



# The Methodist Church

## MICHAEL KING'S VISIT TO GHANA (FEBRUARY 11-15, 2008)

This short visit was for a number of reasons:

1. To confirm details for the successor to the Revd Emmanuel Aggrey-Ogoe as Chaplain to the Ghanaian Methodist Fellowship in UK.
2. To confirm details of the resourcing of the BMC, MC Ghana and MC Equatorial Guinea proposal.
3. To visit a number of training institutions in Ghana, notably Trinity College.
4. To visit Cape Coast to more forward a difficulty involving a recent EEP placement.

1. and 2.

The Revd William Davis will be the new Chaplain to the Methodist Fellowship in UK, and he facilitated my visit. It was good to spend time with him, but also with both the Presiding Bishop (Revd Robert Aboagye-Mensah) and the Administrative Bishop (Revd Kow Egyir) at the Church HQ in Accra.

At the same meeting with the Church leaders, we discussed:

- Exactly what BMC will resource for the MCG minister chosen to go to Malabo (Equatorial Guinea) i.e. MCG will provide a minister; BMC will provide stipend, travel and (if needed) accommodation costs.
- The need for BMC to be given more notice of MCG ministers coming to UK with MCG blessing, if those ministers are expecting to take part in pastoral appointments in BMC i.e. BMC need to know names in the September of the year preceding the taking up of an appointment in the following September. This ensures that the name of the minister is properly processed by FiM, and enters the stationing round with all other ministers 'on the move'.

3. I visited the impressive new Methodist University's main site at Dansoman, Accra and met the Principal, the Very Revd Prof Samuel Kwasi Adjepong and other senior staff. I was also shown the newly-built students' hostel, money raised by the Laymen's Movement of the Church.

I also visited the Trinity Theological College, the main seminary for MCG. I asked to see two particular students, Rodney Prom and Gabriel Allen, who are from The Gambia and whose training is financed by BMC on behalf of MC The Gambia.

4. My last full day was spent in the Cape Coast region. I was taken to an impressive site near Winneba where an orphanage has been built – a joint venture between Rafiki and MCG. The group showing me around included Mrs Gladys Odoi (General Director of MCG's Board of Social Responsibility) and Mrs Angelina Wood (Head of MCG's Women's Division).

Later, I visited a cassava and corn-processing co-operative at New Eden, before a meal and conversation with the Bishop of Cape Coast, the Very Revd Isaac Quansah. We were joined by Betty Essel, headmistress of Wesley Basic School. Details of this conversation have been passed to the Superintendent minister in Wales and shared with Jane Cullen (Overseas Personnel Secretary).



# The **Methodist** Church

## **Closing comments**

MCG is well organised and with good leadership. The relationship between MCG and BMC is a mature one and the concluding conversations were wide-ranging and forward-looking, in a mutual way. It was a good, if too brief, visit.

On the next official visit to MCG, I would recommend travel to the North of Ghana (Tamale, Bolgatanga, Wa) to see the rural outreach work.