

APPEAL FOR AN AUTOMOBILE – Thomas Oduro

I have a passion to provide biblical studies and Christ-centered leadership to leaders and members of African Independent Churches (AICs)—a group of churches that lack theological training due to many factors that led to their emergence in African Christianity. Therefore, I have been a teacher at the **Good News Theological Seminary**, a theological institution founded primarily for the AICs, since 1986, which is 34 years ago. I have also been the President since 1994, i.e. 26 years ago.

As a teacher and administrator, I have taught many students, interacted with many AIC leaders in Africa and spoken at many seminars and conferences. Academically, I have written many articles and books about the AIC phenomenon. In 2017, I was promoted to the position of Associate Professor of African Christianity and the History of Christianity.



One of the functions of the President of the seminary is to raise funds. Therefore, I seize every opportunity to talk and write about the seminary with the aim of raising funds. Ethically, I do not talk about my needs when I get the opportunity to raise funds so I have many needs that are not known to the partners and friends of the seminary. My passion has held me to hang on despite the many difficulties I encounter as the President of the seminary. One of such difficulties is the lack of a personal car.

Presently, I drive an old Pick Up which is the property of the seminary. Whenever the Pickup is taken to an automobile garage, I have no option but to board a public bus, commonly known in Ghana as “tro-tro” to go from one place to another. There are many times when the old Pickup develops mechanical faults that leave me stranded in the middle of my journeys.

I am appealing for an automobile which I can use to serve the seminary better. With an automobile, I can travel to the length and breadth of Ghana to visit AIC pastors and listen to their ministerial stories, challenges, aspirations, and observe their contributions to African Christianity. Worshipping with AICs gives me a great opportunity to participate, praise and counsel when possible.



AIC leaders and members outside of Accra feel a sense of belonging to the seminary when the President of the seminary visits and worship with them. Such visits and interactions pave the way for a larger student intake. Without a vehicle it is simply impossible to meet and interact with AIC leaders and congregations who are spread over all Ghana. I love doing research about the African Independent Churches and publishing my findings so that the wider church may know, understand and appreciate the phenomenon of the AICs in African and global Christianity.

Getting a vehicle will tremendously enhance my ministry as an administrator, lecturer, researcher, author, and speaker at seminars, conferences and workshops.

The request looks huge but with the mercy of God and the collective efforts of the saints, *nothing is impossible*.

Donations can be made online at our webpage (globalhz.org/gntcs/donate), or by a check sent in the mail to:

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Thank you for your prayerful support and encouragement!