William Kweku Atta Dawson, an Adventist pioneer in Ghana, was born in 1846 at Gomoa Fetteh in the Central Region of Ghana. He was a trader in rubber who worked between Sierra Leone and Ghana. As part of his trading business, he traveled to America sometime in the 1870s. There he came into contact with the Adventist faith and converted from the Methodist faith.
Returning to Ghana, William Dawson practiced his newly-found faith in his hometown, Fetteh, to the amazement of his extended family, friends, and neighbors. One of his friends, Francis Dolphijn of Apam also in the Central Region, later became very active in championing Adventism.\footnote{Kofi Owusu-Mensa, \textit{Ghana Seventh-day Adventism: A History}. Accra: The Advent Press, 2005.}

William Dawson was determined to live the truth and shine for God in his little corner in Fetteh and Mayenda, all in the Central Region, where he established the Seventh-day Adventist church basically for his family and his town. The first Sabbath School in Ghana was held on May 11, 1888, in Dawson’s house in Fetteh. A borrowed hand bell was rung through the town inviting the people to study and worship. Pioneer Dawson had a nephew, Kwest Annan, who was a member of the church in Fetteh. It was Annan who acquired some land for farming at Mayenda and a church was built there. The records indicate that William Dawson worshipped there for many years before his demise. Elder Dawson died in 1938 at the age of 92 years and was buried in Fetteh.\footnote{Ibid., 14.}

It is traditionally believed that William Kweku Atta Dawson was the first person to bring Adventism to Ghana. Although the church has no official written records about William Kweku Atta Dawson and the early Adventist work in Ghana dating back to the late 1800s, the churches in Fetteh and Mayenda are living testimonies of his contribution to Adventism in Ghana.\footnote{Kojo Polley-Kwoffie, \textit{The Beginnings of the Seventh-day Adventism in Ghana – The First Fifty Years}. Accra: Agape Press, 2010.}

**SOURCES**


**NOTES**

2. Ibid., 14.