

**GOOD NEWS THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY**  
**OYIBI, ACCRA**  
**21<sup>ST</sup> GRADUATION CEREMONY**  
**HELD ON SATURDAY, 8<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2023**

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**INTRODUCTION**



Good News Theological Seminary (GNTS), formerly known as Good News Theological College and Seminary, was established to provide a sound Christ-centred and contextual biblical and theological education primarily for African Independent Churches (AICs) within Ghana. Member churches of the then Pentecostal Association of Ghana, now known as the Council for African

Instituted Churches (CAIC), collaborated with the Mennonite Mission Network, Evangelical Lutheran Church of Ghana, Trinity Theological Seminary in Accra and some distinguished church leaders/scholars to establish the Seminary in 1971. It is the only interdenominational tertiary theological institution in Ghana sponsored by African Independent Churches to offer training to their leaders and members in Ghana and other African countries. The Seminary also accepts church leaders and members from other Christian traditions for training. The Diploma in Pastoral Ministry and the Bachelor of Theology programmes of the Seminary has been accredited by the National Accreditation Board (NAB), now known as Ghana Tertiary Education Commission (GTEC) since 2008. The Akrofi-Christaller Institute of Theology, Mission and Culture is the mentoring institution of the Seminary. For the past 52 years, the programmes offered by the Seminary have been designed to meet the needs of many different churches. As an interdenominational school, the emphasis at GNTS is to reveal God's plan of redemption through Jesus Christ by teaching both the Old and New Testaments. The aim is to help students to improve their understanding and knowledge of the word of God, increase their commitment to following Jesus Christ, sharpen their effectiveness in the ministry, articulate the gospel in the African context, and provide Christ-centred and selfless pastoral leadership to the Church and society. GNTS offers a unique opportunity to church workers and leaders to know one another on personal bases and to discover the common ground of faith and trust in Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour among the different denominations and church traditions. GNTS is the official theological education centre for many AICs, Associations of AICs, and many other ecumenical bodies. The Organisation of African Instituted Churches (OAIC) recognises GNTS as a theological institution for advanced learning for its membership churches. GNTS is a member of the West African Association of Theological Institutions (WAATI) and the Ghana Association of Theological Education by Extension (GATEE). The Council for African Instituted Churches (CAIC) has been a partner to the Seminary since the inception of the Seminary.

## **VISION**

To train and develop dynamic Christian leaders with an analytic approach to problem-solving and decision-making for growth and development.

## **MISSION**

The mission of Good News Theological Seminary is to provide sound Christ-centred education for Church and Society, fully equipping men and women with character, knowledge and skills for effective servant leadership and development in the African and Global context.

## **OUR SERVICES**

GNTS offers the following Programmes:

1. Bachelor of Theology
2. Diploma in Pastoral Ministry
3. Certificate Programmes
  - ◆ Certificate in Church Administration
  - ◆ Certification in Pastoral Ministry
  - ◆ Certificate in Evangelism and Church Growth
  - ◆ Certificate in Women's Ministry
  - ◆ Certificate in Ministry to Children, Youth and Adult
4. Theological Education by Extension (TEE)

The Seminary regularly organizes seminars and training programmes, targeted at churches, institutions and individual groups in and around Ghana.

## **THE CEREMONY**



The 21<sup>st</sup> Graduation Ceremony, which took place on the campus of the Seminary on Saturday, 8<sup>th</sup> of July, 2023, was the first graduation ceremony to be held after the Covid-19 pandemic. Therefore, it was a highly anticipated one. The ceremony, which was well organized and well attended, was held under the theme: “BEING A FAITHFUL SERVANT OF CHRIST IN AN EVER-EVOLVING AND DYNAMIC SOCIETY” (1 Corinthians 4:2). Rev. Prof. Eric Nii B. Anum was the Guest Speaker,

while Rev. Father Kwesi Ellis of the St. John’s Anglican Church, Ashale Botwe, Accra, deputized for the chairman for the ceremony, His Eminence, The Most Reverend Dr. Daniel Okoh (Chairman, Governing Council Of Good News Theological Seminary), who could not attend for personal reasons. Rev. Dr. Jonathan Adjabeng of the Cross Mark Baptist Church in Accra was the Commissioner. In all, Fifty (50) individuals graduated from various programmes as follows:

- Thirteen (13) from the Bachelor of Theology Programme,
- Thirteen (13) from the Diploma in Pastoral Ministry Programme, and
- Twenty-four (24) from the Certificate in Pastoral Ministry programme.

The acting chairman for the ceremony declared the ceremony opened around 10:00 am after a beautiful procession by dignitaries and graduands. He urged all present to participate in the ceremony, noting that

it was an important day in the lives of the graduands. His declaration signalled what would go on to become a spectacle of a ceremony.



In his opening address, the President of the Seminary, Rev. Prof. Thomas A. Oduro gave a brief profile of the school and then presented a report of the Seminary's activities over the past academic year. He mentioned among others that the Seminary had recently published a 566-page book titled *History of African Independent Churches*. He indicated that the book contained two biographies and fifteen histories,

beliefs, and practices of some African Independent Churches written by students. He encouraged all those who wanted to know more about African Independent Churches to purchase copies from the Seminary and other platforms. He went further to mention some projections for the Seminary in the ensuing years and asked for support from all well-wishers to help them become a reality. Some of the projections he mentioned are:

1. Funds to complete a staff duplex, which is the only building that needs completion on campus
2. To set up a Research Fund
3. To set up the Centre for AIC (African Instituted Church) Studies, and
4. Funds to buy metal shelves to shelf piled up books at the Seminary's main library.

He informed the gathering of the election of His Eminence, the Most Rev. Dr. Daniel Okoh, as the President of the Christian Association of Nigeria an ecumenical body of Christians. Finally, he presented the graduands for the various awards.

In his speech, the Guest Speaker, Rev. Prof. Eric Nii B. Anum emphasized that the theme for the ceremony, which was in line with the mission statement of the Seminary (to produce servant leaders for Africa), as stated in its statutes was very relevant for the present times. He emphasized the fact that



societies require not just leaders, but leaders who are faithful servant leaders. He specifically mentioned that there were only two types of leaders, and the graduands could be either one. According to him, they could either be "faithful or faithless leaders, genuine or fake, faultless or faulty, true and false, accepted or forsaken leaders." He, therefore, urged the graduands to do self-evaluations in order to situate themselves within the description that best suits them. He concluded with about 8 recommended actions that

would position graduands for success in their various endeavours. He, therefore, urged them to do the following faithfully in their communities:

1. Be available and accessible
2. Be abreast with current strategies for reaching the market place - creativity and innovation
3. Be sure they are not carried away by mis-information – they should employ reading, analytical and research skills to obtain genuine information.
4. Be focused and not be like every body else; be smart and not dull and lazy.
5. Be inclusive, impartial and connected to the society at large.
6. Be approachable, trustworthy and credit-worthy.
7. Avoid unnecessary pettiness and divisiveness and unwarranted waste of time on conflicts.
8. Be respectful and good mixers, ready to give rather than take.

The following students received special awards from the Seminary:

1. **EDWIN WEAVER'S MEMORIAL AWARD – (FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE) DIPLOMA IN PASTORAL MINISTRY** – Nwokolo, Godswill Chiononso
2. **EDWIN WEAVER'S MEMORIAL AWARD – (FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE) BACHELOR OF THEOLOGY** – Adrah, Benjamin Kweku
3. **HERBERT AMOAH'S MEMORIAL AWARD – (FOR SPIRITUAL MATURITY)** – Osita, Bright Ifeanyi; Abuah, Chukwudumebi Daniel; Atsu, Kennedy Kofi.
4. **REV. PROF. EMMANUEL MARTEY'S AWARD – (IMPRESSIVE WORK IN AFRICAN CHRISTIAN THEOLOGY)** – Adrah, Benjamin Kweku and Nunoo, Joseph Nii Acquah.
5. **THE PRESIDENT'S AWARD – (IN ADMIRATION OF THE SPIRIT OF VOLUNTARISM, INITIATIVE, AND EXCEPTIONAL LEADERSHIP QUALITIES).** Nwokolo, Godswill Chinonso; Aroh, Chioma Juliet; Achukwu, Sunday David; Djohouro, Santos David; Yeboah, Emmanuel.

After the conferment of the awards, the commissioner charged the graduands to be faithful stewards in the various societies they are called and privileged to serve in. By so doing, he remarked, they would give good accounts of their stewardship, and thus prove that they had received holistic training.

The chairman in his closing remarks referred to the various speeches and activities and then concluded that it had been a good time in the presence of the Lord. The ceremony ended at 1:00 pm.

