Renewal and Church Growth in Ghana

ANDY GILMOUR



Andy Gilmour, preacher, pastor and missionary, shares how renewal is sweeping through Ghana.





I am often asked why I chose to be a missionary in Ghana. My reply is, 'I didn't choose Ghana. Ghana chose me!'

In 2011 Benjamin Oduro, a Ghanaian pastor serving in the UK, along with Archbishop Samuel Addae from Ghana, visited Canaan Christian Bookcentre in Staines, where I was the manager. They invited me to visit Kumasi to speak at the Shiloh Bible Training College for Pastors (now the Archbishop Addae Theological Institute).

Archbishop Samuel had witnessed the huge growth in churches and had seen the need to train these young charismatic leaders who had much zeal, but not much knowledge. They were mostly from new independent churches, though some came from the mainline denominations too.

In 2012, another local pastor and I travelled to Ghana to speak to 120 student ministers preparing for graduation and ordination. It was remarkable to be present at this event and to take part in a large outdoor service with 6,000 attending, witnessing these new pastors and evangelists being commissioned and sent out to the mission field.

Little did I know that this was only the beginning and that, 14 years later, I would be living there for more than half my year. After retirement in the UK, I found that a new field of service had opened up. Not only in Kumasi, where I am based, but in the less-reached regions of northern Ghana.

Ghana is a predominantly Christian country with approximately 65% of the population identifying as Christians. In the north, it is a larger mission field, with a larger proportion of Muslims and ancestral worshippers. However, the kingdom of God is growing there too, as I discovered.

From working with churches and individuals associated with the Bible college, my work has broadened to contacts with many different churches as an itinerant missionary. In the Kumasi region, this has involved me mentoring young ministers, many of whom trained at the college. A group known as 'Gleaners from Ghana' sprang up and meets regularly for mutual encouragement. The group stresses the importance of mission, with a focus on the Word and the Spirit. This is important, because amongst the wheat there are tares; that is, groups and churches which have deviated from the truth of the gospel. For this reason, I am always keen to get good books and materials into their hands.

Kumasi has many churches on nearly every street. They vary in size; the worship is alive and infectious, and the Holy Spirit is moving in significant ways in people's lives. Fervent prayer undergirds so much of the renewal in Ghana and all-night gatherings of prayer are a common feature in many churches.

A few years ago, I was invited to Tamale, the northern capital, to speak at some revival meetings in a Baptist church. That was to be the start of an outreach into the less-reached and less-developed northern regions,



visiting many poorer villages to share the Good News. This included being invited to a predominantly Muslim village to preach. From that visit we have been able to help establish a bore well and set up a mission school for younger children. Through practical support and prayer, we have seen some turn to Christ and a small church formed.

Two years ago, we visited a church in a large village in the North East Region where the leaders were seeking revival. Because it was the dry season and therefore no farming, the congregation came along for three mornings. We shared on the theme 'One Lord, One Faith and One Body' from Ephesians 4.

The first day, 95 people had gathered and, following the message, all the chiefs came forward in response. This even surprised my translator, as normally chiefs come just to observe! The next day, there were 150 people, with several different churches represented. Nearly everyone came forward for prayer at the end. On the final day, over 250 people came along. The message was about being part of the body and knowing our place and gifts within it. Afterwards, there was a feedback session and it was encouraging to hear how the Lord had touched many lives.

Following this event, we heard that people had returned to churches they had not attended for years. I revisited in January 2026 and saw for myself how the church had grown. They had got what they prayed for. Many of the people in these villages live in arduous conditions, so it is all the more encouraging to see their heartfelt response to the gospel.

This spiritual growth is in both the cities and the villages. On this recent trip I was invited to a 'word and fire prayer ministry' event in Kumasi. It was led by a Methodist Local Preacher who had started a healing group. The event had grown so fast that they now have a larger meeting place to accommodate the growing congregation. I spoke on two nights to a large number and witnessed the Holy Spirit move as many lives were touched.

It seems that God is blessing Ghana in a significant way spiritually. 'Faith is in the air', with a great openness to the gospel in the nation. Clearly, this is the fruit of much sowing that took place in the past. I believe that we can learn a lot from their dedication and faith.

Sadly, since being asked to write this article, Archbishop Samuel Addae has gone to be with the Lord. He was 80 years of age and leaves a great legacy in the lives of the many people he trained for ministry, who now serve both in Ghana and throughout the world.

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Andy lives both in Staines, UK and in Ghana. For 38 years he headed up Canaan Ministries in Staines, which has a bookshop and counselling service. He is a preacher and has had an interest in Christian mission and unity for many years.

