



THE CHURCH OF PENTECOST

HISTORY OF THE CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

✓ THE BEGINNINGS



VISION



BUILDERS



Slogan:
Jesus! Friend of Children

HISTORY OF THE CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

1.0 Introduction

The Children's Ministry of The Church of Pentecost is one of the most vibrant ministries in the church. Even though its beginnings were not formalised, it had grown through the decades to be a well-organised institution. Generally, children are the most important element of the family, the church and society. They form an integral part of our everyday life and are considered the future of the family and church. God's plan for the church is provided around children, they build generations and thus the church, as we find in Joel 1:3 *"Tell it to your children and let your children tell their children and their children to the next generation"*.

This booklet gives a profile of the historical trajectory of the Children's Ministry in The Church of Pentecost. It focuses on the rationale for establishing the ministry, the vision, mission, and functions of the ministry. It also provides us with the various stages (transitions) that the ministry has gone through, the challenges, innovations and impact over the years, the major contributions to church development and society and ends with some personalities who led the ministry during its growth.

2.0 Rationale for setting up the Ministry

In the early stages of the church, there was no formalised children's services. However, as the church grew in numbers and the members came along with their children, it was realised that there was the need to organise the children and help lead them to Christ. This was based on the premise that the path of salvation must be reached early enough. Specific to this is God's plan concerning Abraham and his children to "command his children and

his household after him, that they keep the way of the Lord, to do righteousness and justice" (Genesis 18:19). It was also realised that, during the early ministry of the pioneers of the church, the children responded quickly to the gospel, with some becoming the vehicle through which their parents were converted to Christ. Thus, children were gathered, and the message of the gospel was shared to them. This became the bedrock for the start-up of the formalised children's service. Based on this, the rationale was clearly developed for the formation of the Children's Ministry.

The rationale established are as follows:

- i. To lead children to personal knowledge of Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour (2 Timothy 3:15). That from childhood, because growth is influenced by so many factors, the ministry is there to reach children with the gospel early before they are influenced by the world and the flesh.
- ii. To teach children the unadulterated word of God. This involves teaching them to read and understand the Bible and become matured and responsible adults in the society.
- iii. To prepare children to take their place in the body of Christ in a responsible way. To prepare them for Men, Women and Evangelism Ministries and into the church membership after baptism.
- iv. To create in the minds of children the need to live holy, honest and righteous lives.
- v. To encourage the spirit of good citizenship in the children.
- vi. To build a strong church which does not leave the children behind as far as salvation is concerned (Psalm

78:1-8, Matthew 18:1-4). The message of salvation must reach succeeding generations. It must be appreciated that children can be saved; they respond more readily to the message of salvation than any other age group.

3.0 Vision and Mission

Over the years, the general vision and mission have been clearly set out to guide the operations of the ministry. The general vision statement is; "Winning and Nurturing children to grow in the Lord".

Irrespective of this overarching vision, various leaderships of the ministry have also developed visions in line with the overall vision of the leadership of the church at each period.

The Mission Statement

"To provide an environment that leads children to Christ, to bring them up to grow mentally, physically, socially and spiritually to take up the mantle of leadership in the church and society (Luke 2:52).

4.0 Functions of the Ministry

The pioneer leadership of the church identified early, the importance of children in the affairs of the church, thus the transformation from the Sunday School to Children's Ministry. With this foresight, they established them into the early development of the church with these key roles:

- To hold Sunday morning services, to pray, fellowship and to study the word of God.
- To hold periodic competitions and such other activities that ensure the children's spiritual and moral growth.
- To organise specialise children related activities to sustain their interest in the ministry/church.

5.0 Transitions of the Ministry

The Children's Ministry of today has gone through several transitions. This has been accompanied by changes in names and leadership or executive structure. Although services were organised for children in various Assemblies and Districts, Sunday School in The Church of Pentecost was not under a structured umbrella.

In the 1970s, late Mrs Margaret Mills who was the wife of the late Pastor David Mills, the then Principal of The Church of Pentecost Bible Training School at Asokwa, Kumasi, started organising church services for children at the Asokwa Mission House, where they lived. She started sharing gospel tracts and books to the children and adults. Some elders and pastors also got interested and subsequently got involved with the ministry to children.

5.1 Formalisation of Children's Services in The Church of Pentecost

At the 1972 General Council Meeting of The Church of Pentecost held in Kumasi, a decision was taken for the children in the church to be well-organised for effective formal classes to teach them the word of God. At the same meeting, late Apostle C. E. Apau Asante was appointed as the Children's General Leader while Mrs Margaret Mills was appointed as the Deputy General Leader. A lot of initiatives and activities took place in these formative years which were crucial to the current state of the Children's Ministry. Mrs Mills was very instrumental in building the structures upon which the solid foundation of the ministry would stand.

5.2 Introduction of Residential Children's Camp Meetings

The concept of camp meetings started from Kwadaso.

where the Mills' pastored. All children and teachers were brought together during school holidays for a period of five days for teaching, prayer, sports, games, competitions, and biblical plays. These meetings enriched the spiritual, social and physical lives of the children and their teachers. At such meetings, teachers from other Districts in Kumasi and its environs were invited and imparted to organise their own camps with the help of the Kwadaso team. The whole of the Mills family (parents and all their four daughters) attended these camp meetings as residential participants.

The camp meetings in Kwadaso District were fully funded by the church. Foodstuffs were collected from the assemblies to cater for the feeding of participants. Vehicles were also sent round to pick all children and their teachers from their villages. A co-ordinating team comprising, Elder Emmanuel Norbi (Quarter Master), Elder Emmanuel Dankwa (Dan), Elder Johnson Agyemang Badu (Johnny), Elder Robert Nketiah (Robert) and Deacon Benjamin Augustus Adobah (Benny) was set up to oversee these residential programmes.

5.3 National Training Seminars

From 1974, Mrs Mills introduced training seminars for regional leaders and their assistants at the national level. These seminars were held at the Morning Star School in Accra, property of the late Deaconess Esme Serebour (a former Women's Ministry Director of the church). The presence of the founder of the COP, Pastor James McKeown, the General Secretary, Apostle J. Egyir Paintsil, Apostle F.S. Safo, Apostle A.T. Nartey, etc., at these national seminars were side attractions and motivation to attendees. Regional leaders' national training seminars, as a result, became an annual event for about five years and it undoubtedly strengthened relationships among the leaders.

5.4 Sunday School Songs

Most of the songs used in Sunday school were in English. However, the main medium of communication at the time was in the twi language. Thus, Mrs Mills initiated the translation of many Sunday School songs from English into Twi and she, her husband and the children learnt to sing and teach others to sing as well. Popular among the many songs translated were:

1. *Yesu, mmɔfra adamfo*
2. *Yesu dɔ mmɔfra te sɛ me, me, me*
3. *Monhwehwe Nyankopɔn ahenni*
4. *Awurade, mema me kra so mekyere W'*

These and many other songs brought life into the Sunday School in its formative years.

5.5 Teachers' Conferences

Teachers' conferences were undertaken to be build the capacity of the teachers. Topics taught were geared towards building a strong foundation upon which the ministry would stand. They included:

1. Biblical basis for evangelising Children
2. Preparation of a Bible story
3. How to teach a Bible story
4. How to teach a song
5. How to teach a Memory verse
6. How to organise a Bible quiz
7. How to lead a child to Christ.
8. How to use the syllabus

9. How to organise competitions in Children's Movement
10. How to make your Sunday school class attractive.

Other programmes taught during the conferences included the outline for organising a successful children class. The content included:

1. Signature Tune
2. Prayer Drill
3. Chorus Time
4. Memory Verse
5. Teaching a new song/chorus
6. Quiz Time
7. Offering
8. Bible Story
9. Count up/Roll call
10. Closing Song and Prayer

5.6 Syllabus for the Movement

The concept of developing and using a syllabus in the Children's Movement was initiated by Mrs Mills. This was done half-yearly and it really helped the teachers in nurturing the children.

From this historical profile, we find that Mrs Margaret Mills was a pillar in the formative years of the Children's Ministry. We also realise that Ashanti Region was a hub in the beginning of the Children's Ministry. From the Ashanti Region, Kwadaso served as the centre during the growth of the church. There was a spillover of activities of Mrs Margaret Mills and her team at Kwadaso, Ashanti Region, which activated activities in the other regions of the country leading to regional initiatives.

For example, in the Greater Accra region, Labadi and Mary Villas/Newtown served as the hub. We had champions such as Apostle Asante Aryeh (rtd.), Pastor R. Nii Anang, Elder Norbi, Elder D. K. Bosomprah, Elder Ameyaw, Deaconess Elizabeth Sackey (Hon.), Deaconess Adelaide Owuo, Elder Aninkorah, Elder Nano, Elder Nuerthey, Elder and Mrs Lomotey to mention a few.

In the Eastern Region, Koforidua served as the hub and had people such as Elders, C.N. Kissiedu, Koranteng and Afari of Akim Oda, Late Deaconess Grace Yamoah and Sister Felicia Bampo championing the activities of the children in the region.

In the Central Region, Cape Coast served as the hub of activities for the Children's Ministry and had members such as Elder Samuel Tachie-Menson and Deaconess Suzanna Holdbrook playing active roles. In the Western Region, Takoradi served as the hub of Children's Ministry activities, Pastor Peter Godson Andoh and Elder York played very active roles. Similarly, in the Northern Region, we had Elder Kofi Assabila as some of the key players and Tamale served as the hub. Aflao was the centre of action for the Volta Region and Elders Akpagana and Saviour played very key roles. Elder Obiri Yeboah was an active pillar in the Brong Ahafo with Sunyani as the hub.

Again, the transitions also involved leadership appointments and changes. The first leadership appointment by the General Council occurred between 1972-1983. It comprised a three-member team namely;

- Apostle Apau Asante (late) as the General Leader
- Mrs. Margaret Mills (late) as the Deputy General Leader and
- Mrs Esme Siriboe as the Secretary.

The second leadership appointment was between 1983-1988 and the General Leader was Apostle S. K. Ansong (rtd.). During this period there was the introduction of Regional Leaders. Thus, Apostle S. K. Ansong was the only Executive Leader who then worked with these Regional Leaders in managing the affairs of the Children's Movement.

The third leadership appointment was between 1988-1994 and the General Leader was Apostle J. K. Essel (rtd.). He also worked with Regional Leaders. The Leaders were referred to as General Leaders because the church was in its formative stages and the administrative structures were gradually picking up. Some of these leaders facilitated in building the structures of the movement/ministry.

The General Leaders did not have Executive Committee Members because the church's Head office in Accra at that time did not have offices for the Movement leaders to operate. They were all operating from their respective ministerial stations/post/regions. Example, Apostle C. E. Apau Asante (late) was operating from Tamale in the Northern Region. Mrs Margaret Mills (late), the deputy was with her husband in Asokwa, Kumasi. The secretary, Mrs Esme Prah Siriboe was in Accra, running her Morning Star School. The same trend happened during the Apostles S. K. Ansong and J. K. Essel era.

In the year 1994, a re-structuring committee was formed in the head office under the chairmanship of Apostle Dr. Opoku Onyinah. This committee was formed to develop administrative structures and managerial departments. The report of the committee resulted in the introduction of Directors, Managers, and other positions. It was this committee which came up with the positions of

the International Missions Director (IMD), Finance and Administrative Director (FAD) and the Directors responsible for the Movements.

This initiative resulted in the appointment of Pastor Christian Nnam Kissiedu as the first Children's Movement Director in 1994, with an office at the Church's Headquarters. *(Phone interview with Apostle Rigwell Atto Addison, former General Secretary of the church on Wednesday April 21, 2021).*

5.7 Leadership Changes/Appointments

For more than four decades (about 48 years) of the ministry's existence, there have been several leadership changes. Below are the leadership appointments during the period.

(1972-1983)

- Apostle Apau Asante (late) - General Leader
- Mrs Margaret Mills (late) - Deputy General Leader
- Mrs Esme Siriboe (late) - Secretary

(1983-1988)

- Apostle S. K. Ansong - General Leader
Worked with Regional Leaders.

(1988-1994)

- Apostle J. K. Essel - General Leader
Worked with regional leaders.

(1994-1998)

This is the first Executive Committee and the members comprised:

1. Apostle Robert Acquah - Patron
2. Pastor C. N. Kissiedu - Director
3. Pastor Adjei Badu (late) - Member

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|------------------|
| 4. Pastor B. A. Adobah | - | Member |
| 5. Pastor Agyemang Badu | - | Co-opted Member* |
| 6. Ovr. Daniel Walker | - | Member |
| 7. Ovr. Andrews Oduro Ampaw | - | Member |
| 8. Elder Fred Tiakor | - | Member |
| 9. Deaconess Grace Yamoah | - | Member |
| 10. Deaconess Faustina Sarfo-Appiah | - | Member |

* *Children's Movement literature committee representative.*

They were inducted into Office on 10th September 1994. During this period the Children's Movement was also transformed into a directorate. The committee had a Patron because the Director was a Pastor and in the church's constitution, article 22 section 4, it states that, where there is a Pastor as the Director, there should be an Apostle or Prophet as the Patron. This committee however did not have a Deputy Director. In 1998, it was considered expedient to appoint a Deputy Director to assist the Director considering the enormity of the work at hand and he should be an Elder of the church.

(1998-2004)

This is the second Executive Committee, and the membership included the appointment of a Deputy Director.

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|--------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Prophet J. E. Ameyaw | - Patron |
| 2. Pastor C. N. Kissiedu | - Director |
| 3. Elder S. Ankamah-Lomotey | - Deputy Director |
| 4. Pastor Andrews Oduro Ampaw | - Member |
| 5. Pastor Fred Tiakor | - Member |
| 6. Mrs Faustina Ofosu-Koramoah | - Member |
| 7. Mrs Georgina L. Awuku | - Co-opted Member |

(2004-2008)

This is the third Executive Committee, and the membership include:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Prophet J. E. Ameyaw | - Patron |
| 2. Pastor B. A. Adobah | - Director |
| 3. Elder S. Ankamah-Lomotey | - Deputy Director |
| 4. Pastor J. G. Quardson | - Member |
| 5. Elder S. E. A. Pobee | - Member |
| 6. Mrs Grace Aniakwaah | - Member |
| 7. Mrs Rita Yedu | - Member |
| 8. Mrs G. L. Awuku | - Co-opted Member |

(2008-2012)

This is the fourth Executive Committee, and the membership included:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Prophet B. A. Adobah | - Director |
| 2. Elder S. Ankamah-Lomotey | - Deputy Director |
| 3. Pastor J. G. Quardson | - Member |
| 4. Pastor R. S. Nii Anang | - Member |
| 5. Elder K. Asare Twerefour | - Member |
| 6. Mrs Grace Aniakwaah | - Member |
| 7. Mrs Rita Yedu | - Member |
| 8. Mrs Adelaide Owuo | - Co-opted member* |

** Children's Movement literature committee representative.*

(2012-2016)

This is the fifth Executive Committee and the membership included:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Apotles J. W. D. Cudjoe | - Patron |
| 2. Pastor Fred Tiakor | - Director |
| 3. Elder Stephen Ankamah Lomotey | - Deputy Director |

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| 4. Pastor R.S. Nii Anang | - Secretary |
| 5. Pastor Peter G. Andoh | - Member |
| 6. Elder Kwadjo Asare Twerefour | - Member |
| 7. Mrs Victoria Tetteh | - Member/Pastors'
Wives Representative |
| 8. Mrs Rita Yedu | - Member |

(2016-2018)

This is the sixth Executive Committee, and the membership included:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| 1. Apostle Fred Tiakor | - Director |
| 2. Elder Samuel Tachie Menson | - Deputy Director |
| 3. Pastor Peter Adjei | - Secretary |
| 4. Pastor Peter G. Andoh | - Member |
| 5. Elder Kwadjo Asare Twerefour | - Member |
| 6. Mrs Victoria Tetteh | - Member/Pastors'
Wives Representative |
| 7. Mrs Rita Yedu | - Member |

There was a change of the Deputy Director after the 16th Session of the Extraordinary Council Meeting held at the Pentecost Convention Centre, Gomoa Fetteh, from May 8-10, 2019, under the theme, *"I will build my church"* (Matthew 16:19; Titus 2:13-14). Elder Professor William Otoo Ellis was appointed Deputy Director of the Children's Ministry.

(2016-2020)

This is the seven Executive Committee and the membership included:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Apostle Fred Tiakor | - Director |
| 2. Elder Prof. William Otoo Ellis | - Deputy Director |
| 3. Pastor Peter Adjei | - Secretary |

4. Pastor Peter G. Andoh - Member
5. Elder Kwadjo Asare Twerefour - Member
6. Mrs Victoria Tetteh - Member/Pastors' Wives Representative
7. Mrs Rita Yedu - Member

At the 44th session of the General Council Meeting held virtually from the Pentecost Pension House, from June 1-6, 2020, under the theme, "A Glorious Church to Possess the Nations" (Ephesians 3:21; 5:27). Apostle Fred Tiakor after serving meritoriously for two terms was reviewed. Elder Professor William Otoo Ellis, who was then the Deputy Director was called into Pastorate and appointed the Children's Director. Some long serving National Executive Committee Members were also reviewed. Prophet David Kankam Beditor was appointed Patron of the Children's Ministry.

(2020 to Date)

This is the eighth Executive Committee, and the membership included:

1. Prophet David Kankam Beditor - Patron
2. Pastor Prof. William Otoo Ellis - Director
3. Elder Lawyer Alfred Aidoo - Deputy Director
4. Pastor Peter Adjei - Secretary
5. Pastor Ebenezer Tetteh Kpalam - Member
6. Elder Emmanuel Nyarko Tetteh - Member
7. Mrs Freda Koranteng - Member/Pastors' Wives Representative
8. Dr Mrs Rebecca Dei-Mensah - Member

5.8 Changes in the Names of the Ministry

Even through the Children's Ministry started in the homes of members in and around 1962, the name 'Sunday School' was given to the formal organisation of the children. At the first National officers and Regional leaders meeting held at the Morning Star School in Accra on 14th January 1974, the term 'Children's Movement' was proposed to correspond to that of the Women and Witness Movements. This proposal also came with the salutation, '*Yesu! 'Mmofra Adamfo!*' – (Jesus! Friend of children (in English)). At the 12th session of the General Council Meeting held at Asamankese in 1974, the name Children's Movement, the salutation and response, the aims and objectives were accepted for implementation.

In 2011, the Executive Council considered a request from the National Executive Committee of the Movement for a change of name to 'Ministry'. This was approved for implementation based on the following reasons:

- The name 'Ministry' is easily understood and really gives a broader picture of the activities of child work than the 'Movement' which must always be defined in context.
- The name 'Movement' locates the activities of child work and appeals more to the secular as compared with the name Children's Ministry.
- Current operations and functions of children's activities in the church today is more congruent with the ministry rather than Movement.

6.0 Significant Transformations and Innovations

There have been significant transformations and innovations in the church which have also reflected the changing trends of the times and church growth. In the early days of the church, prior to 1962 and around 1962,

the children's service started from people's homes as they gathered the children and taught them. As the number of children increased, they started meeting under trees and in school classrooms as the years went by. Places of meeting is still one of the major challenges of the ministry. Irrespective of this challenge, currently, a lot of the assemblies and districts hold services in the adult church auditoriums.

Some churches or assemblies have moved beyond this phase to the putting up of edifices for the Children's Ministry services, while others are expanding their original structures and refurbishing them for children's services. This is an initiatives that the leadership of the church is giving serious attention. Presently, every new church building to be constructed must have a place of worship for the children before the initial designs for construction will be approved.

Apart from places of worship, some significant innovations introduced involved the use of technology. Increasingly, children ministries are having their own instruments, furniture, LCD projectors, large screen televisions, teaching aids etc. These new trends were further boosted with the advent of the COVID-19 pandemic which started in 2019 but became severe in March 2020.

The pandemic resulted in the Children's Ministry's activities in our various churches being suspended for more than a year. Districts and assemblies, especially those that were well-endowed, resorted to using the virtual space to reach the children. This they did with the churches establishing temporary studios for broadcasting online, retooling these studios with internet facilities, and audio and video equipment. This innovative approach helped the Children's Ministries to undertake their teaching and training responsibilities of nurturing the young ones. The

Pentecost International Worship Centres (PIWCs), the Worship Centres and the English Assemblies were fully resolved in this direction. Some of the unique initiatives were introduced during the tenure of some of the Directors and these are highlighted below:

Reverend Kissiedu – During his tenure, he caused the publishing of the syllabus into the different age groups as well as the devotional guide and the children song book. He also developed the Teachers' Training Manual for both beginners and existing teachers. He initiated the process of exposing the ministry to other external bodies through networking and partnership, e.g., The Petra Institute of South Africa.

Prophet Adobah – During his tenure, he initiated the recording of the song book unto CDs and the video recordings of action songs unto CDs. He further expanded the internalisation process of the Ministry with further networking and partnership with organisations such as Child Right International and the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR).

Apostle Tiakor – During his tenure, he strengthened partnerships and linkages by organising the first homecoming of the ministry, bringing together both teachers and alumni. He also organised the Pan-African Conference of Children Ministers, bringing children ministers on the continent together.

He initiated the development of a handbook on community children's club, the concept of the Children's Ministry Pastors and introduced the National Preacher Kids competition. He further expanded the networking and partnership agenda of the ministry linking up with organisations such as Compassion International, the Samaritan Purse, World Vision and SOS Children's Villages to mention a few.

7.0 Major contributions of the Children's Ministry to the church

The church comprises both adults and children and each segment plays its role in church growth and development. Children play very critical roles and have made significant contributions to the growth and development of The Church of Pentecost.

Some specific major contributions by the ministry to church growth and development are;

- The Ministry continually adds to the historical growth of the church. Children always graduate from the ministry into the youth hence adding to the adult membership of the church.
- Children have been a major link to getting families into and actively participating in the church. A lot of adults have come into the church and a lot have stayed in the church because of their children. This follows the principle that "when you reach children, you reach their parents".
- The Children's Ministry through the nurturing of the young ones have helped in sustaining the faith and The Church of Pentecost principles and belief systems. As they are taught and trained in the core values and principles of the faith and the church, they grow up with it even as they transition to adulthood.
- Many of the church leaders have passed through the Children's Ministry. Thus, the ministry has contributed and continue to contribute significantly to the training of the future leaders of this church.
- The Children's Ministry helps build a strong Youth Ministry which also helps build a strong church.

The Children's Ministry can be likened to the start point of a production process. The children are the raw materials which feed the system. A constant supply and in sufficient quantity keeps the system running efficiently and this is what the Children's Ministry has been doing and continue to do over the years till now to support the growth of the church.

8.0 Profile of some past Directors

Late Pastor Christian Nnam Kissiedu

Pastor Christian Nnam Kissiedu, the senior of twin brothers was born on 13th November 1939 at Akwadum near Koforidua in the Eastern Region. His educational background is as follows:

1. Primary school education (Akwadum Primary School) – 1953.
2. Middle school education (Asafo Akim Presbyterian Boarding Middle School) – 1953-1956.
3. Secondary school education (Accra Academy School) – 1958 and 1962.
4. Post-secondary Teachers' Certificate A (Presbyterian Teacher Training College (PTC), Akropong Akuapim) – 1963-1965.
5. Advanced Teacher Training certificate in Mathematics – (Advance Teacher Training College at Winneba, now University of Education) – 1970.
6. Certificate in Counselling (Oasis Counselling Centre, Nairobi Kenya) – 1979.
7. Management and Mentoring course in Children' Ministry (Petra Institute of Children's Ministers, South Africa) – 2000 to 2001.
8. Certificate in Recreation and Sports Science (School of Biokinectics at Potchefstroom University for Christian Higher Education, South Africa) – 2002.

Working life

In terms of working experience, Pastor Kissiedu spent a substantial part of his working life with the Ghana Education Service (GES). He joined the Ghana Education Service as a teacher and taught at Adukrom Teacher Training College from 1965 to 1967; transferred to Nkawkaw Teacher Training College from 1967 to 1968. Then again transferred from Nkawkaw to Aburi Women's Teacher Training College from 1970 to 1974. He finally moved to Nifa Secondary School, Adukrom where he remained until he was called into the full-time ministry in 1994. During his time with Ghana Education Service, he rose through the ranks to the position of the position of Assistant Director where he was subsequently seconded to the church by the Ghana Education Service.

Positions held (selected)

Regional leader of the Children's Movement in Eastern Region – 1972-1989.

Children's Movement Director – 1994-2004

Pastor Kissiedu through hard work introduced several innovations into the work of the ministry. This includes the development of the children's devotional guide, song book, Teachers' Manual, both Beginners and Continuation. The late Pastor C. N. Kissiedu was married to Esther Koramah Larbi and their union was blessed with five children.

Prophet Benjamin Augustus Adobah

Prophet Benjamin Augustus Adobah was born on 11th July 1951 at Gomoa Manso near Agona Swedru in the Central Region. His educational background is as follows:

1. Primary Education (Gomoa Manso Authority Primary School) – 1958-1963.
2. Middle School Leaving Cert. (Gomoa Ekwamkrom Meth. Middle School) – 1963-1967.
3. Plumbing – Trade Test (Kumasi Technical Institute (KTI))
4. Certificate in Leadership (Haggai Institute, USA)-1998
5. Certificate Grade II STEE programme (Pentecost University College (PUC)) – 2006-2008.

In terms of working experience, Prophet Adobah worked with Samford Limited, Kumasi (production of PVC Pressure Pipes) from 1972-1982 from where he was called into the full-time ministry at Kwadaso District from 1982-2016. In the church, he has served on committees and held several positions including the following:

Committees

Area Executive Committee Member, Goaso 1995-2000

Area Secretary, New Tafo, Kumasi 2000-2004

Deputy Witness Director, COP 2000-2004

Positions held

Greater Accra Regional Children's Leader 1992-1996

National Children's Executive Member 1993-1998

Children's Movement/Ministry Director 2004-2012

Prophet Adobah was the brain behind the introduction of Compassion International Projects partnership and Child Right International into the ministry. He also proposed that, ordained officers should be encouraged to teach children and he was first to record action songs onto CDs. For hobbies, he likes to watch and play football and table tennis. Prophet B.A. Adobah is married to Mrs Gladys Ama Adobah (April 21, 1981) and they are blessed with five children, three males and two females.

Apostle Fred Tiakor

Apostle Fred Tiakor was born on 30th January 1960 at Peki in the Volta Region of Ghana. His educational background is as follows;

1. G.C.E. Ordinary level (WAEC) - 1979
2. G.C.E. Advanced level (WAEC) - 1982
3. Diploma in Industrial Relations Practice (Labour College) -1990
4. Diploma in Personnel Management (MDPI) – 1982-1983
5. B.Th - Practical Theology (Canada Christian College/ Pentecost University College) - 2008
6. Tutor's Certificate (Petra Institute, South Africa) - 2014
7. M.Th (S. A. T. S) South Africa, (Candidate)

In terms of working experience, Apostle Fred Tiakor worked with Labour Department from 1981 to 1998. He rose through the ranks to become Labour Officer and District Employment Officer in Tema. He settled major labour disputes and facilitated job opportunities to many job applicants to establishment such as Valco, Aluworks, Pioneer Food Cannery, Nestle, GAFCO, to mention a few.

Positions held (selected)

- | | |
|--|---------------|
| National Executive Member | 1994-2004 |
| Area Children's Leader, Berekum | 2002-2004 |
| Area Children's Leader, Sunyani | 2002-2007 |
| Area Children's Leader, Techiman | 2008-2010 |
| Director, Children's Ministry | 2012-2020 |
| Compassion International Advisory Council Member | 2016-2020 |
| S. O. S Finance Committee Member | 2018-2020 |
| 1 for 50/Window 4/14 – Global Team Member | 2019 to date. |
| S. O. S Association Member | 2018 to date |

Apostle Tiakor during his tenure as director made significant contributions to the growth and development of the ministry. He built on the efforts of his predecessors by expanding the profile and networks of the ministry at the national and international level, linking with organisations such as AWANA, Global Children Network, Christian Broadcasting Network, Petra Institute for Children's Ministry, South Africa and World Vision, Ghana.

Some other achievements include organising the first ever Homecoming Conference in 2013, and two successful Pan African Conferences for Children's Ministers in 2016 and 2019, respectively.

He also facilitated the admission of the Director's office as a permanent member of the Advisory Council of Compassion International, Ghana and instituted the National Preacher Kid Contest as well as advocating for the institution of the Children Pastor concept in the framework of the Children's Ministry. For hobbies, he is interested in cooking local meals, travelling and watching documentaries. Apostle Tiakor is married to Mrs Agnes Tiakor and they are blessed with three adult children.

9.0. Conclusion

The Children's Ministry of the church continues to work assiduously by the grace of God in raising godly children who are well-grounded in the faith and equipped to possess nations by building upon the achievements of the past.