

## THE BIG SIX!

### The men the Lord used to start TORCHBEARERS

#### Joseph Darling MacCarthy

*Editor's note: In the history of Ghana, we have the "BIG SIX" who are referred to as the Founding Fathers of our country. On the Christian mission front, there is another "BIG SIX" who are the Founding Fathers of one of the key and foremost indigenous Mission Agencies in Ghana.*

In 1987, Albert Seth Ocran returned from Maiduguri, Bornu State, northwestern Nigeria convinced that the Lord had called him to return to Ghana to start a mission agency that would take the gospel of Jesus Christ to the ends of the earth. With this conviction, he started Worldwide Missions and began mobilizing like-minded people to place Africans on the missions map.

He shared the dream with a number of us and before long it became apparent that we had to plan for an indigenous Mission agency. Among those who expressed a keen interest in the idea were Joseph Darling MacCarthy, Dr. Solomon Aryeetey, Francis Osei Kusi, Albert Saah and Victor Akwetey. The common thread that held the six of us together besides our commitment to the lordship of Jesus Christ was our shared passion of taking the gospel to our generation which we had been doing through Joyful Way Inc.

With our shared experiences in Joyful Way, we had a bond of love and each of us had his own particular sense of call to missions.

Dr. Solomon Aryeetey responded to the call to abandon furthering a career in medicine to take the gospel to the Fulani people in Mali. As a senior brother, he guided several discussions that culminated in the formation of Torchbearers Mission Inc.

Joseph MacCarthy felt the need to mobilize more people from the south of Ghana to the ripe mission fields of northern Ghana where he had laboured for

two years as a church planter. He had also returned to Accra with the hope of forming a group that would be interested in sending more mature Christians to work as missionaries in the north.

Victor Akwetey, a banker, had shared fellowship with missionaries working with GILLBT and had been involved in planting the Faith community Baptist church in Tamale. The prospect of multiplying that ability to extend the frontiers of the gospel in the north appealed to his adventurous spirit.

Albert Saah had started the Labourers Ministry, a prayer ministry that envisioned mobilizing Christians to ministry through prayer. He saw the idea of an indigenous mission agency to be in line with an effective mobilization drive. He joined the team.

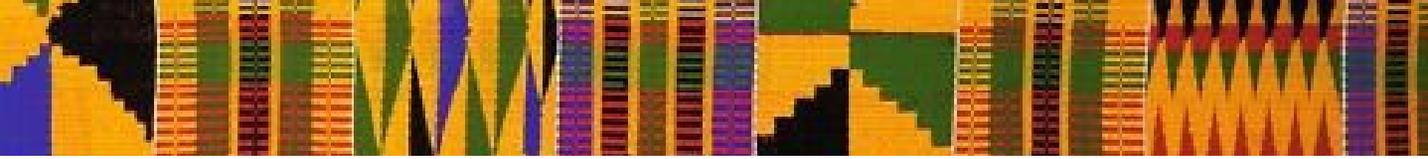
Francis Osei Kusi, popularly known as FO, also a banker was hungry to see the word of God propagated throughout the sub-region because in it lay the hope of transforming Africa. He also lent his support.

Albert Ocran, Joseph MacCarthy and Dr. Solomon Aryeetey became the midwives who laboured in coming up with the framework leading to the inauguration of Torchbearers Mission Inc., on September 3rd, 1988. As the Lord would have it Albert Ocran received a scholarship to go and study missions at Bulstrode through the efforts of Mr. Ross Campbell.

A new era was thus birthed in the annals of Christian Mission in Ghana.

Albert Ocran served as the General Director of Torchbearers faithfully for many years and was succeeded by Joseph MacCarthy.

After 32 years, the burden that was laid upon the hearts of these six Ghanaian Christian men whose vision was to "begin a movement that would have a commitment to reach out to people in Ghana, Africa and the rest of the world with the gospel of salvation



through Christ Jesus" continues till date.

Torchbearers has been working towards this vision through missionary work, church planting, missions mobilization, missions training, sports ministry and

literacy programmes, among other activities. The vision of the six men, indeed continues unabated! Glory to God!