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Newsletter of Heritage Christian College (HCC) and Bible Institute (HBI), Ghana

HERITAGE BIBLE INSTITUTE HOLDS 18TH GRADUATION AND COMMISSIONING CEREMONY

Twenty-three (23) preacher-trainees and 2 women leaders graduated at the 18th Graduation Ceremony of Heritage Bible Institute (HBI, a unit of Heritage Christian College which trains preachers and church leaders.

At the joyful but solemn ceremony, the graduates were charged to live the mission of preaching the gospel to a world sinking deep in sin. Certificates in Foundations of Biblical Studies, Intermediate Studies in Ministry and Advanced Studies in Christian Ministry were awarded to the graduates.

The Guest Speaker was the Director of World Radio, West Monroe, Louisiana, USA, Mr. Ben Adkins who spoke on the theme "Living the Mission". He encouraged the graduates to focus on the mission of Christ and not get side-tracked.

The Director of HBI, Mr. Evans Larley mentioned that apart from the Preachers' Training Program, HBI is also engaged in training grass-root church leaders for congregations in different parts of Ghana. Currently, HBI has satellite centers located in Winneba in the Central Region, Koforidua in the Eastern Region, as well as Yendi and Saboba in the Northern Region. HBI is yet to start two new centers in Assin Fosu and Tema.

The President of HCC, who is also the Board Chair of HBI, Dr. Samuel Twumasi-Ankrah called on the graduates to be worthy ambassadors of Christ. Heritage Bible Institute has trained hundreds of preachers serving in Ghana and 10 African countries.



HBI Board and faculty pray over graduates



HBI graduates with board and faculty members

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Matriculation of HCC students
(March 17, 2018)
- CEPE Launch
(March 17, 2018)

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UPCLOSE WITH SOME HBI GRADUATES

ERIC LAWERH, UGANDA

For the past 10 years, Eric has been serving as a missionary in South Sudan and Uganda, both in East Africa. South Sudan has suffered ethnic violence and has been in a civil war since 2013 and is on top of the Fragile States Index coming after Somalia. Uganda likewise has been wracked by a civil war for years which has killed thousands and displaced millions.

This is the area Eric finds himself as a missionary. Despite the turbulence in these countries, Eric has established seven churches in the Magwe county of South Sudan and led in establishing thirteen churches in the camps in Adjumani, Moyo and Yumbe districts of Uganda. He also supervises the work of fifteen preachers in camps in three districts in northern Uganda. He is an instructor in the South Sudan Bible School, where he is a Dean of the Ministry Training Program. Eric says, "The training at HBI has sharpened my skills, widened my scope of knowledge and understanding of teaching." Eric's ministry is not without challenges such as



Eric Lawerh, Gospel Preacher

finance, conflict in the regions, health constraints among others. These notwithstanding, he notes that, "Ministerial challenges are God's tools to strengthen God's servants in the service of the Lord." Keep praying for Eric and other missionaries in Africa for the strengthening of the Lord to spread the gospel and strengthen the faith of many Christians in the turbulent regions. Please keep Eric and the Christians in the countries he works in your prayers and help them, if you can. To reach Eric, kindly email: ericolawerh2012@gmail.com

ARNOLD K. DZAH, SENEGAL

Arnold Dzah completed HBI in 2003 with a Diploma in Biblical Studies. Currently, he is the preacher for the Dakar congregation, Senegal, West Africa. There was only one congregation when he went to that country in 2004. He therefore started a Bible school in 2006 (Centre d'Etudes Bibliques de Dakar, CEB) to train evangelists to spread the gospel in the country. He has so far trained 11 evangelists and planted 8 congregations. In all, there are 9 congregations of the churches of Christ in Senegal at the moment. From 50 Christians in 2004, the work of these evangelists has resulted in 550 baptisms. Arnold says, "I can confidently say that had it not been for the training I had in HBI, Ghana where I was a student, I would not have been able to do anything. Besides the knowledge, and skills of preaching I received, I started the school with the teaching materials I gathered from HBI. I have been greatly encouraged and mentored by the President of HCC, Dr. Samuel Twumasi-Ankrah and HBI Director, Evans Lartey."



Arnold Dzah, Gospel Preacher

Concerning challenges, what makes the work in Senegal quite challenging is that Islam is the predominant religion in the country, practised by approximately 94% of the country's population. One percent have animist (traditional) beliefs, particularly in the southeastern region of the country. Besides that, meeting places for the congregations is a huge problem. But Arnold says through the help of Dr. Douglas Boateng of Ghana, they could provide decent meeting places for at least two of the congregations. The rest are meeting under tents, trees or people's corridors. One of the congregations has a 3,444 square-foot plot of land and they want to put up a meeting place, a medical center and Christian primary school and vocational training center to provide skills for the members. Please keep Arnold and the Christians in Senegal in your prayers and help them, if you can. Arnold can be contacted through: dzaharnold@yahoo.co.uk

SHARPENERS' CONFERENCE 2017

One hundred and seventy (170) elders, deacons, preachers, Bible class teachers, youth and women leaders from 40 congregations in Ghana and beyond converged on Heritage Christian College(HCC) for the 4th edition of Sharpeners' Conference, an annual leadership development seminar by HCC. The two-day conference featured lectureships and workshops and other spiritual activities to build the capacities of the wide variety of Christian leaders in Bible knowledge and church administration.

The event was under the theme: "Deeper Teaching and Preaching: Engaging your Audience for Transformed Life and Service." Topics discussed at the conference include: "Teaching & Preaching to Promote Deeper Learning"; "Understanding the Leader-Member Exchange (LMX)"; and "Churches of Christ in Ghana -Discovering Our Roots and Charting the Future." The youth were also admonished on the topic: "Before You say "I Do" – Biblical Wisdom for Choosing a Life Partner." Participants at the conference applauded the organizers and asked that the training be extended to all church leaders in the country because of the benefit they derived from it. This is a challenge HCC has to take on in due course. The event was graced by chorale groups--His Praise Chorale and Echoes of Glory.



Frank Essien, Facilitator, Preaching & Teaching Track



Dr. Samuel Twumasi-Ankrah, Facilitator, Leadership Track



Song ministration by invited singing groups



Participants at the Conference

ANNOUNCEMENT

HCC GETS PROVOST

Dr. Williams Abayaawien Atuilik has been appointed Provost (Vice-President) of Heritage Christian College. Dr. Atuilik brings on board years of experience in university governance and teaching. He also has under his sleeves years of professional competence in the management of public and private enterprise. He is a Chartered Accountant, Barrister at Law, Tax Consultant and Chartered Banker. Williams has consulted for the Institute of Chartered Accountants (Ghana), African Development Bank, the World Bank, USAID, WHO, DFID. Outside Ghana, Williams has consulted for government agencies and private institutions in South Africa, Liberia, Somalia, Sierra Leone, and Botswana in the areas of Accounting and Financial Management.



Dr. Williams Atuilik, HCC Provost

CENTER FOR ENTREPRENEURSHIP, PHILANTHROPY AND ETHICS INAUGURATES BOARD

A seven-member Governing Board for the Center for Entrepreneurship, Philanthropy and Ethics (CEPE), a unit of Heritage Christian College (HCC) has been inaugurated. The Board is to steer the affairs of the Center which is a "Business Incubator" for students of HCC. The non-profit Center supports students, faculty, other employees of HCC and the entire HCC Community with entrepreneurial skills and financial assistance to undertake viable entrepreneurial ventures. It aims at developing and nurturing ethical entrepreneurs with the spirit of philanthropy.

The 7-member Board is chaired by Mr. Samuel Kumi Ayim, a former General Counsel of Ecobank Transnational, an entrepreneur and HCC Council Member. The members of the Governing Board are: Mr. Henry Kwadwo Frimpong, a Chartered Accountant and entrepreneur; Mrs. Doris Asimeng, an entrepreneur; Mrs. Ramatu Ude Umanta, Director of Finance at the Ghana Health Service and entrepreneur; Madam Eugenia Bulley, a Chartered Accountant and entrepreneur; Dr. Victor Boadu, Head of Business Administration Department at HCC, entrepreneur and Minister of the Gospel and Dr. Williams Abayaawien Atuilik, the Provost of HCC and Director of the Center.



Dr. Williams Atuilik, Director, CEPE, welcoming Board members



Dr. Samuel Twumasi-Ankrah, HCC President, swearing-in CEPE Board members

The Board is the executive body of the Center. The Board will formulate policies for the Center and establish appropriate structures for the effective and efficient execution of the objectives of the CEPE. It has the mandate to review and approve business plans and ideas of students, faculty and other employees of HCC without bias. The Board also raises funds for the programs of the Center as well as establish and maintain effective internal control systems to ensure judicious use of funds.

Inaugurating the Board, the President of HCC, Dr. Samuel Twumasi-Ankrah said, "As a burgeoning Christian higher educational institution, we are well aware of the fact that many universities just train graduates to have academic knowledge and to have degrees in those areas. But we want to be different—unique in the sense that we don't just want to equip our students with academic knowledge but we have set out to train our students to be entrepreneurial: that is to be job creators instead of job seekers." The President urged the member of the Board to superintend over the CEPE for the university to attain its vision "To become a flagship Christian university in Africa for the purpose of advancing the kingdom of Christ and national development." The Center will be launched in a few weeks' time.



CEPE Board members with some staff of HCC



CEPE office building

MEET HCC STUDENT ENTREPRENEURS



Ernest Konadu Ofori, HCC Student

Ernest Konadu Ofori (BSc. Information Technology, 3rd Year Student)

Ernest runs EKO IT Solutions, a business he started in 2016. He designs and maintains websites, installs computer networks, sells computer accessories and electrical products. He loves working with computers and spends much of this time on the internet, providing IT solutions to his clients.

He enlists the help of some of his HCC classmates to deliver some of these services. He dreams making the business one of the biggest IT companies in Ghana.

Ernest draws inspiration from the IT faculty and Business faculty at HCC who mentor him and shape his dreams. He is a Christian and applies Christian principles in his dealings.

Mavis Opoku (BBA Marketing, 1st Year Student)

Mavis is a young lady who loves to combine colours and serve others. She owns the Gee-Thess Interior Decoration and Designs, a business she started in 2017, the first semester she enrolled at HCC. She decorates rooms with curtains and blinds, carpets, beddings and other materials.

Sometimes she is given orders to buy all appliances and furniture for newly built houses. She has 3 workers who help her to serve her clients. When she is in school, she only supervises them to ensure they deliver to meet the needs of customers.

Mavis aspires to be one of the best interior décor professionals in Ghana in the next 5 years. She says HCC provides the platform for her to learn from successful entrepreneurs and get grooming through the HCC Business Incubator. She is a Christian lady who upholds ethics in her business.



Mavis Opoku, HCC Student





HCC President speaking at the event



Patricia Muah, Faculty member



Ebenezer Danso, HCC Registrar

HERITAGE FAMILY GATHERING

In a bid to foster a spirit of togetherness, love and comradeship among staff and faculty of Heritage Christian College(HCC), a Family Day was organized for all staff and faculty of HCC/HBI. The meeting gave the opportunity to staff to freely talk about themselves, what they liked about HCC/HBI and what the College can do to attain its vision "To become a flagship Christian university in Africa for the purpose of advancing the kingdom of Christ and national development."

While some staff testified to the change they had seen in their lives as a result of working at HCC/HBI, others attested to the sense of belonging and family spirit among colleagues. Some spoke about the Christian values HCC promotes, entrepreneurship training for faculty, sponsoring staff for further studies among others.

SOME CRITICAL NEEDS OF HBI/HCC

We urgently need help for 3 key things:

1. **Funds to construct a Multi-purpose Building**

- per the Bill of Quantities from the architects/engineers this will cost **\$2.4 million**; and this building will provide several classrooms, a cafeteria/an auditorium and offices for faculty. We urgently need this building because our current student numbers and the rate at which we are growing vis-à-vis the facilities we have now make it almost impossible to continue to enroll students in 2 years' time. Also, the government agency, the National Accreditation Board will not permit us to continue to enroll in view of our inadequate facilities.

2. **Scholarship for Needy but Smart Students**

- especially the 5 from Village of Hope Orphanage - **\$5,000** per student per year, depending on whether the student lives on campus or not, signs up for meals from the cafeteria, brings a laptop or has to take one from the school among others.

3. **A Pick-Up Truck** for our School of Preaching (HBI) which we now operate from 5 different centers around the country with 63 preacher students.

- The Toyota Pick-up truck costs **\$39,000** – and it will replace our rickety pick-up truck that we use to transport teachers and students to work with churches in the villages.

PROPOSED MULTI-PURPOSE BUILDING



We are thankful to God and to you all our readers and co-servants of the Lord. We count on your partnership for prayers, support and advice as we carry out the mission.