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# ridgeAlive

Magazine of ARC



▲ Group picture of 6pm congregation  
at the Launch of ARC@90

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# Christmas: Greatest Gift Of Love

**C**hristmas, a believer's celebration of the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ, is no doubt focused on LOVE.

Even though that focus today, has shifted to a period of commercialisation, The Word of God through the prophets in the Old Testament to the New Testament confirms the Messiah's coming as God's plan to save His people.

On that eventful day, the Saviour, Christ the Lord, was born.

As the Hymnist in MHB 120 recounts, "The mystery of love" which hosts of angels chanted from above; with them the joyful tidings first begun". God's love became manifest when He gave us the gift of His son who was to save mankind from eternal condemnation.

On that first Christmas day, the shepherds watching over their flocks by night left them to go to Bethlehem to worship Christ the new born King. It certainly was a show of their love to the infant Jesus.

Similarly, in a show of love and worship, the three wise men, guided by the Star, went to express their love when they visited Baby Jesus with their gifts of gold, myrrh and frankincense.

As per our tradition in this part of the world, the birth of a new born, from royalty or not, is a joyous occasion for which reason friends and relations would go and show their love in many appreciable ways.

The coming of our Lord Jesus Christ exemplifies God's greatest love for us sinners. The lowly Saviour who was born in a stable was God Himself who came down to earth to live among us and gave up His life for us and offered us a living hope.

What love can compare to this? Divinity entered our sinful world because of God's love. Hope became part of our lives because the promised Messiah was born to us. And because Christ was born to us and died for us, we can claim joint heirs to God's throne.

Let us ponder over the occasion of Christmas, as Christians, as one partakes in the celebrations. As one sits at table with the rest of the family to enjoy the fattest portions of the Christmas meal, let us remember that we are because God first loved us.

May we celebrate the gift we graciously received from God on that first Christmas day with much meaning and be ready at all times to give off that love as well.

*Merry Christmas to all our readers.*



# ARC@ 90:

**CHAT WITH DANNY MAWUENYEGA**  
**CHAIRMAN OF COUNCIL : By Rami Baitie**



**I**t was a slightly overcast Wednesday morning when I got to meet with the Chairman of Accra Ridge Church Council. We met in his office on the Church premises. Though cosy, I was looking forward to a much bigger office space. After all, this church is about to turn 90 years old.

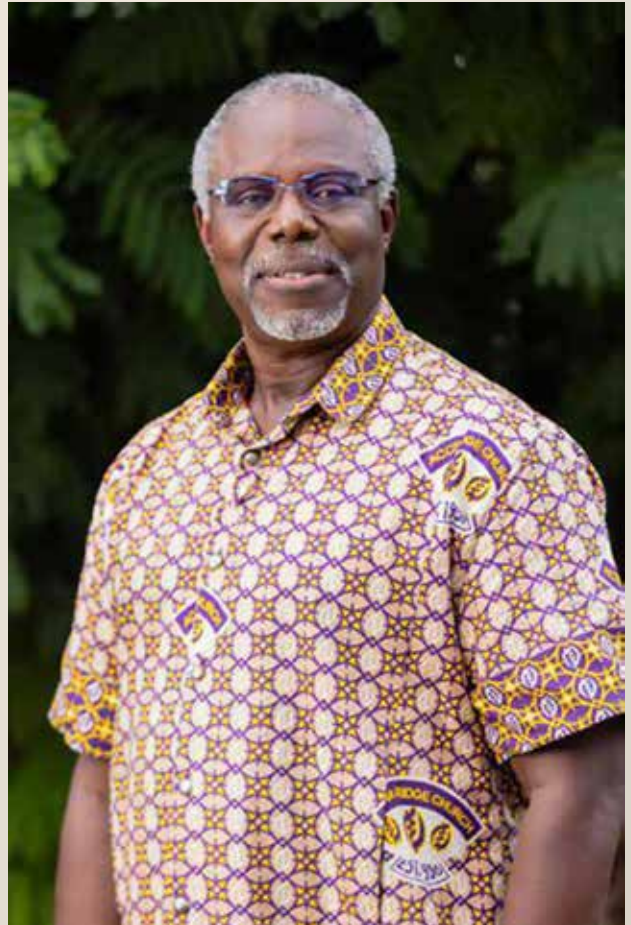
The Council Chair of the Accra Ridge Church is Danny Easmon Mawuenyega. He has been leading the Church Council since March 2025. He has been a member of the Church for over 40 years. He's married to his lovely wife, Barbara, and they have three children and two grandchildren.

Speaking of 90th anniversaries (no, Council Chair is NOT 90 years old); our wonderful church turns 90 years old next year, 2026. Council Chair gave me a bit of historical background about how those 90 years begun.

The Church was started in 1935, by a group of expatriate men here in Accra, who conceived of an inter-denominational worship space. These men were Anglicans, and originally of the Low Mass. Eventually Methodist and Presbyterian Ministers were invited to join the group.

The Church was physically located just down the road from our current location, in a wooden building opposite the UN's FAO office in Accra. The wooden building actually belonged to the PWD. When the Church grew and moved, it was to a place just down the road, where the current ARC Hall is located.

The 90th anniversary is slated for celebration next year, but the Church is making preparations to launch it in early December, 2025.



Why are we celebrating this anniversary anyway, I asked Council Chair? "It's a milestone age", he said. For a Church of such stature and a unique one at that, at 90 years of existence, Accra Ridge Church is certainly worthy of celebration. "We need to recognise the founders of the Church, thanking God for their vision, and how far He has brought us", Council Chairman added. Certainly, there are other joint churches, but we can be justifiably proud of having the Anglican, Methodist and Presbyterian denominations with Youth, and even Auxiliary members of the priesthood, pastoring us at the Ridge Church is a blessing to celebrate.

"An anniversary such as this should be an opportunity for us to glorify God, and evangelise the unsaved", he added.

In my chat with him, the Council Chair also said that he did not know any other church where there was such an involved laity like the Accra Ridge Church where we have so many lay preachers, lay readers, Bible Study leaders, etc. All of them were there voluntarily, to augment and support the clergy.

So, is there going to be a theme for the 90th anniversary celebration? According to the Council Chair, there have already been some proposals, and by God's grace a fitting theme will be revealed at the launch in December. Events for the anniversary are also under consideration, like outreach sessions, evangelism programmes, musical concerts, breakfast meetings, dinners, television and radio appearances, and fund-raising activities.

The Council Chair said he had asked for ceaseless daily prayers for the anniversary celebration, thanking God for how far he has brought us. In particular, it is his fervent prayer that all members will participate in all the events.

He intimated that nothing would make him happier than a full involvement from all Ridgeans, leading to a God-filled 90 more years.

For example, Ridge Church currently has branches at Tudu, Manet, and ACP Estates at Pokuase. Moving forward, the dream of the Church is to have more branches, even outside Accra.

Talking about the other engagements of the Church, the Chairman said with the ARC Hall mostly complete, and the car park showing newly

designated parking spaces, it is his hope that the Church would also embrace modernity. He spoke about other changes which will help the Church move forward, including de-coupling of the ARC Hall as a separate business, run by a CEO, for example. He explained that would enable the Church to further diversify its income generation and create a profitable aspect of the Church, saying, "We could commercialise more activities, and introduce some diversification, like rental of church space and grounds for events".

This would significantly augment our traditional sources of income, and ensure that the Church gains from these investments.

A CEO would have a business-oriented perspective, help to ensure a financially secure future for the Church, and accelerate evangelism and soul-winning.

This change would also guide us in improving certain aspects of the daily running of the Church and improve internal controls like audit, procurement, and spending.

With all these in place and functioning correctly, we may see our numbers grow. We will be able to invite more and more people to come and worship and fellowship with us.

Maybe they'll even realise that the Accra Ridge Church is not the 'elite' place of worship we have been portrayed as being!

As his final message, the Chairman of Council had this to say: "The 90th anniversary is a great opportunity to revamp, to regenerate, and to revive, our generation and the next".

**He added, "Let's make an impact on society and win more souls for the Lord in the spirit of the love of Jesus".**



# *Extending Arm Of Help:*

## HOW ACCRA RIDGE CHURCH IS SUPPORTING ITS OWN

– By Vicky Wireko-Andoh

**L**iving so much by its belief in God's goodness and kindness and encouragement to do good and show love to others, the Accra Ridge Church (ARC) Council in 2018 took a decision to establish a Welfare policy to cater for the welfare needs of its members on a more structured basis.

At the Church's Annual General Meeting (AGM) of 2019 therefore, the new Council brought the proposed Welfare Policy of 2018 to the AGM for ratification.

Approved by the meeting, the policy which was brought into full force in September 2022 has since come to life effective 2023. The policy has been of help to some Church members who subsequently applied to be considered for assistance as per the policy's guidelines.

The nine-member Welfare Committee charged with the administration of the Policy is currently chaired by Lawyer Mrs. Lucy Felicity Arthur (LFA), a long time standing member of the Church. The Committee members have been drawn from some groups from all the branches of the Church - Accra Ridge Church, Manet, Tudu and ACP Estates, Pokuase.

The Welfare Policy is meant to cater for the less endowed and needy Church members. The Church provided the initial seed money of fifty thousand Cedis (GHS50,000) to be invested for three years after which the scheme was to be operationalised.

Ridge Alive caught up with Mrs. Arthur to understand further what the Welfare Policy has done and how one could access it as a Church member in need of assistance.

### **Below, we reproduce the full interview:**

**RA:** What is the objective of the ARC Welfare Policy?

**LFA:** To assist registered and paid up members in marriage, sickness, bereavement, payment of medical bills, accommodation and any needs that the Committee shall consider as meriting help.

**RA:** Who benefits :

**LFA:** Any registered and paid up member of the Church can apply. The application must be channeled through the Church administration, bearing in mind the eligibility of members from all the branches of the Church.

**RA:** Is this not a duplication of the welfare arrangements being operationalised by the various Groups?

**LFA:** This scheme is different from the welfare arrangements

by the various Church Groups. However, the Groups could refer cases to the Committee and those would be dealt with in accordance with the mandate given. Due diligence is necessary before funds are given out to the institution which gave the invoice to the applicant or in the case of rent, directly to the landlord.

**RA:** How different is the Welfare Policy from the Christian Education Policy of the Christian Services Group?

**LFA:** The Church's welfare scheme is different from that operated by the Christian Services, in that; we only make a one off payment to help educational expenses. If an applicant needs funding for an entire course, we refer such to the Christian Services which has the education assistance mandate.

**RA:** Who benefits and what are the criteria for selection of beneficiaries?

**LFA:** First, the Committee meticulously goes through all applications, especially, those for rent. We do a thorough background check before any decision is made. Every decision is based on merit. We cannot sustain indefinite payments for rents and so we make a one off contribution to assist with yearly rent.

We also make donations on behalf of the Church to families of bereaved members and also to spouses, children and parents.

Donations are also made to newly wedded couples. Information for these is provided by the Church's Administration.

There have also been medical and educational supports. Funds for these go directly to the appropriate institutions which provide the invoice.

**RA:** How sustainable is the Welfare Policy?

**LFA:** The policy is sustainable since the initial investment by the Church has yielded significant sum. So far, the supports being asked for are not huge so plans are in place for "special offertory" to be collected twice a year towards this worthy cause.

**RA:** Thank you so much for taking up the challenge to help the Church administer financial help to our own. We pray the fund will grow beyond expectation so that many more Church members would receive help at their times of need. May God richly bless you and the Committee members.

# CONVERSATION WITH OUR OWN:

**MRS. ELISE EVANS-ANFOM**

FORMER CHAIRPERSON OF COUNCIL

– By Helen Odamtten

**W**e introduced to you, Mrs. Elise Evans-Anfom, a former Chairperson of the Accra Ridge Church Council.

In a chat with Ridge Alive, she recounted how pleased she was to have been interviewed for the Christmas edition of the magazine. She shared her family life, education, stays abroad and introduce us to her rich experiences at Accra Ridge Church where she served as the 22nd Chairperson of Council.

## FAMILY

Mrs. Elise Evans-Anfom's mother, Memuna, was from Tamale in the Northern Region. She recalled how her father, Wilhelm Henkel, an educationist, loved to build schools, including the one she attended, the Henkel Memorial School in Kete-Krachi. He built another school also in Lawra.

Auntie Elise, as many people called her, had five siblings, three sisters and two brothers. Her sisters were Letitia, Susan and Juliana Henkel. Letitia got married to Kwame Kwarteng who worked for many years with the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Susan, who later became Mrs. Alhassan, was a Minister for Education in Dr. Kwame Nkrumah's government. She was later appointed Commissioner for Education in the early years of Lt. J.J. Rawlings's regime. Her third sister, Juliana, became Mrs. Asafo-Adjaye.

Her two brothers were Ludwig and Luther Henkel. She was very close to her brother Ludwig who became a medical doctor. In their younger days, Ludwig wanted her to train as a nurse so they would work together should he become a doctor in medicine. He became a doctor all right, and practised for some time in Ghana but was mostly in the UK. Her career path however went elsewhere so their childhood wish did not materialise.

## EDUCATION

Auntie Elise attended Achimota School and was at Slessor House. She excelled at swimming, she said, and won many trophies for her House. She was also in the School Choir which she loved but due to some personal reasons she left the Choir. She loved singing and still does, recalling how recently at the Ridge Church when the Choir sang the Hallelujah Chorus, she lustily sang along with them, much to the admiration of the immediate past Chairperson of Council, Miss Abigail Armah.

She recalled that at Achimota, she did Additional Mathematics and Additional Science.

## NEW PATHWAYS

She recounted how one day her sister Susan arrived with a form for her to complete. It was for a scholarship to go abroad to



study Home Science. She protested that she was a science student but her sister insisted she completed it and sign. She did. What made her give in was the hope of becoming a "been-to" that is someone who has been abroad and returned.

Unexpectedly, she won the scholarship, despite not being a Home Science student. She was the first to do so and also pass the interview which followed, and soon found herself in Aberdeen, Scotland, United Kingdom to study at the Robert Gordon's Technical College School of Domestic Science. Her hopes of becoming a much sought after professional been-to was now materialising.

## RETURN HOME

Mrs. Elise Evans-Anfom returned home in 1957. Her first posting was to Fijai Secondary School in Sekondi where she taught Home Science. Later, she moved to Kumasi when she was appointed as Home Science Organiser for the Ashanti and Brong-Ahafo Regions.

Initially, she was not too comfortable with the position since she had to deal with much older people who sometimes came to her to solicit good reports for them to be posted to Accra. She was subsequently posted to the Winneba Specialist Training College though not for long.

## SECOND TRIP ABROAD

Mrs. Elise Evans-Anfom was awarded another scholarship to the UK for a course in Science, again in Aberdeen.

As it turned out, her younger brother Luther was in Paris, France, just across the channel at the time, and invited her over. Once there, she soon found the need to learn French to cope. All her brother's friends were French speaking.

Later she was able to pursue a degree in French at the University level.



While in France she met a young man, a Nigerian called Francis Abiola Irele. They got married and came together to Ghana where she set up an interpretation and translation office called InterBuro. She also taught French at the School of Languages. That marriage did not last.

On her return from abroad, she fell sick with serious malaria which ended her on admission at the Tamale hospital where Dr. Emmanuel Evans-Anfom happened to be the doctor-in-charge. She recalled when he saw the name Henkel; he asked her if she was related to Susan Alhassan (her older sister). He later invited her home to meet his wife and family.

A number of years later, their paths crossed again while she was on her sick bed. His wife Leonora had sadly passed away by then. She later became the second Mrs. Evans-Anfom, gaining 4 step children, Nii Okai, Nii Teiko, Rachel and Charlie.

She took up volunteer teaching at the Ridge Church School. She used the direct method in teaching French to the class for Secondary School and they loved it. She gave them small parts to act out in French, which helped them to express themselves in the language without the written grammar. She said later they used to hail her in town with one French phrase or other, wherever they encountered her, calling out “French Teacher”! French Teacher!

## ACCRA RIDGE CHURCH (ARC)

Her encounter with Accra Ridge Church was not by accident. When she finally returned home and settled, Mrs. Evans-Anfom found out that both her sisters Leticia and Susan were attending services at the Accra Ridge Church and so used to join them. She loved the fellowship she experienced, the friendliness of the members and how they did things together. She simply loved it; and so decided to make ARC her regular place of worship.

She loved Bible songs when she was in Kete-Krachi. She remembered a song from the Bible about Moses parting the Red Sea for the Israelites. She said songs like that had some effect on her as a child. It was later in her life that she realised she had felt the spirit of God at an early age.

## CHURCH ACTIVITIES

Having formally become a member of ARC, Mrs. Evans-Anfom, joined some of the groups in the Church. These included Christian Education and Visitation Group (This entailed serving communion with the then pastor).

As a member of the Visitation Group, she recalled their visits to the Ridge Hospital, Accra, where they prayed by the bedsides of patients who could not get out of bed. She added that they were provided with space to pray with those who were well enough to leave their beds and



join in. The group also visited Church members who were sick at home and could not attend Church services and prayed for them.

## OTHER CHURCH ROLES

She very much remembered being asked to preach to newly confirmed members and their parents and she felt inspired by the spirit of God who enabled her.

She also testified to the fact that she never felt tired doing God's work in the Church and added that what she liked most about the Accra Ridge Church and which made her join, was the “Fellowship” that existed then and even now and suggested that we held on firmly to it.

The former Council Chairperson's encouragement to the youth of the Church, as well as other members, is to live the life of Christ, not just to say it, but to make it a way of life, stressing that we practice it and help other people to live the Christian life.

## CONCLUSION

Sharing her final words, Mrs. Elise Evans-Anfom had this to say: “I was pleased to have hosted one of the biggest Church Bible Study Fellowships in my house for a number of years”.

**She added, “It is easy to say  
I’m a Church goer,  
but to be a disciple is not easy”.  
“If you love God,  
you have everything.”**

She added, “It is easy to say I’m a Church goer, but to be a disciple is not easy”. “If you love God, you have everything.”

Thank you, Mrs. Elise Evans-Anfom, for this glimpse into your life, family, profession and membership of the Accra Ridge Church for which you once served faithfully as the 22nd Chairperson of Council. Stay blessed.



# ARC CLaN System & How You Fit In As A Member

– BY Tetteh Okunor

## Executive Summary

The CLaN (Church Life and Nurture) concept is a ministry framework with its origins rooted in the Presbyterian Church that focuses on deepening spiritual growth, Christian education, and holistic member engagement across all age groups.

The purpose and vision of the originators are as follows:

- To nurture the spiritual life of the church community, ensuring that members grow in faith, understanding, and active participation.
- To emphasize discipleship, education, and fellowship, aiming to build a vibrant, spiritually mature congregation.

## Background

The 2018 AGM adopted the Discipleship Strategy (DS), which was premised on the desire to improve spiritual life at ARC.

The 2021 AGM adopted the Paradigm Shift (PS) document, which was premised on concerns about spiritual growth, as well as the governance structure at ARC.

This AGM charged the Church Council to review the PS document and present its findings at the next AGM.

At the 2022 AGM, Council presented its findings and proposed a revised governance structure, which includes the CLaN Ministries Framework, aimed at encouraging and enhancing the spiritual growth of members.

Through the Paradigm Shift Implementation Committee, pilot Ministry Committees were set up in 2023 and the SGM of 28th July, 2024 voted by a majority decision to approve the allocation of church groups into the 6 CLaN Ministries, empower the clergy to oversee the activities of the Ministries and for the appointment of coordinators for the various Ministries.

## The ARC Module

Under the ARC CLaN Framework, all Church groups have been grouped under the following six Ministries: (1) Discipleship, (2) Worship and Music,

(3) Prayer, (4) Outreach, (5) Care and (6) Generational Groups.

Each Ministry is coordinated by a committee headed by a Minister, supported by a lay Coordinator.

All Groups continue to exist and run as currently pertains.

Ministry Committees, (rather than Council) will handle primary matters and decisions

The six CLaN Ministries will be overseen by the Clergy with the support of the six Ministry Coordinators, who will together form the Ministerial and Pastoral Oversight Board (or CLaN Board).

## Ministry Mandates

Currently, all the 6 ministries have been formed and are functional; having meetings, taking decisions and reporting to Council on their activities, decisions, challenges, and concerns and making recommendations on matters within the scope of work. Below is a brief outline of the terms of reference for each ARC CLaN Ministry.

### Discipleship Ministry

The Discipleship Ministry's mandate is to nurture and stimulate the spiritual lives of ARC members in attaining full maturity in their walk with Christ Jesus through the propagation of the Gospel and centered on Bible study and applying its teaching in daily life experiences.

### Worship & Music Ministry

The focus of the Music and Worship Ministry is to ensure that all services at the ARC, are conducted in a conducive manner creating a proper worship experience for members of the congregation to worship in 'Spirit and in Truth'.

### Prayer Ministry

The Prayer Ministry is responsible for encouraging, stimulating and deepening the spiritual lives of members through prayer by organizing consistent initiatives or activities including revivals and special prayer and fasting engagements to build a stonger, more prayerful ARC community.



## CHURCH LIFE & NURTURE GROUPS: ARC CLAN SYSTEM

Discipleship	Worship & Music	Care Ministry	Prayer Ministry	Outreach Ministry	Generational Groups
Impact Groups Neighborhood Fellowships Impact Groups New Members Class Christian Education Writer's Guild	All Services Lay Preachers Choirs And Praise Team Sidespersons Bible Readers Sunday School Multimedia	Premarital Team Couples Fellowship Visitation Group Mission 50+ Counselling Health Team Widow's Fellowship Welfare Committee Editorial Board Social Activities	Concerned Mothers ARC Intercessors Ghana Prays Friday Prayer Youth Prayer Group	Christian Services Group Hospital Ministry Evangelism	Men's Fellowship Women's Fellowship Young Adults' Fellowship Youth Fellowship Children's Groups
Clergy: Coordinating Minister Canon Andrew Torgbor  Coordinator: Mr. Charles Crabbe	Clergy: Canon Andrew Torgbor  Coordinator: Ms. Mary Anne Addo	Clergy: Rev. Frank Kissi  Coordinator: Nana Kooma B. Agyeman	Clergy: Rev. Fr. Reginald Lawson  Coordinator: Mrs. Sapphira Adodoadji	Clergy: Very Rev. Dr. Jacob French  Coordinator: Dr. Myles Hagan	Clergy: Very Rev. Dr. Abraham Boateng  Coordinator: Mrs. Enid Owusu

### Outreach Ministry

The Outreach Ministry's core mandate is to coordinate church activities aimed at those outside of the church community. They are to coordinate and ensure a holistic evangelization programme by engaging in works of love and service to the needy in our society.

### Care Ministry

The practical demonstration of God's love is the focus of the Care Ministry. The ministry is to foster and nurture the spiritual, emotional, and physical well-being of members through various activities including visitation, counseling, support and social activations for all categories of members who may require such services. The principal goal is to ensure that everyone feels valued and uplifted in the love of Christ Jesus.

### Generational Groups Ministry

The objective of the Generational Groups Ministry is to bring together all the gender and age defined groups within the church. By virtue of its composition, it encompasses the entire ARC congregation whether you belong to a well-defined group or not.

### The CLaN Impact

Although the CLaN Ministries have been operational

for under a year, they have made steady progress and significant impact on the spiritual lives of the membership of ARC in the following areas:

- It has brought a sense of belonging and purpose within the church as more members get to be represented in decision making at the ministry level.
- It is slowly creating an Intergenerational mentorship and legacy-building atmosphere within the church groups
- It has created opportunities for members to serve, learn, and grow together.
- The ministries have made significant contributions and recommendations to the Church Council, some of which have necessitated change in policies.

The CLaN Board is however yet to be operationalized.

### Conclusion

The CLaN ministries concept is a spiritual, tool for building up our lives as Christians and for sharing God's love as a church impacting community, workplaces, families and individual which is our core mandate as a church.

# *Christmas Message:*

## **The Four-Way Test of the Things We Think, Say, or Do**

—By George William Dove

**F**ellow Ridgeans,

At Christmas, the world often feels brighter. Lights twinkle, carols echo, and hearts soften. Yet even in this season of joy, we still live in a world filled with noise, complexity, and competing interests. What better time than now to embrace a simple compass to guide our choices? The Four-Way Test offers us that compass, and Christmas gives us the perfect moment to live it out.

First: Is it the truth? Christmas reminds us of the power of truth — the truth of love, hope, and peace. Just as the shepherds and wise men sought truth long ago, we too must speak it today. When we are honest with one another, we build trust that lasts longer than any gift wrapped under a tree.

Second: Is it fair to all concerned? Fairness is at the heart of the Christmas story. It calls us to look beyond ourselves, to remember the poor, the lonely, and the forgotten. When we share our blessings — whether a meal, a smile, or a helping hand — we ensure that the joy of Christmas is not reserved for a few, but extended to all.

Third: Will it build goodwill and better friendships? Christmas is the season of goodwill. It is the time when estranged families reconcile, neighbors exchange greetings, and strangers become friends. Every act of kindness — from a card sent to a friend to a gift given in secret — strengthens the bonds that hold our communities together.

Fourth: Will it be beneficial to all concerned? True Christmas joy is not measured by what we receive, but by what we give. A decision that benefits only some while leaving others behind is not in the spirit of Christmas. Real leadership, real love, seeks the common good — the joy that all can share.

These four questions are not complicated. They are not lofty theories. They are practical, everyday tests that can transform how we celebrate Christmas, how we lead, how we govern, and how we live.

Imagine a Christmas where truth is spoken without fear, where fairness is the standard, where goodwill is cultivated, and where every decision is measured by its benefit to all. That is not a dream — it is a choice. And it begins with each of us.

So let us commit, in our leadership, in our communities, and in our daily lives, to live by this test. For when we do, we build not only better policies and stronger institutions — we build a more just, more humane, and more hopeful world.

May this Christmas be filled with truth, fairness, goodwill, and blessings for all.

**MERRY**  
**Christmas**

& HAPPY NEW YEAR





# *Memories of Christmas*

## AT ACCRA RIDGE CHURCH

– By Ewurama Yacoba Sackey

**D**ecember is already here which means that Christmas is just around the corner, bringing us once again the Message of Salvation.

And so I am now thinking about past Christmas activities here at Ridge Church and my mind immediately goes back to some of the Christmas Fetes and Bazaars organised by the Women's Fellowship on behalf of the Church, over the years and in fact, decades ago.

I remember helping my Mother, in my younger days, with her stall on a few occasions. As soon as it was confirmed that the Christmas Fete would be held in December and she was given her assignment, she would go round to a particular factory she was very familiar with and friends who had small companies, asking for items for her stall and she would come back home with cartons of canned products, toiletries etc., which she had received as donations for the Event. Her stall consisted of made in Ghana goods. I would help her to group them and price the items ready for the big day. I remember she would also ask the family of a friend of hers to come and fry the much loved kelewele which was always heavily patronised by adults and children alike; everyone wanted some of the delicious kelewele.

There was horse riding for the children as well as a variety of games for both the young and old, Guess the Weight of the cake, ice-cream and drink stands, clothing and footwear stalls, lots of potted plants, and so much to buy for Christmas, such as Christmas cards, Christmas Cakes, Pastries, Sweets, etc. The Church and School grounds were always alive and bustling with activity, and an atmosphere

of great fun and true fellowship.

I also remember what happened to one of our Dear Ministers during a Bazaar. He was in charge of the stall for pineapples which had been donated specifically for sale at the Bazaar. He had had very brisk sales and was feeling very happy, one suddenly heard him shouting. When some of us rushed to find out what had happened we found out that a man who had pretended to be buying some of the pineapples had rather bolted off with all his proceeds. We tried to cheer him up by pointing out to him that there were still some pineapples to be sold and so his presence had not been in vain. That helped a bit. Activities then continued smoothly to the end. These Bazaars took a lot of organisation and commitment but the Women's Fellowship always pulled them off successfully.

Times have changed indeed and now there are so many different activities being organised everywhere that probably a Bazaar may not appear as attractive or enjoyable as it did many years ago. We can however look back and remember. We have had some very good and exciting times here at the Ridge Church over the years and we thank God for everything and for how far HE has brought us.

The Christmas message remains the same forever; the Birth of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Peace, goodwill toward men. Merry Christmas and GOD bless us all.

# 26 Prayers for 2026

A POWERFUL GUIDE TO BEGIN THE YEAR  
IN PRAYER AND STRENGTH

By Rev. Frank Kissi (Presbyterian Minister)

01

*Psalm 107:1 - "Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever."*

Prayer: Lord, I and thanks for bringing me safely into the new year, 2026. I exalt your Holy name in Jesus' name.

02

*Joshua 3:5 - "Sanctify yourselves, for tomorrow the Lord will do wonders among you."*

Prayer: Lord, purge me of every spiritual contamination and impurity. I enter 2026 sanctified, purified and set apart for impact

03

*Matthew 6:33 - "But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."*

Prayer: Father, help me to seek Your kingdom above everything else this year.

04

*Psalm 23:5 - "You anoint my head with oil ..."*

Prayer: Lord, anoint me with your fresh oil. Let me burn with Your fire and walk in greater exploits.

05

*Isaiah 45:2 - I will go before you and will level the mountains; I will break down gates of bronze and cut through bars of iron."*

Prayer: Lord, go before me in 2026 and deal with every obstacle.

06

*2 Corinthians 2:14 - "But thanks be to God, who in Christ always leads us in triumphal procession..."*

Prayer: I enter 2026 triumphantly. Christ is leading me in victory.

07

*Isaiah 43:19 - "Behold, I will do a new thing; now it shall spring forth; shall ye not know it?"*

Prayer: Lord, do something new, magnificent and indescribable in my life in 2026.

08

*Psalm 90:14 - "Oh, satisfy us early with Your mercy, that we may rejoice and be glad all our days!"*

Prayer: Lord, satisfy me early with your mercy in 2026.

09

*Isaiah 26:3 - "You will keep in perfect peace all who trust in you and all whose thoughts are fixed on you."*

Prayer: I decree perfect peace over my mind, heart and life throughout 2026.

10

*Psalm 37:23 - "The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord ..."*

Prayer: Lord, order my steps in 2026. I step into blessings, not confusion, loss, or destruction.

11

*Deut. 1:8 - "See, I have given you this land. Go in and take possession of the land ..."*

Prayer: Lord, I take possession of every blessing promised to me. I claim all that belongs to me in name of Jesus.

12

*Jeremiah 30:17 - "For I will restore health to you and heal you of your wounds, declares the Lord."*

Prayer: I speak health and wellness over my being. No sickness shall overtake me in 2026. My organs, cells, and tissues will function in divine order.



13

*Isaiah 22:22, "The key of the house of David I will lay on his shoulder; so he shall open, and no one shall shut; And he shall shut, and no one shall open."*

Prayer: Lord in your name, I open every door meant for me in 2026. I step into favour, answers, help, speed, greatness and elevation.

14

*Psalms 118:15 – "Shouts of joy and victory resound in the tents of the righteous: 'The LORD's right hand has done mighty things!'"*

Prayer: Lord, I declare that 2026 will be my year of laughter- in my finances, family, health, and every area.

15

*Deuteronomy 28:12 - "The LORD will open to you His good treasure, the heavens, to give the rain to your land in its season, and to bless all the work of your hand."*

Prayer: Lord, let me walk under open heavens. Release abundance and plenty into my hands in 2026.

16

*Psalms 118:17 – "I shall not die, but live, and declare the works of the LORD."*

Prayer: I declare that every agenda of death is cancelled.

17

*Psalms 91:2 – "I will say of the LORD, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God in Him will I trust."*

Prayer: I declare divine protection throughout 2026. No evil will touch me.

18

*Nahum 1:9 - "Affliction will not rise up a second time."*

Prayer: I decree that every negative pattern or cycle is broken as I enter 2026.

19

*Psalms 24:7 – "Lift up your heads, O you gates ..."*

Prayer: I decree that every gate in 2026 opens in my favour. Doors of destiny ; doors of evil shut.

20

*Isaiah 49:25 – "I will contend with him who contends with you, and I save your child."*

Prayer: Lord, contend with every power contending with my household. My family is covered by Your covenant.

21

*Deut. 8:18- "For it is He who gives you power to get wealth ..."*

Prayer: Lord grant me power to prosper in 2026. Bless my business, work, and assignments. I refuse lack, loss and limitation.

22

*Jeremiah 32:17 – "Ah, Lord God! Behold, You have made the heavens and the earth by Your great power and outstretched arm. There is nothing too hard for You."*

Prayer: I will walk in the undeniable power of God in 2026. Lord, rewrite my story by Your power.

23

*Exodus 15:3 -The LORD is a man of war: the LORD is his name.*

Prayer: Lord, in 2026 I hand every battle to You. Fight for me in the mighty name of Jesus.

24

*Genesis 13:2 - "And Abram was very rich in cattle, in silver, and in gold."*

Prayer: Lord, bless the work of my hands and cause me to prosper in 2026 in Jesus' name.

25

*Isaiah 65:24 - "I will answer them before they even call to me. While they are still talking about their needs, I will go ahead and answer their prayers!"*

Prayer: Lord, let 2026 be my year of divine answers and supernatural surprises.

26

*Haggai 2:9 - "The glory of this present house will be greater than the glory of the former ..."*

Prayer: Lord, let 2026 be greater, better and more glorious than 2025.

# Embracing Wellness As A Carer

BY DAPHNE MARTINSON-LARBI



When she was 16 years old, my niece asked my mother a poignant question. “**Grandma, who cares for the Carer?**” This is a weighty topic in Wellness and I was impressed that her school had asked them to tackle it. Carers differ in the service they provide to the elderly, disabled and invalid, and whilst some follow this path as a profession, others embrace it as a service to an ailing relation/ loved one. Therefore, whilst the former category draw **pecuniary remuneration**, the latter are **rewarded in kind** or the appreciative look.

Whenever I went to massage my elderly aunt, I admired the efficient way in which my cousin and her daughter provided excellent care until she passed away aged 97. One would have thought that they had received training; however, it was **a labour of love**. Whereas the structure within some societies makes provision for support particularly for those who choose to do this voluntarily, my niece’s question made me reflect on a topic which I daresay largely goes unaddressed in developing nations.

It is presumed that it is our responsibility – Christian duty – to care for our elderly relatives, disabled family members and those with chronic conditions which require either curative or palliative care. The family home, therefore, becomes a care home or hospice and those who can, hire staff to assist in the home whilst others take on the badge of the Carer and learn each day on the job.

There is no predefined age threshold for those who assume this role voluntarily. The spectrum for the acquisition of knowledge, challenges faced, support requirements, etc. is rather expansive. A young Careworker I know decided to train as a nurse because when she was barely a teenager, her maternal grandmother had a stroke and she learned to care for her. She was a good student but on occasion she struggled in school. It is starkly obvious when there are extremely limited or absolutely no systems in place to support this voluntary workforce who wish to make life comfortable for their loved one.

## The Challenges

As the ages and experience of Carers vary, the challenges which they face might also differ. As this is an unpaid vocation, there may be financial issues, particularly if the carer has either a limited source of funding (e.g. a pension) or no regular income. For example, if a housewife is caring for her husband, their main source of income might be her savings, his pension, disability allowance, etc. Depending on the condition of the person being cared for, carework can be a **24-hour occupation**, (a job with no boundaries, time schedules, holidays, contractual obligations, end date, etc.), and the carer might become overwhelmed with chores and responsibilities. This exacerbates the chances of **fatigue, stress and anxiety** regardless of age, gender or experience.

Young carers may struggle with their education, develop behavioural issues and become withdrawn because of the vastness and complexity of their role. Carers may feel **anxious about the health and wellbeing of the person in their care especially** if health deteriorates and they are uncertain of what to expect. There can be a strong sentiment of loneliness and isolation if one does not have a supportive family, friends, neighbours, visitors from church groups, etc. In the event that their loved one passes away, the carer can become overwhelmed with **grief, guilt, regret**, etc.

## Your Wellness

My aunt who was the principal carer for her invalid husband prioritised his health needs over hers. She sadly passed away before she could have surgery. A few weeks later, her husband also passed away. The carer’s overall health and fitness are of tremendous importance and there are some practical steps which can be



taken to alleviate the impact of the challenges that a carer might face.

**1. Financial Health:** Research financial guidance options with a view to drawing up a long-term plan for financial stability and independence. A loan might be difficult to repay so another safe and stable means of augmenting one's savings or an income would be preferable. Pension or social security providers often have critical illness and disability schemes which could provide some respite.

**2. Responsibilities:** It is fine to ask reliable and willing friends, family and neighbours to assist if you feel overwhelmed. Hire a cleaner if you can afford it; reschedule non-urgent tasks and keep a diary/to-do list as a reminder.

**3. Anxiety:** When offering curative or palliative care it is natural to experience anxiety about the health and wellbeing of the person being cared for. Not knowing what the days ahead may present can be rather disconcerting, but you need to protect your mental health so, be mindful, be present and deal with the here and now.

**4. Companionship:** Loneliness can be overwhelming for a carer, so good communication and a listening ear are priceless. As money might be an issue, perhaps find a support group in your area, (or online as the case may now be), a friend or an objective person who can simply listen.

**5. Health:** Carers are inclined to neglect their personal health and needs, (good nutrition, physical activity and exercise, good personal hygiene, good sleep hygiene, etc.) To function efficiently, schedule regular check-ups with your doctor, dentist and optician. Exercise! Apart from being essential for your overall physical health, exercise releases endorphins which aid your mental health. Going to an exercise class once or twice a week would enable you to combine exercise, physical activity and socialising. Long walks can clear your head and fresh air, which is therapeutic, aids sleep.

**6. Self Care:** Spend quality time alone doing something you enjoy or socialising. A visit to the barbers or a little pampering. Wherever possible schedule regular days off when a family member, friend, trusted neighbour or respite carer could cover your time off. Take a reasonably-priced

vacation away from the location where care is given or consider a staycation if finances are stretched.

Wellbeing commences within and finds expression as we take calculated steps to achieve it. Access to various sites online makes it a little easier to practise your faith as a means of emotional, mental and spiritual wellness.

Explore interests such as music, reading, yoga, painting, pottery, etc. and aim to spend 30 minutes every day doing something that you love. I love exercising and reading so I make time every day as these practices help me to feel refreshed and less irritable. My day habitually begins with music, meditation or prayer while I drive and ends with reflection, music, etc. Some self-care options cost little and should not take you far from home if that is one of your concerns.

Communicate with the person under your care and document happy occasions with photos, videos, anecdotes, etc. because these are the things that you can both appreciate and treasure. There are experiences that you can also share such as playing relaxing sounds (wind chimes), music (calming water sounds), audio books, radio plays, audio recordings of poetry, scriptures, etc. These create a calming ambiance in the home for everyone.

Realise that  
you cannot **shoulder**  
the **burden** all alone  
because you are  
**human.** ”

There is help available so it is alright to embrace it when it is offered. When caring for another person you need to remind yourself that you are doing the best that one person can do. When you are relaxed, well-rested and happy, you create a serene and healthy environment for everyone.

**Be mindful, be present...embrace each minute – each day as it comes.**

**Footquote: Don't you know yet? It is your light that lights the world. (RUMI)**

# LORD, FORGIVE US

"Then if my people who are called by my name will **humble themselves** and **pray** and **seek my face** and **turn from their wicked ways**, I will hear from Heaven and will **forgive their sins** and restore their land" 2 Chronicles 7:14 (NLT)

**T**he Lord God planted in Ghana a huge 'garden'. Trees and plants of all kinds were provided. They were beautiful and produced delicious 'Fruits'. Rivers flowed all over the Country, watering the garden and satisfying our collective thirst.

Then the god of mammon and greed entered our land. The great Pra river, flowing majestically to the sea, with crystal clear water is now a wretched muddy stream.

**Densu** is struggling to reach Accra, with its brown cargo.

**Glorious Ayensu** is almost extinct and those who depend on it are weeping.

**Ankobra** has suffered a similar fate.

**Birim** is no longer the pride of Akyems.

**Manso**, which used to be the breadbasket of Kumasi, is starving.

There is fear in the land. Our food and water are so polluted that we are slowly committing a self-inflicted genocide. And yet, our leaders, political and traditional, appear powerless. They and all of us have become complicit spectators.

Let us read a few verses from Lamentations, substituting Ghana for Israel.

## "How the gold has lost its lustre"!

See how the precious children of Ghana, worth their weight in fine gold are now treated like pots of clay made by a common Potter. The children cry for bread, but no one has any to give them". Lamentations 4:1-4(NLT)

### There is hope!

Lamentations 5:1-4(NLT)

*"LORD, remember what has happened to us".*

*See how disgraced we have been!*

*Our inheritance has been turned over to strangers, our homes to foreigners.*

*We must pay for water to drink, and even firewood is expensive."*

### The Church's Role.

What are we doing as a church? We must continue praying for our leaders and nation, but we must also pray for boldness to speak out.

This unspeakable tragedy must be ended.

*"Restore us, O Lord, and bring us back to you again"!*

*Give us back the joys we once had!" Lamentations 5:21(NLT)*





# Basic Church Rules?

BY RAMI BAITIE



**D**o you know that I am a lay reader? And I thoroughly enjoy reading the word of the Lord out loud. As a stammerer I consider it part of my testimony to God, for being able to speak. But do you also know that it was only recently that I discovered a very basic rule in church? Apparently, the congregation are not supposed to move around during any service, except when a hymn is being sung. Truly, I didn't know this

It's a basic rule that I have never encountered. Now, one of my lame excuses for this is the fact that I have never attended training for lay readers. I am sure they have been announced at main services, but I don't recall training ever having been announced at Mass. That's my excuse and I'm standing by it!

Ignorance is bliss, ampa. Do you think I might end up going to hell for this transgression? Because, when it is my turn to read, I sometimes happily move to and from the pulpit when the priest is speaking. Eish! And I've been doing that for a very long time. And I've been at Ridge for a very long time.

Apparently, I am not the only one suffering from a lack of knowledge when it comes to some basic rules at church.

Unfortunately, I had a rather unpleasant encounter with a Ridgean the other day. As I approached the main entrance at the church one early morning, I could hear a rather loud religious programme playing on someone's device. I actually thought it was one of the security men in the car park. They do that sometimes. But, it was inside the Church. A member seated at the back was listening to a loud programme on her mobile phone. It was so loud that I could hear it outside. So loud that it was distorted, and I couldn't even decipher what was being said/preached/sang (I don't know which it was supposed to be).

And this was inside the Church.

I spontaneously decided to approach the woman. I calmly told her that I could hear her device outside, and it seemed a bit loud. Her response? "The service hasn't started yet." Seriously.

I was deeply disappointed with the response I got. It set me thinking though. Would you not call it a basic rule that one should not listen to mobile phones inside the Church? At least not on speaker? "The service has not started". Indeed.

So, I sat in my regular pew, two rows from the back of the main Church, on the left side. I endured the loud sound of this programme playing on a mobile phone until the service started.

Exactly how much basic common sense is needed to know that listening to something on speaker in church is not a good idea? Maybe the same amount of common sense that I needed to know that I should not walk about in church when the priest is speaking.

In the same vein, some guy left his mobile phone at the back of the Church one morning. It was charging from an outlet at the choir seats. He left the phone on. And soon enough, an alarm began to sound. We all tried to turn it off, but couldn't...because the man had vanished. We endured this blaring sound for quite a while, until the man turned up and grabbed his phone. Fortunately, I did not see him. I don't think I would have been able to restrain myself.

By the by, would you also consider it basic courtesy, if not quite a rule, that you look someone in the eye when you greet them with a handshake? And yet, I have had occasion to wonder why the priestly greeting I received at the end of Mass, was offered while the people involved looked elsewhere. I mean, I know I'm nothing to look at in the house of the Lord. But still.

# The House of the Lord ...*Not a Coffee Shop!*

By Dzifa Amedume

Coffee

“S hhhhhh... This is Church! The House of the Lord, not a coffee shop!”

Let's talk about two things that should never happen in church: side conversations and surprise concerts courtesy of someone's ringtone. Yes, we're looking at you, "Terminator" at full volume during the Lord's Prayer. Hello?! These things actually happen.

## **Talking in Church: The Holy Whisper That Isn't.**

We get it - you just saw Auntie and haven't caught up since the last funeral, but church is not the place to recap the family drama or discuss the price of tomatoes. Every whisper has an echo like a megaphone when the rest of us are trying to hear the sermon, and not listen to your commentary on Sister's new wig. Save the gossip for the parking lot. God's house deserves better acoustics.

## **Phones That Think They're the Worship Leader.**

There's nothing quite like the moment of spiritual reflection being shattered by a ringtone that sounds like a nightclub DJ just dropped the beat. Worse still, the phone owner fumbles like they're defusing a bomb, pressing every button except "silent." And let's not forget the brave souls who answer the call and whisper, "I'm in church" as if that makes it okay. Spoiler alert: it doesn't!

## **The Gospel of Silence Mode.**

Here's the good news: this is 100% preventable. Just hit that little bell icon, switch your phone to silent or turn it off completely before you walk in. It's not just polite: IT'S SACRED. Think of it as your offering to peace and sanity.

Church is one of the few places left where silence still means something. Let's not turn it into a group chat or a ringtone showcase.

**Respect the moment. Respect the message.**





-By Ms. Amerley Ollenu

## Biblefest & Fun Day 2025 – Growing Together in Christ’s Love

Biblefest & Fun Day 2025 was a joyful and spiritually enriching gathering that brought together all our Sunday School branches—Main Ridge, Tudu, Manet, and ACP—on Saturday, September 27, 2025, at Ridge Church School. United under the theme **“Growing Together in Christ’s Love” (1 John 4:19)**, the event truly reflected the beauty of fellowship, learning, and fun in Christ.

The day began with a powerful joint session of worship and prayer, setting a reverent and joyful tone for the activities that followed. Children eagerly participated in engaging Bible-based learning sessions, which included lessons from the book of 1 John, an interactive Bible quiz, anagrams, puzzles, mazes, and the exciting 3:16 Verse Challenge. To encourage teamwork and friendly competition, the children were grouped into six vibrant **“Fruit of the Spirit”** teams, promoting unity, cooperation, and godly character.

The afternoon session was filled with laughter and excitement as children enjoyed a variety of fun activities such as Tug of Peace, Lime & Spoon Race, Penalty Kicks, Bead Making, Art, CEF Games, and Musical Chairs. These activities not only entertained but also reinforced teamwork, discipline, and sportsmanship. The day ended on a high note with the presentation of prizes, rewarding participation, effort, and excellence.

Biblefest & Fun Day 2025 was made possible through the dedication and support of our Sunday School teachers and volunteers, whose commitment ensured a smooth, impactful, and memorable experience for every child. Most importantly, the event provided a life-changing opportunity for our children to grow in faith, friendship, and love—rooted firmly in Christ.















## *Serving in God's House*

By Eden Otu-Boateng, Gail Arizona Acquah, Maame Araba Oseku & Rayna Amaniampong

We were excited and honored to serve in God's House as ushers during Children's Day In October 2025. Wearing our ushering sashes made us feel proud and reminded us that serving God can be meaningful and fun. From greeting members with smiles to helping wherever we were needed, we learned that even small acts of service matter.

The Bible reminds us, "Whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God" (1 Corinthians 10:31). Serving together showed us that God can use young people too, when we are willing and joyful. We laughed, learned, and grew, and we are thankful for the opportunity to serve our church family.

We hope our experience encourages other kids and teens to get involved and serve with glad hearts.



## Anniversary Launch Speech

*Delivered on Sunday, 7th December 2025*

Honored Clergy, Chairman & members of the Church Council, Generations of Ridgeans from Ridge, Manet, Tudu & ACP gathered here and online, invited guests and visitors, Brothers and Sisters in Christ: Praise the Lord! Today, we stand on the horizon of history. We stand at a vantage point where we can look back at nine decades of God's unwavering faithfulness and look forward into a future filled with His promise. It is with a heart full of gratitude and a spirit of expectation that I welcome you to the official launch of the 90th Anniversary Celebrations of the Accra Ridge Church.

Why do we celebrate ninety years? In the life of a human being, ninety is an age of frailty. But in the life of the Church, ninety is the age of strength, maturity, and established wisdom.

Ninety years ago, this institution began with a different demographic, in a different era of our nation's history. Yet, through the changing tides of colonial rule to independence, through political upheavals and social transformation, one thing has remained constant: The Lamp of God in this place has never gone out.

Ninety years is truly no small milestone. It is a story of God's faithfulness written across generations - a legacy that we cannot keep silent about. As the psalmist declares in Psalm 78:4, "We will not hide them from our children, but we will tell it to the generation to come the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord, His great might and power, and the wonderful works He has done."

This anniversary is our moment to remember, to celebrate, and to testify. We remember the pioneers who planted seeds of faith; we celebrate the community that has grown strong in love; and we testify that the same God who has carried us these ninety years will lead us still.

We celebrate not just the passing of time, but the endurance of Faith. We celebrate the Community Impact that has touched thousands of lives. We celebrate a Generational Legacy that sees grandchildren worshipping where their grandparents once knelt. As we embark on this year-long journey, our banner and our rallying cry shall be: **"ARC @ 90: Bonded in Christ's Love for His"**

### HOW THE THEME WAS CARVED OUT

This anniversary theme "Bonded in Christ's Love for His Glory" was not chosen lightly. It emerged from careful prayer, reflection, and an evaluation of what God has been calling the Accra Ridge Church to be.

We are a one-of-a-kind community: an interdenominational mix of Anglicans, Methodists, Presbyterians, Charismatics and many other Christian traditions, all worshipping side by side under the same roof. We are diverse in tribe, race, background, and profession. And what holds such a diverse people together? It is not a constitution, and it is not a building. We have been bonded by His love, not for our own pride, but for His Glory. This theme reminds us of what has held us together all these years -not structures or traditions, but the love of Christ Himself. As Colossians 3:14 tells us, "Beyond all these things put on and wrap yourselves in [unselfish] love, which is the perfect bond of unity." That bond has been our strength: drawing us together as one family, teaching us to seek the best for each other, and shaping us into a community that reflects Christ.

But this bond is not for us alone. It points us upward and outward - for His Glory. Every service rendered, every hymn sung, every life touched, every heart transformed -these have all been for the honour of the One who called us. And as we look ahead, our story is not finished. We are bonded not just to celebrate the past, but to carry this love into the future, touching and transforming lives and living for the glory of God in all we do.

So today, we rejoice: ARC at 90 is more than an anniversary. It is a living testimony that Christ's love binds us, His faithfulness sustains us, and His glory is our destination.

## THE SEARCH FOR A BEFITTING ANNIVERSARY LOGO

To achieve a unifying visual identity for ARC@90, the church conducted a Logo Design Competition which was open to all church members everywhere and the wider public. After an extended submission window, a diverse panel reviewed all entries submitted and selected the winning design. This design was chosen because it reflected the foundation of heritage and identity of ARC, with the cross being the central faith symbol, the display of the '90' years we've attained and the infusion of the 'bonded' theme.

We are delighted to announce that the winning logo was designed by Ms. Joanna Grant - a member of the 7:30 a.m. Ridge congregation.

As a 90th anniversary cannot just be about eating, drinking, and wearing anniversary cloth - yes that'll happen in the course of time, but it must also be about Legacy. It must be about planting trees under whose shade we may never sit. Therefore, this celebration is anchored on a call to action - **"Let us Rise Up and Build."**

### This anniversary calls us to action. Our two major legacy projects are:

**1. Completion of the ACP Branch Chapel - Our brethren at ACP are worshipping under a roof with no walls.**

**It is time for the mother church to ensure that the "One Church, Many Branches" vision is made visible in brick and mortar structure and worship. We will build them a sanctuary befitting the worship of Yahweh.**

**2. Completion, Fitting & Furnishing of the ARC Hall - a long-awaited facility that must be completed to serve generations to come.**

## FOCUS AREAS FOR THE ANNIVERSARY YEAR

We are pressing pause on business as usual and intentionally focusing on: Thanksgiving, Spiritual Renewal & Growth, ARC's Mission, Unity & Community Building, Legacy & Future Generations, and Transformation & Impact.

- We will have Lectures to rediscover our history and define our future.
- We will have Health Walks because our bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit.
- We will reach out to our community through "Feed-A-Soul" and other means of evangelism, because a church that does not serve is a church that is dying.
- We will have Homecomings, Drama Nights, Music Festivals, Kidz programs, and other fun activities
- Moments of deep prayer & revival.
- Many more activities and programs that'd be unveiled every quarter.

With the anniversary package waiting for you, come taste and see that the Lord is good with a little chocolate delight Plus a special ARC@90 bookmark with some of the programs outlined - use it in your Bible/other books, hang it in your car, home or office, keep it ever before you as a reminder of the season we're entering.

We call upon every member to join in the yearlong activities; lend your time, skills, presence, prayers, and your financial support. This isn't just for a select few; it is for the ENTIRE Body of Christ.



Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, fellow Ridgeans, the time has come to sound the trumpet:  
In the name of God the Father, who birthed this vision 90 years ago; In the name of God the Son, whose love bonds us together;

In the name of God the Holy Spirit, who empowers us for the future; And in recognition of the tireless dedication of the 90th Anniversary Planning Committee and its devoted subcommittees whose excellence has brought us to this moment, I have the honour and privilege to declare the 90th Anniversary Celebrations of the Accra Ridge Church duly and officially LAUNCHED!

**Long live the Accra Ridge Church. Long live the Body of Christ.  
And may God bless us all. Let the celebrations begin!**

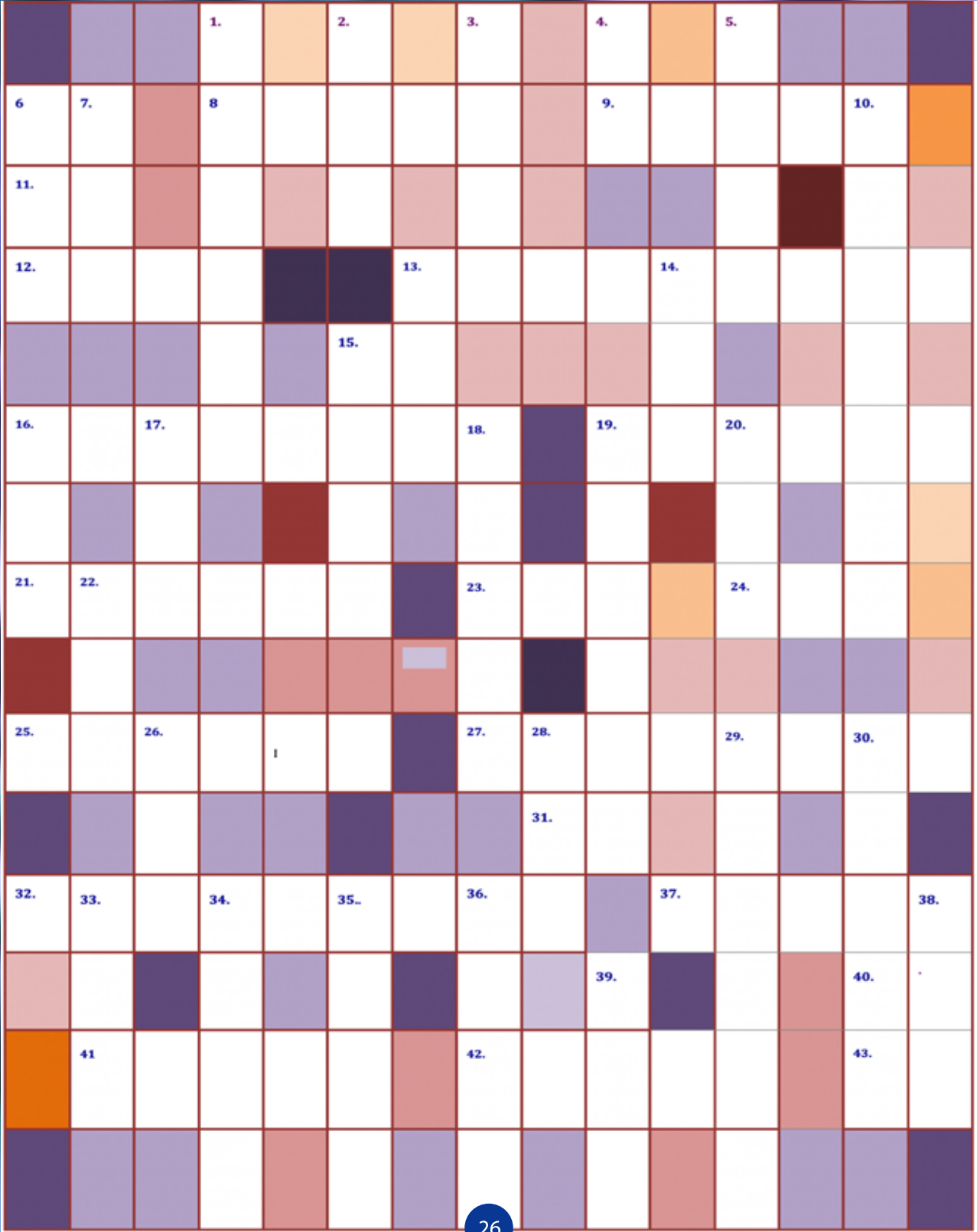




# CROSSWORD Challenge

By Elfrida Naa A. Adablah

*Test your knowledge of the bible with this engaging Crossword featuring key as well as obscure Personalities, places, events and Terms. Put on your bible thinking cap & have fun!*



## ACROSS

### A

6. Saint in abbreviation (2)
8. He judged Israel for seven years after Jephthah (5) **Judges 12:8-10**
9. The first to leave the Ark. (5)
11. "I am like a desert ' \_ \_ l', like an ' \_ \_ l' among the ruins." (2) **Ps 102:6. (NIV)**
12. Go and \_ \_ \_ \_ out the bowls of the wrath of God upon the earth.(4) **Rev.16 NKJV**
13. "Almighty God, More than enough) 2, 7
15. Born Again (2)
16. Synonym for 'grain store house' (4,4)
- 19.Og was king of this territory (5) **Joshua 12**
21. "Be of good cheer, it is I; be not \_\_\_\_ "(6)
23. " \_ \_ \_ " no one anything, except to love one another:..."(3) **Romans 13:8**
24. "All you need to say is simply ' \_ \_ \_ ' or 'No'.(3) **Matt 5:37**
25. Military and Spiritual leader of the Israelites after Moses. (6) **Joshua 1.**

### B

27. Jacob and Leah's son whose name means "there is reward" (8) **Genesis 30.**
31. " \_ \_ tai" said to King David.."Whether in death or life, there will your servant be" (2) **2 Samuel 15.**
32. A powerful wealthy elite. pseudo-religious group in Israel (8) **Matt 16:1-5**
37. Judas was the keeper of the \_\_\_\_ (5)
40. An expression of grief or mourning in Hebrew. \_ \_ also 'where' or 'whence'(2) Bible Hub (Strong's Lexicon)
41. Metaphor for God's righteous and holy standard that Israel failed to embody in their lives. \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ line (5) **Isaiah 28:17**
42. The child of promise (5) **Gen 17:19**
43. Jesus said, "I am \_ \_," and they drew back and fell to the ground. (2) **John 18:6**





## DOWN:

### A

1. Son of Cush; grandson of Noah (6)
2. A descendant of Aaron, chief priest and Scribe ' \_ \_ \_ a' (3)
3. The lepers' cry; ' \_ \_ \_ \_ ean.' (4) **Lev 13:45**
4. One of the sons of Judah (2) **1 Chron 2:3**
5. Apostle John was an ' \_ \_ \_ \_ follower of Jesus (4)
6. Jesus dipped ' \_ \_ \_ ' and offered to Judas (3)
7. The key word for Noah's animals (3) **Gen 7**
10. ' \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ ' w9.  
ife's maid gave him advice(7)
13. An attentive ' \_ \_ \_ ' is linked to obedience to God's word. (3)
14. He was spared by King Saul against Samuel's instruction ' \_ \_ \_ g' (3) **1 Sam. 15**
15. He got upset when children taunted him for being ' \_ \_ \_ \_ ' (4) **2 Kings 2**
16. ' \_ \_ \_ r' of God is the beginning of wisdom.(3)
17. **Ezekiel 27:29** ' \_ \_ \_ '. (3) (NKJV)
18. She asked to be called Mara due to her sorrow (5) Ruth 1.
19. "They pluck the fatherless from the \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ and take a pledge of the poor." **Job 24:9 (6)**
20. Joshua sent men from Jericho to Ai to do this \_ \_ \_ . (3) **Joshua 7.**

### B

22. God's eyes run to and ' \_ \_ \_ '...  
....the whole earth (3) **2 Chron 16:9**
26. "Why is thy spirit so \_ \_ \_ that thou eatest no bread?" (3) **1 Ki 21:5 (KJV)**
28. She struck ' \_ \_ \_ era', she crushed his head. (3) **Judges 5:26**
29. Greek ecclesia, assembly or a called-out people; the Body of Christ (6)
30. Caleb gave her as wife to Othniel for capturing Kiriath Sepher. (5) NIV
33. "A suckling child can play on the hole" of this creature. \_ \_ \_ (3) **Isaiah 11:8 (KJV)**
34. A timbrel or tambourine is a small hand held \_ \_ \_ \_ (4) **Judges 11:34.**
35. Better for a man to meet a bear robbed of her ' \_ \_ \_ s' than a fool in his foolishness (3) **Prov.17:12**
36. Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord and shun \_ \_ \_ \_ .(4) **Proverbs 3:7.**
38. I have heard of thee by the hearing of the ear: but now mine \_ \_ \_ seeth thee" (3). **Job 42:5 (KJV)**
39. This animal symbolizes sacrifice, protection, guidance. (3) **Gen 22:13**

# MILESTONES 2025



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Eliana Akua Adubea Arko  
Amate Nathan Otuteye  
Naa Norkor Dakwa  
Samuel Nana Kofi Koranteng 2024  
Kayla Lily Emefa Searyoh  
Samuel Nii Ayi Tagoe  
Naa Oserwah Osei  
Kennedy James Aboagye  
Kimani-zyair Dampsey Chothia  
Ann-kimber Omanyen Ofei  
Andre Dylan Kermah  
Mills Tetteh Agbo  
Nathan Nuse Easmon Mawuenyega  
Micaiah Nyiraba Kekeli Gadzekpo-Amissah  
Azanah Collin Akwasi Adu-Gyamfi  
Jemel Benaiah Ayete-Nyampong  
Shem Dillion Gyamfi Boakye  
Nii Ayi Dzormo Aryee  
Amissah Teres Nalbantis  
Dritan-Othniel Haysen  
Nii Awuley Mettle-Larbi  
Nathalie Takyiwaa Osei  
Soraya Kai Aseda Saleeby  
Aiden-Kai Nana Yaw Boamah  
Cheryl-Victoria Ewurabena Esaaba Ghanney  
Romanseli Ata-Bedu  
Jasmine-Lorraine Ewurama Esiawonam Akolatse

Papa Kwaku Opoku Sarkodie  
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Nia Ori Kwakai Nanor  
Gia Ora Kwamma Kwakor Nanor  
Nicole Kekeli Haggard  
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Ekow Casely Amoako  
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Hans Ivan Awude  
Nathan Koku Ayi Ashiabor  
Yeoku Sagoe  
Karleen Owoo  
Lovia Attuquayefio

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Paul Nee Addo Ankrah & Amoah Yaa Asante  
Eric Duncan-williams & Stephanie Naa Sowah  
Kingsley Ayikwei Tagoe & Celestina Fatima Fiscian  
Andrews Sowah Adjetey & Lois Maame Donkor Aryee  
Jubert Henry Nortey Adumuah & Karen Korkor Ocansey  
Donald Frimpong & Margaret Anomah  
Dennis Siaw Mensah & Deidra Sophia Lartey

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Ebenezer Hammond  
Dr. Samuel Quist  
Samuel Ntim Darkwa  
Wilhemina Adotey  
Alma-leigh Mensah  
Gladys Agyekum  
Bossman Agyako  
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Michael Henry Eghan  
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Mrs. Georgina Adei  
Victor Owusu Anim  
Ted Bernasko

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Justice Mrs. Ivy Ashong Yakubu  
Nora Baddoo  
Charles Darko  
Dr. Albert Ababio Owusu  
Rosevelt L. Tetteh  
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Georgina Adjaso  
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# MARRIAGE: BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVES

– By Marietta Amedo, Member, Bible Study Fellowship

**T**he teachings of Christ as contained in the Bible make room for adults who are of age and decide to get married. Therefore, when a man and woman come before God in a place of worship to be joined together, all they intend is inviting God into their union and trusting him through prayer to guide them in their marital journey.

## The Unmarried

The Bible also permits Christians to remain unmarried but cautions them in 1 Corinthians 7:8-9(NIV) that if they cannot control themselves, they should marry, for it is better to marry than to burn with passion. It also alerts believers against sexual immorality in 1 Corinthians 6:12(NIV) that “everything is permissible for me” ---but not everything is beneficial. “Everything is permissible for me” ---but I will not be mastered by anything. It is therefore obvious that God gives us liberty to make a choice with a tilt towards marriage.

## Attraction and Courtship

It is important one gets to know whom he/she desires to marry. After the attraction stage, courtship sets in to enable the individuals study each other and make up their minds. This phase is very crucial as observations are made. Nonetheless, one may not see everything because people only reveal their good traits and suppress bad conduct.

For instance, a party to a union may be domineering by nature while another is liberal. However, with prayer, the Holy Spirit directs people into knowing what they want. It is advisable one is candid with the other in a frank manner when stating facts about him/herself and what is done for a living.

## Love

By the Christian belief, marriage is sacred. It was instituted in the Garden of Eden when God observed during creation in Genesis 2:18(NIV) that “it is not good for the man to be alone. I will make him a helper suitable for him”. Consequently, God created a woman out of the man’s rib and brought her to the man. The man acknowledged the woman by saying “this is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh” Genesis 2:23(NIV). By accepting the woman, Adam simply admitted that the woman was part of him and confessed his feeling for her. Such an Adamic admission facilitates and activates the bonding process of love, and most men know and feel it when a woman is part of them. Accordingly, love is a fundamental and necessary requirement for a marital relationship to occur, and it must be sincere.

## Marriage

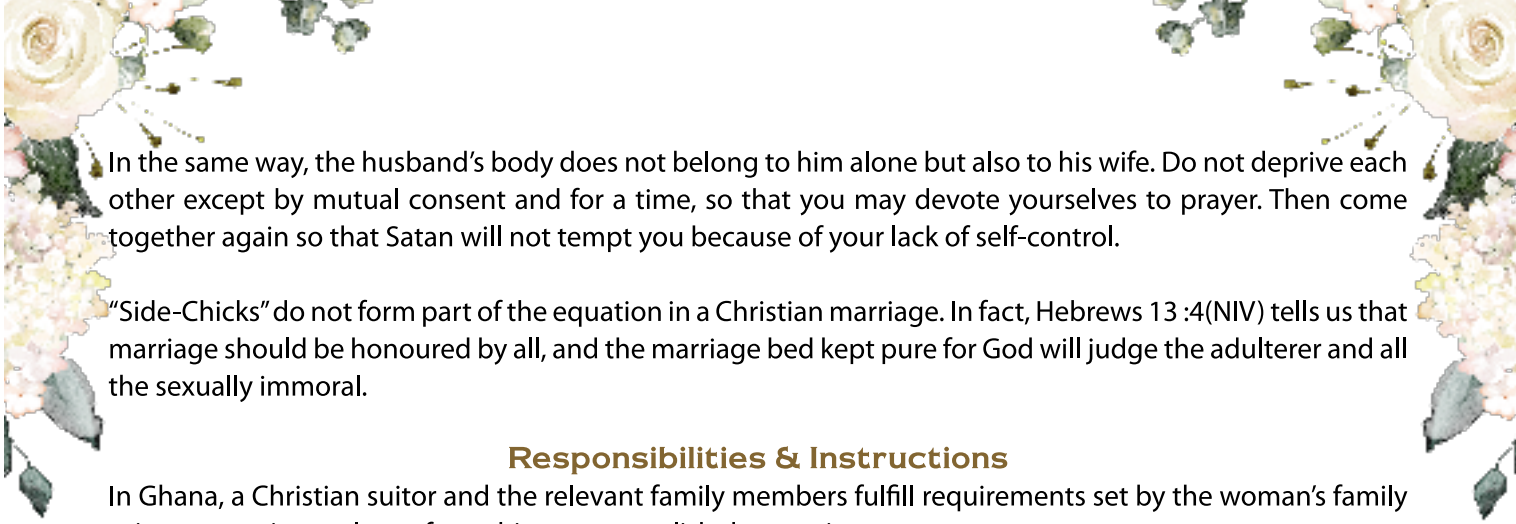
In Christendom, marriage is governed by vows. It is between a man and a woman(1 Corinthians 7:2(NIV)). It is expected to last the lifetime of the parties as in 1 Corinthians 7:39(NIV) which specifically says a woman is bound to her husband as long as he lives. By Matthew 19: 5 – 6(NIV), the man is deemed to be united to his wife and the two will become one flesh in all they do.

Therefore, what God has joined together let no man separate. Scripture continues to say in 1 Corinthians 7:10-11 that a wife must not separate from her husband. But if she does, she must remain unmarried or else be reconciled to her husband; and a husband must not divorce his wife. The only ground permitted for divorce by biblical teaching is marital unfaithfulness (Matthew 19:9 NIV). Marriage is also considered as a forum for learning so parties to a union must be teachable, prepared to learn and opt for a positive outcome.

## Motives for Marriage

In contemporary times, people marry for varied reasons. It is also influenced by numerous factors amongst which four are critical to the writer, namely, inherent manners, socialization, culture and extrinsic factors.

Apart from the reason God gave in the Garden of Eden as noted above, 1 Corinthians 7:3-5(NIV) says the husband should fulfil his marital duty to his wife and likewise the wife to her husband. The wife’s body does not belong to her alone but also to her husband.



In the same way, the husband's body does not belong to him alone but also to his wife. Do not deprive each other except by mutual consent and for a time, so that you may devote yourselves to prayer. Then come together again so that Satan will not tempt you because of your lack of self-control.

"Side-Chicks" do not form part of the equation in a Christian marriage. In fact, Hebrews 13 :4(NIV) tells us that marriage should be honoured by all, and the marriage bed kept pure for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral.

### **Responsibilities & Instructions**

In Ghana, a Christian suitor and the relevant family members fulfill requirements set by the woman's family prior to entering a place of worship to accomplish the marriage.

As stated earlier, God created woman to serve as a helper to man so in a Christian marriage, the two are expected to co-operate and work together towards the success of the marriage bearing in mind that scripture behoves the woman to be submissive to the husband ( 1 Peter 3:1 NIV) while the man in Ephesians 5: 23(NIV) is seen as the head of the wife.....There is a bigger responsibility for husbands in Ephesians 5:25-32(NIV) to love their wives.

This love is compared to how Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her. It is emphasized in Ephesians 5: 28-29(NIV) that husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. After all, no one ever hated his own body, but he feeds and cares for it just as Christ does for the Church. According to Ephesians 5:33b(NIV) a wife must respect the husband and in Colossians 3:19(NIV) husbands are not to be harsh with their wives.

Scripture continues to say in 1 Peter 3:3-6(NIV) that a woman's beauty should not come from outward adornment... but beauty must manifest from within and should be that of an unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit which is of great worth in God's sight. This was how the holy women of the past such as Sarah made themselves beautiful. Similarly, 1 Peter 3:7 (NIV) directs husbands to be considerate as they live with their wives and treat them with respect as the weaker partner and as heirs with you of the gracious gift of life, so that nothing will hinder your prayers.

### **Happiness and satisfaction**

Aside the biblical verses for guidance cited above, I dare state that some man-made instructions and/recipes for Christian marriages have woefully failed and created problems for couples. A prescription that works for couple A may not work for couple B or C. Hence before one marries in the Church, it is necessary to understand God's word.

Humans are imperfect. They have their shortcomings but when they get attracted through love and become husband and wife, the Word of God sets a standard for them to which they must comply. They cannot meet this standard through their efforts but by prayer and reliance on God's word, they will survive the storms of marriage.

Couples guided by scripture mature in their relationships as the days and years go by. By the grace of God, they develop continual affection and fondness for each other.

They must practice love as depicted in 1 Corinthians 13:4-8.

### **Prayer**

It is very important to pray together as a couple and pray for one another as well. Commit everything about the marriage to God through Christ. Couples must have faith and believe that God answers prayer. They should simply trust him. If instant answers do not come, the couple should be patient and wait on the Lord for the Father knows what you need before you ask him (Matthew 6:8 NIV)



# *Understanding* **MARRIAGE & FAMILY LAW** *in Ghana*

**ACCRA RIDGE CHURCH MANET MENS FELLOWSHIP LEGAL SERIES REPORT**

**T**he Men's Fellowship of the Accra Ridge Church Manet Branch successfully launched its Legal Series with a highly engaging and enlightening session led by Mrs. Margaret Acheampong, an experienced lawyer and family law advocate. **The maiden topic, "Understanding Marriage and Family Law in Ghana," focused on an area that touches the lives of many families in the church and wider community.** Highlights of the Presentation Mrs. Acheampong delivered a clear and insightful exposition on the various types of marriages recognized under Ghanaian law, placing particular emphasis on customary marriage.

#### **She explained the following key points:**

1. Customary marriage is deeply rooted in family structures, and its validity depends heavily on the consent of four key family groups—not just the parents of the couple. She emphasized that without the full consent of these family lineages, a customary marriage may be considered incomplete or invalid.
2. She addressed the unique rights and limitations under customary law, including the fact that men are permitted to take additional wives under certain circumstances, notably with the consent of existing wives. Conversely, under customary marriage, a woman cannot marry another man unless the previous customary marriage is properly dissolved.
3. The audience appreciated her clarification on the common confusion between "engagements" and proper customary marriages. She noted that what modern Ghanaian society calls engagements often incorporates foreign traditions and are not necessarily synonymous with legally recognized customary marriages.
4. Mrs. Acheampong also challenged the widely held practice of performing customary ceremonies before ordinance marriages, stating that either type of marriage stands on its own as fully recognized under Ghanaian law. She argued that a couple may validly choose to go straight to an ordinance marriage or remain solely under customary marriage, without performing both.

#### **Audience Engagement**

The session was remarkably interactive. Participants posed numerous practical questions, ranging from:- the registration of customary marriages,- variations in how different families practice and interpret customary rites,- and the legal implications of modern relationship scenarios.

The discussion was so rich that, to the surprise of the organizers, the Q&A segment had to be ended earlier than anticipated due to time constraints.

Upcoming Sessions in the Legal Series Building on the strong foundation laid today, the Accra Ridge Church Manet Men's Fellowship will continue the Legal Series with two additional sessions:

**1. Understanding Ordinance Marriage.** Tentative Date: Second Sunday of December 2025. This session will explain the legal structure, requirements, rights, and obligations under ordinance marriage, helping couples and families understand the implications of entering a monogamous marriage regulated by statutory laws.

**2. Dissolution of Marriage: What You Need to Know** Tentative Date: Third Sunday of January 2026

This final session in the series will address the legal processes, responsibilities, and considerations involved in ending a marriage under Ghanaian law, as well as pastoral and family responsibilities during such transitions.

The session was a landmark moment for the Men's Fellowship as it fulfilled its vision of strengthening families through practical knowledge, mentorship, and intergenerational engagement. Mrs. Acheampong's presentation brought clarity, sparked thoughtful discussion, and left many participants looking forward to the next sessions.

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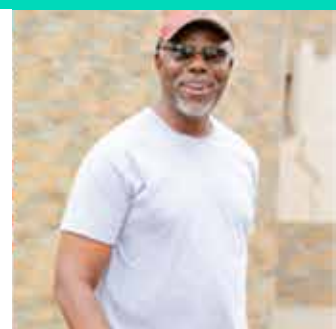
*Compiled by Dr Ralph Tettey-Amlalo Organising Secretary Accra Ridge Church Manet Men's Fellowship 23 November 2025*

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## ARC FAMILY MONTH HEALTH WALK











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# Solution to PUZZLE

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## 2025 Family Picnic



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*How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity." Psalm 133:1*





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