

# SETH & VICTORIA NYAMPONG

## GOD'S WILLING SERVANTS TO THE SISSALAS

**S**eth Ephson and Victoria Nyampong, from Akwapim Tutu and Akwapim Obosomase in the Eastern Region of Ghana respectively, responded to God's Call to the Sissala People Group in the Upper West Region of Ghana in May 1995.

### THE EARLY DAYS

Born on 26<sup>th</sup> November 1959, Pastor Seth Nyampong was used by God to reach the Sissalas in Northern Ghana. To raise indigenes to multiply disciples among their own.

He married his wife, Victoria in July 1986, and are blessed with 6 children, 2 of whom have passed away.

The entire family has God's passion for missions and discipleship in reaching the unreached for about 22 years.

Pastor Seth's zeal for God's work begun in 1975 after his elementary school but he lacked knowledge of God's ultimate purpose for man - Salvation.

After 11 years, he realized the emptiness in his life and committed himself to the study of God's Word. He surrendered and gave his life to Christ and went to Bible school from 1988 to 1990.

### THE CALL TO MISSIONS

The Nyampongs had their call when Seth was asked by the Director of the New Life Pastors Training Institute in Accra, Rev. Andre, a German Missionary, to do a Demographic study on the Sissala People Group, 5 years after graduation from the school. After the studies, he got the conviction that the Lord had a purpose of connecting him to Pastor Akase Akpenkpuun of Blessed Memory, a Missionary with the Mission House International, Makurdi, Nigeria who had come to serve in Ghana and was based at Suhum. He trained and guided him into Missions and said to him, "Brother Seth, God has called you as a Missionary, only you have no idea, therefore pray about it."

After the Demographic studies, God in His divine wisdom connected him to Pioneers-Ghana, then in its inception in Accra, Ghana, and was commissioned on the 29<sup>th</sup> of October 1995 and was sent among the Sissala People Group on the 25<sup>th</sup> November, 1995.

### MISSIONARY WORK.

As a Pastor and a Teacher of the word of God who had accepted the call to Missions, the approach became initially frustrating.

Yet, the Lord knowing the heart he had for His glory and the people, worked out His plan by bringing an indigenous Christian brother, Moses who encouraged and directed them to go to Lilise, a village 17 kilometers from Tumu, to start the first church there.

The Lord touched other indigenous brothers; Solomon Zaato, Sam Batuame, Saliah Gomina, Paul Tontie, Johson Baah, etc. to be co-workers with them in the task entrusted to them.

The work of Church planting spread very fast with the yearly coming in of the Short-term Summer Teams.

Later, they realized the need for discipling the indigenes, as such more time was given to Discipleship, which sustained the work in the "Eastern Corridor" i.e. Fachoboi, Guosi, Santijan, and Gbenebisi, where literacy was very low, especially among the brethren.

This Discipleship undertaking, in partnership with SILAP (The Bible Translators under GILLBT), yielded good results by seeing some of the uneducated brothers e.g. Dokta (2nd. Generation) of Fachoboi; Francis, Daniel, etc. (3rd. Generation) of Gbenebisi starting to read their Mother Tongue Bible and to teach and lead others into the faith.

Francis in less than 2 years in the faith started to share his faith with his Uncles in the village of Kunkuna in the Builsa District of the Upper East Region and

started a church which the Church of Pentecost took over later.

### CHALLENGES

- Every family's precious earthly inheritance is their children, and raising their children in such an environment was a big challenge.
- The challenge of spending time (at least 2 years) to learn the Sisaali language, so they relied on some of the wonderful brothers the Lord brought on board for interpretation.
- Also, there was the challenge of the lack of co-operation with denominations in the various mission fields as they thought missionaries were fishing for their members.
- Some of the churches established by the team collapsed as a result of a lack of understanding from the communities.
- The sad reality of the persecution Muslim converts to Christianity face was heartbreaking.

### SUCSESSES

At the end of 22 years on the Mission Field, 19 churches were planted, out of that 14 stood the test, 6 out of the 14 were given to other denominations while the other 5 collapsed due to unforeseen circumstances.

The team also started a basic school in Gbenebisi in 2010, which was later on handed over to the district administration. The first candidates wrote the final external exams this year, 2020.

Through it all, the Nyampongs praise and give God the glory for every good work done with their lives. They bless God for the indigenes He raised, disciplined, and equipped to disciple their own.

Indeed, "not unto us, O Lord, but unto thy name give glory" Psalm 115:1.

### PRESENTLY:

The Nyampongs are trusting the Lord to guide them in mobilizing the young generation on AVAILING their lives to the Lord and His Agenda to the Nations.

In summary, the Nyampongs thank the Lord for calling them to trail in His Steps in bringing His Eternal message to the nations of the world.

They are also grateful to all loved ones far and near, bearing them on their KNEES daily, encouraging and giving their substance to keep the work going, they say "SHEDA AHA NYEN."

*"OBEDIENCE TO THE GREAT COMMISSION MUST HAVE TOP PRIORITY IN ONE'S LIFE BECAUSE IT IS THE HEARTBEAT OF GOD."*