



PENTSOS

PENTECOST SOCIAL SERVICES ...Meeting the needs of the needy



2020

Newsletter

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Our holistic approach to transformational development

PENTSOS uses a combination of development approaches such as needs-based approach, asset-based approach, human development approach, rights-based approach and livelihood security approach in ensuring a holistic transformation of societies in order to help people reach their full potential. This long-term, inclusive, and dynamic process facilitates participation and collaboration across communities, faith-based organisations, civil society and the public and private sectors.

Our Rights-Based Approach is informed by the notion that transformational development can only be achieved if every person has a right to a livelihood and basic services, be safe from harm, be heard and be treated with dignity. It hinges on smoothening power relations among various stakeholders and identifying the key systemic obstacles that keep people from fulfilling their rights and responsibilities.

In order to promote such transformative and sustainable change, we engage people at every level: individual; family; community; national and international- irrespective of ethnicity and religious affiliation.

Our Needs-Based Approach is driven by the notion that people living in abject poverty and in deprived areas deserve help and support (as enshrined in *Matthew 25:35,36*), no matter who provides it and for how long they provide it.

Through this approach, we believe that services should be designed to target and meet the needs of the most vulnerable-mainly persons with disabilities, women, children, and marginalized groups. In all our endeavours, we empower the poor and vulnerable to actively participate in the development process by helping them to engage in income-earning activities, sustainable jobs, and by addressing constraints to their participation in inclusive and sustainable development.

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PENTSOS Donates 200 classroom desks to three Pentecost schools



Area Head handing over the desks to beneficiary schools

PENTSOS has donated 200 pieces of dual and mono desks to Bole, Tuna and Sawla Pentecost Preparatory Schools in the Sawla Area of the Church.

Bole PPS received 55 dual and 10 mono desks, Sawla PPS received 55 dual and 20 mono desks while Tuna PSS received 40 dual and 20 mono desks.

This initiative is part of a 5-year project implemented by PENTSOS dubbed “School Furniture Improvement Project” which seeks among other things, to improve the quality of education in Pentecost schools through the provision of decent and appropriate classroom furniture.

The Area Head, Apostle William Ohemeng-Kwakye, receiving the desks on behalf of the management of the three schools on June 18, 2020, thanked the PENTSOS Director, Elder Richard Amaning, and PENTSOS for responding positively to their call.

The chairs are expected to enhance teaching and learning for ...# of pupils in the beneficiary schools.

Akim Oda PPS tops PENTSOS 2019 Academic Performance League Table among 86 Pentecost Basic Schools in Ghana

The Pentecost Preparatory School (PPS), Akim Oda topped PENTSOS 2019 Academic Performance League Table (APLT) out of 86 basic schools assessed. The school was established on the 11th of September 2006, through the vision and instrumentality of the then Area Executive of the church at Akim Oda under the auspices of Apostle M.M Koppah (the then Area Head). The school has made significant strides over the years to maintain good and consistent academic performance.

By God’s grace, most of the past students are in the Grade A Senior High Schools namely: Prempeh College, Wesley Girls (Cape Coast), Holy Child, St. Roses, Mfantshipim, St. Augustine’s College, Achimota, Pope John’s, Adisadel among others.

Old Students Donate Ultra-Modern Hand Washing Machine to PPS, Abrepo, Kumasi

The Pioneer Old Students of Pentecost Preparatory School (PPS) on Friday, 9th October, 2020 donated nine ultra-modern hand washing machines valued at **eight thousand, six hundred and forty Ghana cedis (GHS 8,640.00)** to their alma mater.

Lawyer Broni Bediako, the president of the Old students of the school, presented the nine sets of the machines to the school.

In an exhortation, Apostle M.C Asiedu, the Suame Area Head, admonished the students to take their lessons seriously to reach the highest height in life. He encouraged the students to add value to achieve greatness. Forgetfulness, he said, can be a hindrance to progress and thus, prayed for the students for God to give them retentive memories in their studies. He expressed his appreciation to the Old Students for the kind gesture.

In attendance were Ps. Fred Obboh (Local Manager), Ps. Patrick Yeboah Nketiah, (School Chaplain), Eld S. K Baah, (Suame Area PENTSOS Board Chairman), PTA Executive Members, Leaders of Pioneer Batch, Staff of PPS and the students.

Miss Rhoda Fordjour, the Senior Girls Prefect of the school expressed appreciation for such a kind gesture.



Handing over of the handwashing facility by old students

PENTSOS Official Interactive Website Ready

The Pentecost Social Services (PENTSOS) has developed its official interactive website to enhance its visibility drive and deepen communication across all levels of the Church. This comes as part of the re-branding efforts of PENTSOS in making it more relevant and visible through the dissemination of information on its activities and their impact to the church, general public and other stakeholders.

The link to the PENTSOS official interactive website is <https://pentsos.org/>

PENTSOS Constructs Boreholes for Gbonkoyiri, Vondiel Communities in the Gindabour District of the Church of Pentecost



The Area Head and DCE pumping water for the District Police Commander

PENTSOS has constructed two new borehole water facilities for Gbonkoyiri and Vondiel communities in the Sawla-Tuna-Kalba District of the Savannah Region. The Sawla Area Head of the church, Apostle William Ohemeng-Kwakye, commissioned the two water facilities separately on April 2, 2020. He was assisted by the Gindabour District Minister of the church, Overseer William Asare, in whose district the projects are located. In an address, the Area Head said that the construction of the boreholes formed part of the church's Vision 2023 agenda on 'Community Transformation.' In attendance at the commissioning ceremony was the District Chief Executive and the District Police Commander of the Sawla-Tuna-Kalba District.

Touching on the current global health crisis, Apostle Ohemeng-Kwakye advised the people to adhere to the directives given by the President of the Republic to help in the fight against the Coronavirus outbreak. This, he said, includes observing social distancing, regular handwashing with soap under running water, using hand sanitizer, and avoiding handshaking.

In appreciation, the Roman Catholic Catechist of the area thanked The Church of Pentecost for the kind gesture and requested other churches in the district to do same for the communities in the district, which are in dire need of water and other social interventions. The Chief and opinion leaders in the two communities thanked PENTSOS and the Church of Pentecost for the kind gesture.

The water facility is expected to directly benefit 4,547 people (including health workers and nurses) and indirectly 3,000 people.

Health workers and patients at Twifo Agona Pentecost Clinic and Community gain access to safe drinking water

PENTSOS has constructed a limited mechanized water supply system for the Pentecost Community Clinic at Twifo Agona to provide safe drinking water for both staff and patients of the clinic as well as the over 3,500 community members.

The facility, which was financed by The Church of Pentecost Headquarters at a total cost of GHS 34,093.12, was commissioned by Apostle Sylvester Arhin (Assin Foso Area Head) with assistance from Apostle Jones Afrifa Awuah (Dunkwa Area Head).

The Pentecost Community Clinic, Twifo Agona was established in 1989 and commissioned on June 14, 1991, by Prophet M.K. Yeboah (former Chairman of The Church of Pentecost). It is among the eight healthcare facilities operated by the Pentecost Social Services (PENTSOS), the social ministry of The Church of Pentecost with an overarching goal to provide quality healthcare delivery to people living in deprived areas in Ghana.

Since its establishment, the clinic had been without access to safe drinking water for both staff and patients who patronized the facility. For the past 31 years, the nurses, other staff and patients, had to trek to fetch water for use at the clinic. Sometimes, women who came to deliver their babies had to carry water along from their homes. This situation created challenges for staff working in the facility and patients alike. This necessitated the construction of the water facility by PENTSOS as part of the "Possessing the Nations" agenda. Through the mechanised water facility, water has been extended to the premises of the Clinic (Consulting Rooms, OPD area, Wards and Washrooms) and to the Nurses'



Quarters. The water system has also been extended to some sections of the Twifo Agona community close to the Clinic. Twifo Agona is a rural community in the Twifo Atti-Morkwa District in the Central Region of Ghana with a total population of over 2,000 people.



Water facility for Abunyanya Basic School



Water facility for Gbonkoyiri community in Sawla Area



Water facility for Zambo Nawoyelle



Water facility for Vondiel Community in Sawla Area

"There is no power for change
greater than a community
discovering what it cares about."

– Margaret J. Wheatley



Water facility for Wiae Chabo in Kete-Krachi Area



Water facility for Dambai in Nkwanta Area

PENCO disburses over GHS37 million in micro-loans to members of the Church of Pentecost to deepen financial inclusion

The Pentecost Cooperative Mutual Support and Social Services Society Limited (PENCO) is a cooperative financial institution registered with the Department of Cooperatives and operating under the Bank of Ghana regulations of Non-Bank Financial Institutions.



Through the 25 financial cooperative societies established, PENCO has deepened financial inclusion and provided over 6,000 individuals with micro-loans to the tune of GHS37 million (US\$ 6.6million) to low-income earners who are mainly members of the Church of Pentecost to enhance their businesses and economic livelihoods.



About PENCO

In 2013, the Executive Council of the Church of Pentecost approved the establishment of cooperative financial societies within the Church to help members save and also receive micro-loans to support their businesses and other income-generating activities.

PENCO was established by PENTSOS with an overarching objective of building sustainable savings culture among members of the Church and to enhance micro-enterprise growth through the provision of financial services, including micro-loans.

PENCO is committed to ensuring access to financial services by low-income earners, providing capital to small businesses and social intermediation to the members of the Church of Pentecost and the general public. This effort is intended to help support members engage in income-generating activities and sustainable livelihoods, which would in turn help boost their income levels.

The objectives of PENCO are:

- ✚ To promote thrift among its members by providing a means of savings;
- ✚ To provide loans to its members for provident and productive purposes at fair but competitive rates of interest;
- ✚ To provide quality financial services to its Members;
- ✚ To build the capacity of members in entrepreneurship in order for them to succeed in their businesses.

Police Station constructed by the Church of Pentecost Commissioned

Among the many social interventions funded by the Church of Pentecost and implemented as part of social ministry, is the “Police Station & Post Project (PSPP)”. This is enshrined in the Vision 2023 Agenda of the Church whereby the church has strengthened its partnership with the Ghana Police Service in enhancing security in Ghana.

The Akuapem-Akropong District Police Project funded by The Church of Pentecost has since been commissioned and handed over to the Police Administration. The building, which took six months to complete, was constructed at a total cost of GH¢516,000.00. It has male and female cells at the ground floor, offices, armoury, washrooms, District Commander’s office and other ancillary spaces and circulation areas.

The state-of-the-art facility was jointly commissioned by the Inspector-General of Police (IGP), Mr. James Oppong-Buanuh, and the General Secretary of The Church of Pentecost, Apostle Alexander Nana Yaw Kumi-Larbi, assisted by the Okuapemhemaa, Nana Afua Nketia Obuo II, and the Eastern Regional Minister, Hon. Eric Kwakye Darfour.

The sod-cutting of the building was performed by the immediate past IGP, Mr David Asante-Apeatu and the General Secretary of the church, Apostle Kumi-Larbi, on 26th April, 2019. The project commenced in June 2019 and was completed in December 2019.

Speaking at the event on behalf of Apostle Eric Nyamekye, the Chairman of the church, the General Secretary explained that the construction of the facility formed part of the security-based development project dubbed “Police Station & Post Project (PSPP)”, under Vision 2023, where the church has planned to put up three different police stations/police posts in some selected communities across the country.

This, Apostle Kumi-Larbi said, has become necessary due to the exponential growth of urban population in recent times and its related socio-economic challenges and pressure on the existing infrastructure of the Police Service, some of which have already outlived their useful years.

The Regional Minister, Hon. Eric Kwakye Darfour, said security is a shared responsibility that required the support of all individuals and groups to ensure that we live in a peaceful nation. He thanked the church for the various social interventions/projects it is carrying out in the country to complement the government’s efforts to bring about the much-needed peace, security and development that Ghana is aspiring to attain.

The Regional Minister also exalted the church’s prison project, which he noted, is a good initiative to decongest the prisons and equip inmates with employable skills.

The Okuapemhemaa, Nana Afua Nketia Obuo, on her part, was full of appreciation to the church for the project.



PENTSOS trains 54 youth in beekeeping as a livelihood

PENTSOS has trained 54 youth in Sawla-Tuna-Kalba District of the Savannah Region in Beekeeping and Honey production. The two days training was held on 31st October to 1st November, 2020 at Sawla through a partnership arrangement with Nkunim Foods, a private sector business, which will act as the off-takers for the honey when harvested. The Sawla Area of The Church of Pentecost identified and selected the beneficiaries, and organized the venue for the training.

The Beekeeping enterprise is a project under PENTSOS Livelihood programme titled “Enhancing Livelihoods of Youth in the Church for Sustainable Economic Development Programme (ENLIY4SED)” which aims at building productive capacity and creating employment opportunities for unemployed youth in the church.

These community level income-generating livelihood projects, will serve as an immediate and short-term measure in creating jobs for the members of the Church in deprived communities in the Oti and Northern Regions. This is intended to help reduce the impact of COVID 19 as well as curb rural-urban migration.

The Beekeeping is being funded by Nkunim Food Ltd. The company also supplied 62 hives to the 54 participants.



PENTSOS trains 53 youth in irrigation vegetable farming in the Bawku Area of the Church

In order to create job opportunities and enhance food security among the youth and vulnerable groups in the Northern part of Ghana, PENTSOS in collaboration with the Bawku Area of the COP is embarking on an irrigation farming project in the Upper East Region of Ghana to support 60 youth in dry season vegetable farming. A 20-acre arable land has been acquired for 25 years for the project.

The project is being implemented in partnership with the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (MoFA).

The project aims at addressing the effect of climate change on the availability of water resources, and the associated negative impact of these trends on the livelihoods of rural communities in the five northern regions.

The main objective of the programme is to enhance the resilience and adaptive capacity of communities to climate impacts and risks on water resources in Northern Ghana through the provision of irrigation facilities. This will be achieved through improvement in water access, strengthening livelihoods and food security by increasing agricultural production, productivity and incomes of smallholder farmers.

The project will also build the capacity of farmers to operate and manage the irrigation schemes on a sustainable basis and create sustainable market linkages for the farmers. The collaboration with officers from MoFA will also improve the adoption of recommended agronomic practices. The project will also assist farmers with the provision of improved seeds, fertilizers, chemicals, capacity building (i.e. sensitization, training and technology transfer) and extension services.

This project will constitute a major stride in the Church's effort to improve the livelihood outcomes of its members and will also help to address the problems of food insecurity, poverty, hunger, malnutrition and unemployment. In addition to increasing yields and improving the quality of produce through the provision of seeds and extension services, irrigation will lengthen the production season, thus enabling intensification and diversification of agricultural production. It will also create employment for the locals and also improve their livelihood options, thereby reducing migration to the south for greener pastures during the dry season.

As part of the start-up activities, a sensitisation workshop and training have been organized for 53 selected youth on the prospects and viability of the project. This was aimed at preparing the selected youth and making them ready to embrace the initiative.

The sensitisation and training took place at the Zebilla Central Chapel on 30th October, 2020, with two officers from the MoFA office (Crops Officer and Agric Extension), as facilitators. MoFA office (Crops Officer and Agric Extension), as facilitators.

“Unless Africa uses modern technologies, our farmers’ output will remain low and we will remain dependent on others to feed us”

—Akinwumi Adesina

PENTSOS Institutes “Gospel Friday in Pentecost Schools

In its quest to missionarised Pentecost Schools across the country, PENTSOS has institutionalized “Gospel Friday” in Pentecost Preparatory Schools.

The maiden “Gospel Friday” was observed across all Pentecost Schools on February 5, 2020. During the schools’ weekly Wednesday morning devotion sessions, pupils take turns to read portions of the Bible and preach salvation messages to their peers.



PENTSOS rolls out a Virtual Learning Classroom Project in 5 Pentecost Schools

As part of the efforts to mitigate the adverse effects of COVID-19 on Pentecost schools, PENTSOS has launched and rolled out a virtual learning classroom project in 5 selected Pentecost Schools. The Virtual Classroom Project was officially launched on July 2, at the Pentecost Preparatory School, Koforidua, to keep academic work going following the close down of schools as part of the COVID-19 restrictions.

The Koforidua Area Head, Apostle Samuel Osei Asante, said that The Church of Pentecost has shown that it is interested in the use of technology and this was evident at the recent General Council meeting which was held online. He was very excited that the school had taken this bold step and hoped that the other Pentecost schools in the country would emulate the initiative.

The Virtual Learning Classroom Project is in line with a new project implemented by PENTSOS with an overarching purpose to improve ICT education and infrastructure in Pentecost Schools dubbed “School Digitization Project”.

A total of 1,546 pupils have been enrolled on the virtual classroom learning platform in five (5) Pentecost Schools namely: Pentecost Preparatory School, Koforidua; Pentecost Preparatory School, Madina; Pentecost Preparatory School, Abrepo-Kumasi, Pentecost Preparatory School, Bubiashie and the Pentecost Preparatory School, Nkawkaw.

Pentecost Preparatory School at Madina, purchases two brand new buses

Pentecost Preparatory School, Madina, has purchased two brand new Toyota Coaster buses from its internally generated funds

Established in 1985, the Pentecost Preparatory School, at Madina has a current total enrolment of 1,469 pupils and staff strength of 60.

The school purchased the two brand-new Toyota Coaster buses to assist with commuting the students to and from school. This effort is to improve the existing transport system in the school and also to ensure the safety of the pupils.



1,037 final year students from 33 Pentecost Schools across the nation sit for the maiden PENTSOS National Mock Examination.

In line with PENTSOS Directorate’s drive to continuously improve the academic performance and make Pentecost Preparatory schools one of the centers for academic excellence in the country, various initiatives and revisions have been made to meet this goal. Cardinal among them was to adequately prepare the JHS final year students towards their final examination (BECE) organized by the West African Examinations Council (WAEC).

The overarching purpose of the standardized national mock examination is to enhance academic performance and improve the quality of teaching and learning in Pentecost schools in Ghana.

A total of 1,037 JHS 3 students from 33 Pentecost schools across the country participated in the maiden PENTSOS Mock Exams which began this year between Monday, 24th and 26th August, 2020.

An external team was put together to set the model questions with their respective marking schemes to guide the internal subject teachers in their marking.

Pentecost Preparatory School, Madina donates a Bus to Ansaful-Winneba PPS School

The PENTSOS Directorate has facilitated the release of a 36 seater Hyundai Cosmos bus from Madina PPS to Ansaful PPS in Winneba Area. The initiative was based on the transportation challenges faced by students of Ansaful PPS, as they have to trek long distances to school. In addition, attending outdoor programmes was a challenge as the school had to rely on commercial mini buses, which have their own safety challenges. The absence of a school bus was also affecting enrolment in the school since some parents prefer to send their children to schools that provide transport for pupils.

Following the appeal by the PENTSOS Directorate, Management of the Madina PPS, in consultation with the School's Board, stakeholders and the Madina Area Head, generously agreed to release their old bus to their sister school to help alleviate their plight since the Madina school had procured a new bus.

On 22nd October, 2020, the Area Head of Madina, some of the stakeholders of the school as well as the Winneba Area Head and the PENTSOS Directorate met at the Madina school premises for the handing over and transfer of the bus to the Ansaful PPS in a brief but colourful ceremony. It is expected that the Ansaful school, which was established in September 2004 with a current enrolment of 174 will improve in performance in terms of academic work and student enrolment, after the resumption of schools.



2,121 JHS students in 61 Pentecost Preparatory Schools across the country receive PPEs.



In the wake of the global covid-19 pandemic and in line with government directives for schools to ensure that all recommended safety protocols are in place before reopening, PENTSOS, with funding from The Church of Pentecost, has procured and distributed PPEs to Pentecost schools in the week of reopening of schools for the JHS 2 pupils. The items supplied to 61 schools included 2,500 liters of liquid soap, 4,721 (250ml) bottles of hand sanitisers and 800 packs of tissue paper, worth over fifty thousand Ghana Cedis (GHS50,000).

The liquid soap was produced by the Pentecost Vocational Institute, Gbawe. 2,121 students received two bottles each of 250ml hand sanitiser for personal use and 479 staff also received one bottle each of the hand sanitisers. Other items were given for the maintenance of hand hygiene in the schools in preventing the spread of COVID-19.



Students of Kasoa PPS displaying their hand sanitisers received from PENTSOS

The Chinese Christian community in Ghana has donated 10,000 pieces of surgical face masks to Pentecost Health Facilities.

Ida Ho, leader of 3 Bridges International, a group of Chinese Christian missionaries who minister to Chinese nationals in Ghana, presented face masks to the Church through the Pentecost Social Services (PENTSOS) at the Headquarters in Accra on Tuesday, June 9, 2020.

She explained that the donation of the face masks, which are packed with gospel tracks and public information on COVID-19, was part of the effort by the group to collaborate with the Church to reach out to the poor in the hinterlands who could not afford it.

Receiving the donation, the PENTSOS Director, Elder Richard Amaning, thanked the group for the kind gesture and indicated that the items will be distributed to seven of the church's health facilities in rural communities across the country so that those who patronize the facilities without nose masks can have them for free. He indicated that the collaboration with the Chinese Christian group formed part of the medical evangelism effort of the Church through its health facilities. He disclosed that 106 souls were won to Christ in 2019 through medical evangelism.



Pentecost Vocational Institute Gbawe, Produces 2,500 Liters of Liquid Soap

The Pentecost Vocational Training Institute (PVTI), Gbawe was established by the church in April 1998 to fill the technical and vocational capacity gap which is so much imperative for poverty alleviation among our youth. Vocational skills, among our young women are enormously vital for sustained national development. The Institute is equipped with a wide spectrum of departments in various vocational areas ranging from Fashion, Catering, Cosmetology, and Electronics, etc.

In the wake of the global covid-19 pandemic and in line with the recommended safety protocols that have to be adhered to, especially with the reopening of schools by the Presidential directives for the JHS 2 students, the need for liquid soap was high. The Pentecost Vocational Training Institute, through the initiative of the PENTSOS Directorate and with funding support from the Church of Pentecost has produced 2,500 liters of local liquid soap with various flavours for distribution to Pentecost Schools across the country.

This effort is part of the on-going institutional reforms and restructuring at the Pentecost Vocational Training Institute aimed at making it more visible and relevant in the provision of contemporary employable vocational skills training, targeting mainly young people in Ghana.



PENTSOS Distributes Medical Supplies To 7 Pentecost Health Facilities in the wake of the COVID-19 Pandemic

PENTSOS has distributed some medical logistics among seven (7) Pentecost health facilities outside the Greater-Accra region. The items are intended to help protect health workers at the facilities, especially the frontline staff and persons who patronise the facilities from contracting the novel COVID-19, thereby curbing the spread of the deadly virus in the country.

The seven (7) health institutions, geographically spread across six regions in the country (Oti, Western North, Central, Western, Ahafo and Bono), are: Pentecost Hospital, Tarkwa; Pentecost Hospital, Ayanfuri; Pentecost Clinic, Kpassa; Pentecost Clinic, Enchi Kwahu; Pentecost Clinic, Twifo Agona; Pentecost Clinic, Yawmatwa and Pentecost Clinic, Kasapin.

The items included 21 sets of personal protective equipment (PPEs), 7,000 nose masks, 14 infrared thermometers, 270 packets of examination hand gloves, and 7 cartons (140 pieces) of 2-litre hand sanitizers. Funding support was from the Headquarters of the Church of Pentecost. The PENTSOS Directorate has also given each of the seven health facilities an amount of GHS 2000.00 from its own resources to support their preparedness towards the fight against COVID-19.

PENTSOS also received a donation from the Christian Health Association of Ghana (CHAG). The items donated included hospital beds, hand washing device, waste bins and mattresses for distribution to Pentecost Health Facilities.



PENTSOS supports 35 youth in employable skills training

PENTSOS has provided livelihood opportunities for 35 young people in the Nkwanta and Dunkwa Areas of the church.

In the Ayanfuri District in Dunkwa Area, the 25 beneficiaries are mostly unemployed young women between the ages of 19 and 35 years as well as some young men who were salvaged from drugs and other social vices in "Ghettos" in the Ayanfuri community. They have since been supported with start-up kits and full apprenticeship fees to enable them undergo skills training in beads making, bakery, glass fabrication and sewing. These are immediate sustainable livelihoods which will help them face the future with confidence. Also, in the Nkwanta Area of the Oti Region, PENTSOS paid for the cost of apprenticeship training, provided 10 brand new sewing machines, uniforms, and other sewing kits, as well as accommodation to 10 young ladies drawn from deprived communities to undergo skills training in sewing.



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