



Mid-South Ghana Conference.

Photo courtesy of Southern Ghana Union Conference.

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## Mid-South Ghana Conference

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The Mid-South Ghana Conference is part of the Southern Ghana Union Conference. It was formerly part of South Ghana Conference and was organized in 2015. It was reorganized and its territory divided in 2017. Mid-South Ghana Conference covers a section of the Central Region of the Republic of Ghana, including Upper Denkyira District in the north; Twifo Hemang Lower Denkyira District in the west; Assin Foso District in the east;

and Mfanteman District, Komenda Edina Eguafo District, and Cape Coast Metropolis in the south.<sup>1</sup>

As of June 30, 2018, the Mid-South Ghana Conference had 101 churches with a membership of 16,600 in a population of 1,171,364.<sup>2</sup>

## History

The Seventh-day Adventist Church in Ghana started in the Central Region in 1888. It is documented that one Francis I. U. Dolphijn of Apam was converted after reading an Adventist tract. But Adventist historian Kofi Owusu Mensa claimed that William Kwesi Atta Dawson of Gomoa Fetteh and Mayenda, also in the Central Region, brought the Adventist faith to Ghana from the United States of America earlier than 1888.<sup>3</sup>

Cape Coast subsequently became the headquarters of the Adventist mission in the region. On Saturday, March 27, 1917, Dudley Hale, an American missionary, baptized the first four indigenous Ghanaians into full church membership. Unfortunately, the Church did not develop in the region so Pastor Christian Abraham Ackah of Kikam moved to Nzemaland to establish Adventism there.<sup>4</sup>

In the early 1960s, Adventism was re-launched in the Central Region and as a result churches were established in Cape Coast and Swedru. By dint of hard work and determination, the members in the region established churches in other areas of the region.

The quest for an administrative unit for the Central Region began in the late 1980s when some elders of the church in Western and Central Regions called for a joint effort to create mission stations in the two regions. Shortly after the first meeting, the western block pressed for the creation of South West Ghana Conference which was inaugurated in 1997. The development of the Church in the west inspired pastors and elders in the Central Region to work harder to become a mission field.

In 1998, pastors and members of the Central Region sent a delegation to the South Ghana Conference (SGC) headquarters to discuss with the leadership the need to create a conference in the Central Region. At the forefront of the campaign were pastors J. K. Arthur, S. K. Asante, R. A. Ntrikwah; elders E. K. Quarshie, P. K. Arhin, L. A. K. Eduful, Gath Oppong-Kwakye, and Sampson Baidoo, and other pastors and lay members in the region.<sup>5</sup>

By November 2003, the effort was intensified. Daniel Kwesi Nguando-Yamoah and a team proposed measures to win the support of the management of South Ghana Conference under the leadership of S. A. Koranteng. A house was purchased at Tantri, Cape Coast, to serve as the headquarters of the administrative unit.<sup>6</sup>

In September 2011, the officers of South Ghana Conference revisited the creation of the field and targeted the Tantri building as its temporary headquarters. On Tuesday, May 1, 2012, the dream became a reality as Anthony Kessie, Chris Annan-Nunoo, C. Quaye, and the directors of South Ghana Conference commissioned the Cape Coast parsonage at Adisadel Estate as the field's temporary office while the renovation work on the Tantri

building continued.<sup>7</sup>

The working committee of the administrative unit included Elder Michael Appiah-Baffoe, Elder S. M. Siripi, Elder Alfred Boahene, Pastor Y. A. Ankomah, Elder Edward Marfo-Yiadom, Madam Sarah Thompson, Elder Abbey, Mrs. Victoria Daaku, Elder Samuel Amfo, and Elder Samuel Owusu-Ansah.<sup>8</sup>

On February 28, 2013, having operated for about a year as a field, the Ghana Union Conference executive committee voted to grant administrative unit status to the field. A recommendation was sent to the West-Central Africa Division (WAD) to assess the unit for a possible promotion to a conference status. On Monday, November 3, 2014, the WAD executive committee voted to organize MSGAU in 2015 as a conference after a successful evaluation.<sup>9</sup> Emmanuel Kwandahor redesigned the Tantri building and offered technical support in all the structural changes in the building. Matthew Donkor and his brother, Bediako, executed the work.

## Leaders<sup>10</sup>

### Presidents

Solomon Kofi Asante, director (2015-2018)

John Yaw Dadzie (2019- )

### Secretaries

Richard Asiedu Ntriakwah, secretary (2015-2016)

Isaac Oteng-Asare (2017- )

### Treasurer

Isaac Anowuo, treasurer (2015- )

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## SOURCES

Owusu-Mensa, Kofi. *Saturday God and Adventism in Ghana*. Frankfurt: Lang, 1993.

*Seventh-day Adventist Yearbook*. Nampa, Idaho: Pacific Press, 2016-2019.

South Ghana Conference Executive Committee Minutes of November 2003, Accra City Conference Archives, Accra, Ghana.

South Ghana Conference Executive Committee Minutes of February 15, 2012, Accra City Conference Archives, Accra, Ghana.

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## NOTES

1. "Mid-South Ghana Conference," *Seventh-day Adventist Yearbook* (Nampa, Idaho: Pacific Press, 2019), 403, 405.
  2. Ibid.
  3. Kofi Owusu-Mensa, *Saturday God and Adventism in Ghana* (Frankfurt: Lang, 1993).
  4. Ibid.
  5. J. K. Arthur, interview by author, November 21, 2015 at Mankesim.
  6. Ibid.
  7. South Ghana Conference Executive Committee Minutes of November 2003, Accra City Conference Archives.
  8. South Ghana Conference Executive Committee Minutes of February 15, 2012, Accra City Conference Archives.
  9. "Mid-South Ghana Conference," *Seventh-day Adventist Yearbook* (2019), 405.
  10. "Mid-South Ghana Conference," *Seventh-day Adventist Yearbook* (Nampa, Idaho: Pacific Press, 2016-2019).
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