ghana where Islam is dominant. There are reputable Islamic scholars and schools in these communities. There is the need for intentional and strategic engagements of these areas with the gospel.
- » The previously hidden traditional religious practices in Ghana are now displayed in grand array on many television and radio stations as well as on all social media platforms. Occults and spiritual groups have flooded all the media platforms too. People are no longer shy or ashamed of unveiling their faces to the general public. What is the implication for missions and the next populations census?

Ethnic Divisions

Ghana has about 111 ethnic groups, some of whom have their homelands in Ghana and others in Africa and other parts of the world. There are probably many more but their numbers may not be large enough to be captured. The major ethnic groups in Ghana include the Akan, Ewe, Mole-Dagbani, Guan and Ga-Adangbe. The sub-divisions of each groups share a common origin, history, language and cultural heritage. No part of Ghana is ethnically homogenous and this can be seen especially in the urban centers where migration has caused more people to move into the cities and towns. However, some rural areas tend to exhibit more traditional population distribution.

- » All the languages in Ghana fall under these sub-groups listed below

Table 4: Ethnic Groups in Ghana



Sources: 2000, 2010 population census reports, GSS

- » All the Ghanaian languages linguistically have been placed under two major linguistic sub-families of the Niger-Congo language group and they are the **Kwa** (Akan, Guans, Ewe, Ga-Dangbe and **Gur** (Grusi, Mole-Dagbani, Gurma) families. Mande speaking people in Ghana are few and they include the Bissa (Busanga) and the Ligbi people.
- » All the Gur languages have their homelands in the northern parts and the Kwa language cluster have their homelands mainly in the southern part of the country.

Examples of People Groups under each Ethnic Groups

» **Akan** is the largest groups of languages under the Kwa category and they include

- | | | |
|-----------|--------------|------------|
| o Asante, | o Fante, | o Bono, |
| o Ahafo, | o Akwamu, | o Akuapem, |
| o Akyem, | o Aowin, | o Nzema, |
| o Wasa, | o Sefwi etc. | |

» The **Guans**

- | | | |
|--------------|--------------|-----------|
| o Larteh, | o Gonja, | o Yeji, |
| o Krachi, | o Tafi, | o Akpafu, |
| o Cherepong, | o Awutu, | o Efutu, |
| o Senya, | o Breku etc. | |

» The **Gurma** include

- | | | |
|---------------|------------|-------------|
| o Bimoba, | o Kokomba, | o Basare, |
| o Pilapila, | o Safalba, | o Kotokoli, |
| o Chamba etc. | | |

» The **Mole-Dagbani** include

- | | | |
|------------|----------------|-----------|
| o Dagomba, | o Mamprusi, | o Kusasi |
| o Builsa, | o Dagarte, | o Lobi, |
| o Nanumba, | o Wali, | o Frafra, |
| o Namnam, | o Talensi etc. | |

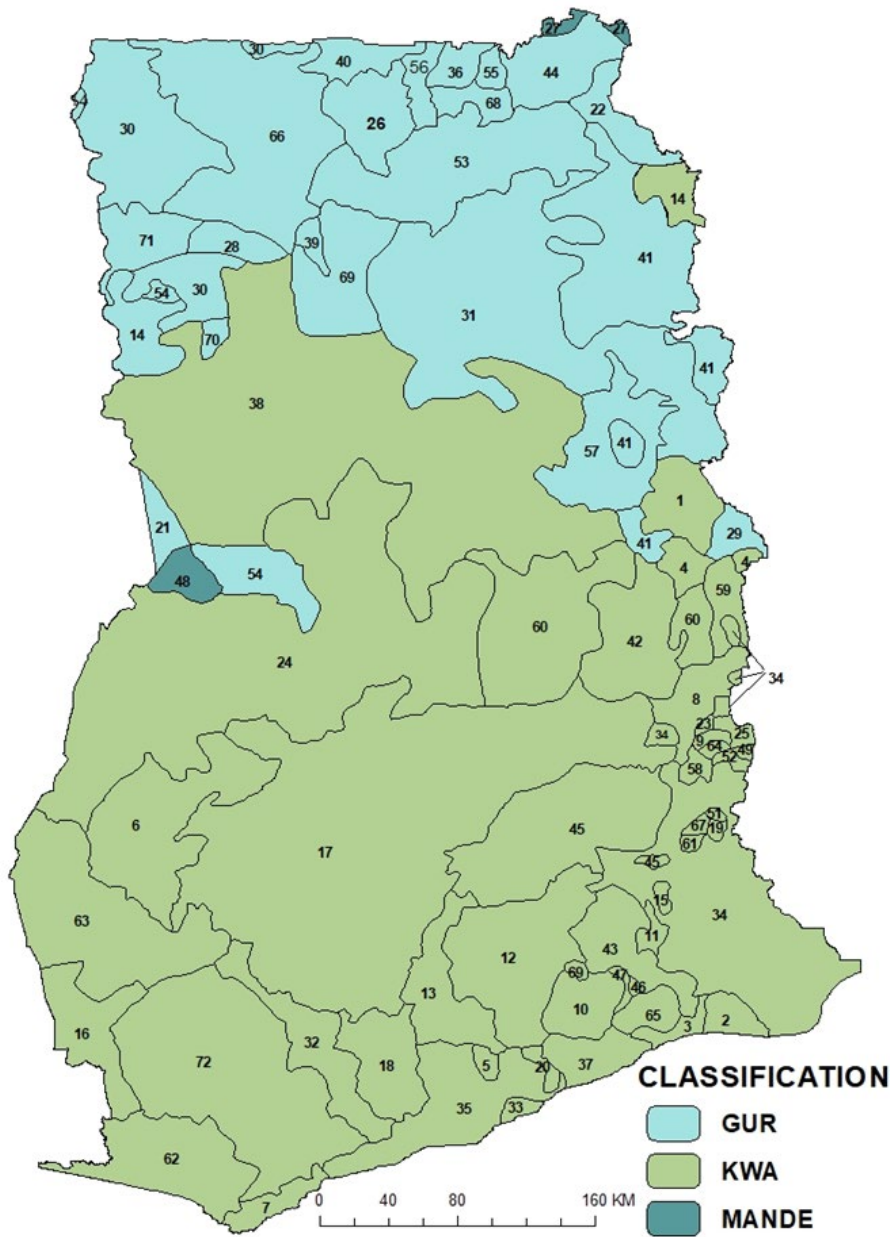
» **Grusi**

- | | | |
|--------------|-----------|-------|
| o Kasena, | o Sisala, | o Mo, |
| o Vagla etc. | | |

» Refer to the Map in *Figure 3* for more details on the major language groups in Ghana. This is limited to mainly language groups that have their homelands in Ghana. Even with that descriptions, some few minority indigenous language groups are not well captured but it gives a good picture of what is close to reality.

Major Languages

» The three major languages in Ghana are the Asante, Ewe and Fante which according to the Ghana Statistical Service have 16%, 14% and 11.60% of the total languages in Ghana respectively. They do not only represent majority in terms of numbers but they are also widely spoken throughout the country. A significant number of people who may not understand their mother tongue especially in the cities may speak one of these languages in addition to the English language.



1	ATWODE
2	ADA
3	ADANGBE W.O.S
4	ADELE
5	AGONA
6	AHAFO
7	AHANTA
8	AKAN N.E.S
9	AKPAFU
10	AKUAPEM
11	AKWAMU
12	AKYEM (ABUAK-WA)
13	AKYEM (KOTOKU/BOSOME)
14	ANUFO
15	ANUM-BOSO
16	AOWIN
17	ASANTE
18	ASEN
19	AVATIME
20	AWUTU
21	BANDA
22	BIMODA
23	BOWIRI
24	BRON
25	BUEM
26	BULISA
27	BUSANGA
28	CHAKALI
29	CHALLA
30	DAGABA (DAGARTE)
31	DAGOMBA
32	DANKYIRA

Figure 3: Map of Ghana Showing Ghanaian

Data Source: CERGIS, University of Ghana

Note: Challa, Chakali, Ligbi and Kantosi areas are based on some key towns and were not part of the original data set.

33	EFUTU
34	EWE
35	FANTE
36	FRAFRA

37	GA
38	GONJA
39	KANTOSI
40	KASENA

41	KONKOMBA
42	KRACHI
43	KROBO
44	KUSASI

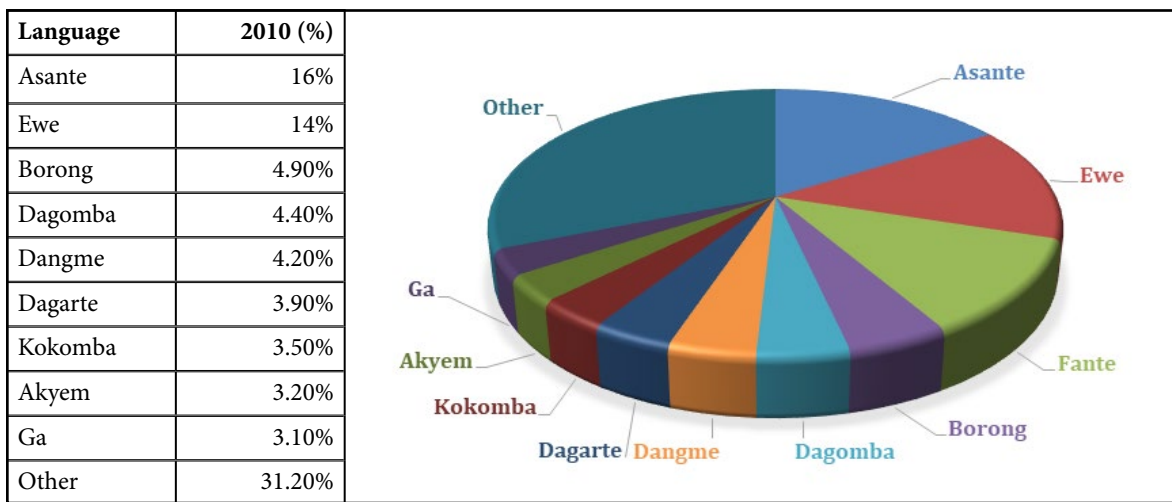
45	KWAHU
46	KYEREPON
47	LARTE
48	LIGBI
49	LIKPE
50	LOBI
51	LOGBA
52	LOLOBI
53	MAMPRUSI
54	MO

55	NAMNAM
56	NANKANSI AND GURENSE
57	NANUMBA
58	NKONYA
59	NTRUBU
60	NTWUMURU
61	NYANGBO
62	NZEMA
63	SAFWI

64	SANTROKOFI
65	SHAI
66	SISALA
67	TAFI
68	TALENSI
69	TAMPOLEMS
70	VAGLA
71	WALA
72	WASA

- » Other languages such as Hausa, Kotokoli, Fulbe, Moshie, Zabrama are also spoken by significant number of people in the country.
- » There are other Asian (Indian, Chinese, Indo-Pakistani, Arabs etc.) and European (French, Dutch, Italian etc.) languages that are spoken in the country mainly by their own people.

Table 5: Major Languages in Ghana



Source: 2010 population census reports, GSS.

Dying Languages

According to United Nations Educational and Scientific Organization (UNESCO), “language is in danger when its speakers cease to use it, or use it in an increasingly reduced number of communicative domains, and cease to pass it on from one generation to the next. That is, there are no new speakers, either adults or children”.

- » The rate of language endangerment and extinction is one of the most disturbing trends in the world today and this must be the concern of all churches and mission agencies in Ghana.
- » Ghana, like many other countries in Africa, is faced with endangerment of languages as well. This may be due to educational policies that allows selected languages to be studied in schools, intermarriages,

population sizes that influences policy decisions and resource allocation, increasing urbanization, high illiteracy rates among vulnerable languages and undeveloped orthographies of some languages.

» The beauty of any language is the role the language plays in identity formation. Hence, the loss of a language has significant consequences for its speakers and sharing the gospel among them.

» In addition, Ghana stand to lose the unique and valuable cultural practices that people groups tend to offer in expressing their traditional songs, poetry, oral history and other art forms that are connected to the language they speak.

» Little attention has been given to finding lasting solutions to revive endangered languages because there seem to be substitute languages used by the people groups whose languages are at risk.

» **Some Dying Languages in Ghana**

- | | | |
|-----------|-----------|-------------|
| o Animere | o Chakali | o Challa |
| o Deg/Mo | o Dampo | o Dwang |
| o Effutu | o Hanga | o Hwela |
| o Kamara | o Kantosi | o Konni |
| o Logba | o Mpra | o Nchumbulu |
| o Selee | o Tuwuli | |

Source: <http://www.endangeredlanguages.com/lang/country/Ghana>

» There are more languages that are endangered in Ghana and they need to be identified and revived. We celebrate the contribution of Ghana Institute of Linguistics, Literacy and Bible Translation (GILLBT), Bible Society, Theo Vision and the many more organisations and churches that are focused on bible translation, audio materials and literacy programs that contribute to the speaking and writing of languages in Ghana.

» **Languages that need Bible Translations:**

- | | | |
|----------------|---------------|------------------|
| o Bono | o Anyii | o Awutu/ Efutu |
| o Chakali | o Challa | o Chereponi/ Ker |
| o Dwang/ Bekye | o Wira-Pepesa | o Larteh |
| o Ligbi | | |

Source: GILLBT, 2017

Sign Language Integration:

» There is a dire need to include sign language in the evangelisation and discipleship drive of the Ghanaian church and mission agencies.

» It is encouraging to note that some churches such as the Assemblies of God, Church of Pentecost and Church of Christ have sign language as part of their services in some branches. Fortunately, some assemblies have services fully dedicated to the disabled especially the deaf and dump. More people from churches and Christian organisations have to be intentionally trained and deployed people help in this regard.