

Preface

This is a 23-year-old vision that has finally come to fruition. Praise the Lord!!!

The Ghana Missions Handbook is our humble attempt to serve the Church in Ghana by providing simple, credible, and practical content that informs, activates, mobilizes, inspires, and equips the Body Of Christ in Ghana for greater Great Commission action. A key phrase in the Lausanne Covenant states that *"evangelization requires the whole church to take the whole gospel to the whole world"*. It can't get any simpler than that - the whole church - needs to send the whole gospel - to the whole world if the whole world is to be evangelized. The task at hand certainly needs the whole church yet what we see today is a very small percentage of the church actively involved in world evangelization. The mandate of the Church is still the same and will never change; "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age" (Matt. 28:1-20).

The Ghana Missions Handbook seeks to be a "little" tool in the hands of a mighty missionary God to use in any way He seeks to bring change and transformation in this area of neglect and abandonment. That the mission of the church will be mission. We believe that with God all things are possible and it is time we every single Christian to take greater action for "this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come"(Matt. 24:14).

The Ghana Missions Handbook is crafted in such a way that it tackles the Past-Present-Future of missions in Ghana. The historical perspective is so crucial and it provides us with such great insight we can glean from, for use in present times as well as in the future. The amazing sacrifices the early missionaries made to bring the gospel to our context cannot be overemphasized and we believe it has enough potency together with the word of God and other information to inspire a generation into action.

The Handbook covers mission strategies, missionary profiles, organizational profiles, directory on Mission agencies and many other salient mission topics. It is to provide readers with a wide range of good content on missions in Ghana. It is, however, not as comprehensive as it was initially planned to be due to the Covid-19 pandemic and its associated challenges. The Editorial Board, therefore, craves your indulgence to forgive us if certain key areas have not been attended to. The same applies to any church, mission agency, or Network/Umbrella Body that has been omitted.

The Handbook was also initially planned to be updated every five years, however, due to the circumstances noted above, the next update will be in two years'. We will then be able to fill in the gaps. Please, kindly do furnish us with any relevant info, as and when possible.

Though a couple of hard copies have been made available, the handbook is crafted to be a free on-line resource for the Body of Christ in Ghana and beyond. It is published by the Ghana Evangelical Missions Association, the umbrella mission Body in Ghana. The focus is thus on Ghana, nevertheless, some timeless principles and lessons that cut across cultures, nations, and continents are included, and we believe it can be a blessing to non-Ghanaians as well.

If you are reading this material online, please do click on the subject and topic you seek to read for easy and direct access.

Charles Spurgeon once said, *"If there be any one point in which the Christian church ought to keep its fervor at white heat, it is concerning missions. If there be anything about which we cannot tolerate lukewarmness, it is the matter of sending the gospel to a dying world."* Missions in non-negotiable and we cannot afford to be lukewarm in this greatest commission on earth.

We also agree with Ron Luce when he noted that "The Great Commission is the Great Adventure of Christianity." Welcome to this great adventure. Welcome to re-making "the main thing the main thing". Welcome to the heartbeat of God. Remember, it will take the whole church and you are part of the church. That includes you. Do find your role!!

Special thanks to the exceptional Editorial Team, Writers and Mission leaders who contributed content to this historic handbook and made it possible. All the Glory goes to God Almighty who is the Lord of the Harvest and the Great Commissioner.

Soli Deo Gloria

Ray Mensah

Editor