

**SEPTEMBER &
OCTOBER 2021**

NEWSLETTER

Issue No. 18



**PENTECOST
UNIVERSITY**
TRANSFORMATION AND SERVICE



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In every institution or group, commitment levels of people are not always the same. But there is always one sect that make things work.

That is why at Pentecost University, we are intentional about training our students such that they always join the sect that make things work.

**REV. PROF. KWABENA
AGYAPONG-KODUA**
VICE-CHANCELLOR



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UniversityA+



Pentecost University Ends 2021 Management & Unit Heads Retreat

Pentecost University held a three-day residential retreat for its management and heads of units. This included deans of various faculties as well as heads of departments. It came off between Wednesday 29th and Friday 1st October 2021 at their School of Theology, Mission, and Leadership campus at the Pentecost Convention Centre in Gomoa Fetteh.

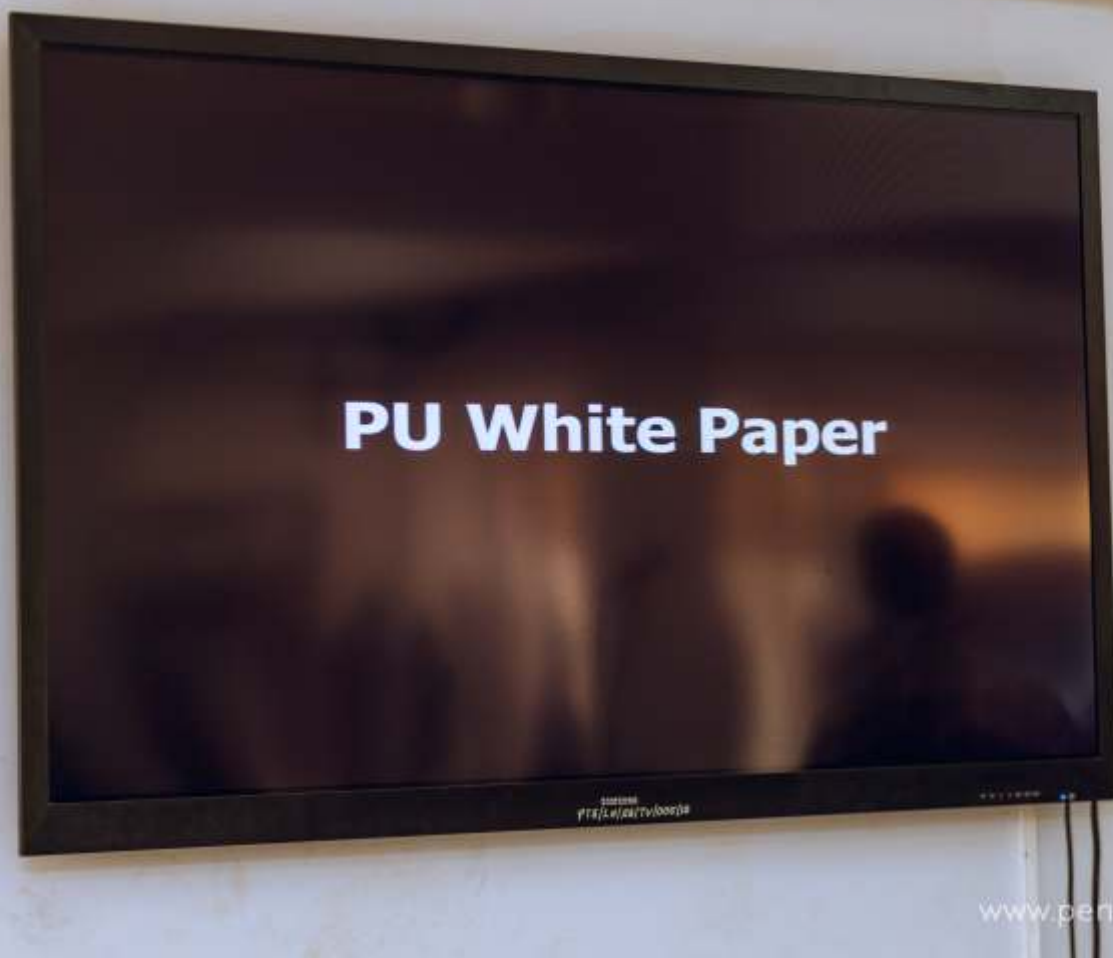
The purpose of the retreat was to enhance the capacity of the participating staff to reach out to the goals of their University A+ agenda. It included scholarly presentations, practical demonstrations, workshops and some spiritual exercises.

At the welcome ceremony, the Vice-Chancellor (VC), Prof. Kwabena Agyapong-Kodua spoke on the theme: "Make your inclusion cause an increase." He referenced

Acts 6:5-7 of the Bible on how the appointment of Stephen and co helped to solve the problem of feeding widows and subsequently how the author reports of the spread of the word of God, rapid increase in the number of disciples and the ultimate conversion of some priest. He encouraged the Heads to make their inclusion bring increase in student numbers, resources, spirituality, and outstanding intellectuals.

The retreat delved into diverse issues about the University A+ agenda, restructuring and re-organization, financial issues, students and staff welfare, infrastructure among others.

Addressing management on the University A+ agenda, the VC said Pentecost University



is going to be research-led. He said, “in this phase, PU is leaning towards a research-led university.” He used models such as the ‘Bloom’s Taxonomy’ to explain the different phases of learning and their intellectual outcome in societies, and justified why the research-led approach to teaching and learning was appropriate for PU and Ghana. He said this approach to learning will be driven by the setting up of research centres and institutes in the University. He added that “apart from the many benefits of the research-led approach, it also sets us apart from other universities in Africa many of which are teaching-led.”

Addressing participants on restructuring, the Registrar of the University, Mr. Foster K. Amoani informed staff about alignments, change of names, mergers and separation of units, reporting lines, reassignment of staff and other changes that have occurred to enable the implementation of the University A+ agenda. He therefore called for enhanced commitment and asked staff to provide feedback as the restructuring takes effect

from October 1, 2021.

On his part, the Ag. Human Resource Manager, Mr. Nathaniel Nani who addressed participants on recruitments and promotions said the university is going to recruit a lot in the coming years. This he said is due to the expansion of existing units and faculties as well as the introduction of research centres and other faculties. He also assured that his unit will use robust recruitment processes that will boost the university’s brand to potential job applicants as well as attract the best caliber of staff.

On the last day of the retreat, the university’s white paper which contains all appointments, internal transfers and promotions for the ensuing academic year was read out. This included the announcement of the new Acting Pro Vice-Chancellor, Aps. Dr. Emmanuel Anim; Director of Postgraduate Studies and Research, Aps. Dr. Christian Tsekpoe, among others.



**APS. ANIM APPOINTED
AS ACTING PRO-VC**



Aps. Dr. Emmanuel Kwesi Anim, the Director of PU's School of Theology, Mission and Leadership has been appointed the new Acting Pro-Vice-Chancellor of the University. His appointment comes following the retirement of Prof. KB. Omane-Antwi who was the Pro-Vice-Chancellor.

The appointment of Rev. Dr. Anim was announced at the 2021 Management and Heads of Units' retreat held at the Pentecost Convention Center in Gomoa Fetteh near Accra. It takes immediate effect.

Before his appointment, Dr. Anim was the Principal of the then Pentecost Theological Seminary. He became director when the seminary became the School of Theology, Mission and Leadership of Pentecost University.

Aps. Dr. Anim is a top-notch theologian with research interest in Eco Theology and Sustainable Development, African Studies and Global Christian Mission (Missiology) as well as Pentecostal and Charismatic Studies

At the same retreat, other appointments were announced some of which include Director of Post Graduate Studies and Research, Aps. Dr. Christian Tsekpoe, Acting Chief Finance Officer Mr. Abraham Nyebar, Head of Academic Affairs Dr. Denise Anatsui, Dean of Faculty of Education Dr. Elizabeth Appiah, Dean of Evening/Weekend School, Dr. Richard Afedze, Head of Digital Services Mr. Emmanuel Agyekum, Head of Technical Services Mr. Charles Tetteh Narh, Acting Director of College of Foundational and Professional Studies, Dr. Alexander Amo Baffour and Acting Manager of Human Resources, Mr. Nathaniel Nani and also Acting Head of Business Development and Corporate Affairs Mr. David Kyetong Guun.



PENTECOST UNIVERSITY INTRODUCES DIGITAL INVIGILATION FOR EXAMS

Pentecost University has rolled out full-fledged digital invigilation of its examinations. This is part of a grand digitization agenda that is ongoing in the University.

The initiative involves using CCTV and related remote sensing technologies. This took effect at the beginning of the 2020/21 second semester examination which began on Monday, 16th September 2021.

According to the Vice-Chancellor of the University, Rev. Prof. Kwabena Agyapong-Kodua, the digital invigilation is a component of digitisation Pentvars is rolling out in all of its operations. Prof. Agyapong-Kodua added that, "it will go a long way to enhance controls for the integrity of our examination processes and build the needed behavioural changes among students." He added that, "technology when used appropriately can constrain unwanted behaviours and enhance the development of right attitudes to situations."

The Head of Digital Services of the University, Mr. Emmanuel A. Agyekum said enough notices are posted at vantage points to create awareness about the development for the students. He added that his unit has put the necessary mechanisms in place for live and clear feat, as well as appropriate responses to happenings at all examination centers.

Some students who shared their views said the digital monitoring has improved their experience. According to Derrick Adagbledu, a Level 100 BSc. IT student, "it reduced tension and interruptions." On her part, Ms. Eva Garima, a Level 200 BSc. Midwifery student said the digital monitoring made them more "vigilant because they didn't know who was watching and had no means to plead if caught in a compromised situation or anything that looked like that."



PENTVARS COLLABORATES WITH GHANA ARMED FORCES FOR TRAINING PURPOSES.

In the quest to achieve a greater height among the Universities in Ghana, to spread the awareness, and the achievements that Pentecost University stands for in all fields of academic excellence, the University A+ set an agenda to form strong collaboration with recognised institutions such as the military and the other force agent

The collaboration, which was spear-headed by Dr Mensah started at the beginning of this year; the purpose is to have campuses at the Military Training School in Ghana (Accra - Buma Camp).

At a meeting held at the military training school, the representatives of GAF were amazed by what PU had to offer the forces, as PU option for their staff is outstanding. The august meeting was attended by Dr Joseph L A Mensah, and Mr Isaac Yeboah.

GAF has agreed to collaborate with PU starting January 2022, to train all staff that are enrolled on regular training at the GAF training School:

*Story by
Dr. Joseph Mensah
Programme Manager
BSc. Logistics and Supply Chain
Management*



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There is no problem that only engineering, history, nursing or any one discipline can solve well. Problems are generally multifaceted and require a multi disciplinary approach.

That is why, at Pentecost University, we add multi-disciplinary perspectives to our teaching and learning

**REV. PROF. KWABENA
AGYAPONG-KODUA**
VICE-CHANCELLOR



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BREAST CANCER

AWARENESS MONTH



Breast Health Among Women At Eikwe, Western Region Ghana

Mr. Reginald Arthur-Mensah Jnr, Ms. Gertrude Archer and Dr. Abigail Kyei
Department of Nursing and Midwifery,
Pentecost University.

Download PDF: Breast Health among
women at Eikwe – Breast Cancer Awareness
Month October 2021-1

Introduction

Every October marks Breast Cancer Awareness Month (BCAM) to celebrate advances in new research into the detection and diagnosis, prevention, and treatment breakthroughs of breast cancer which could one day lead to a cure for the disease, to highlight the challenges that breast cancer poses and generally to raise awareness about the disease. The Breast Cancer Awareness Month for this year began on Friday, October 1, 2021 and ends on Sunday, October 31, 2021.

Cancer and Breast Cancer

Cancer is a broad term for a class of diseases characterized by abnormal cells that grow and invade healthy cells in the body. Breast cancer starts when the cells of the breast begin to grow out of control. These cancer

cells can then invade surrounding body tissues and spread to other parts of the body (NBCF, 2021). According to the World health Organization (WHO), breast cancer is the most common cancer among women worldwide (WHO, 2020).

Every 74 seconds a woman dies of breast cancer. Studies have shown that breast cancer is more frequent in the left breast than in the right breast of women. When breast cancer is detected early, the survival rate is 99%. Globally, breast cancer occurs in less than 1% of men (CDC, 2021). The prevalence of breast cancer in Ghana up to the year 2020 stood at 18.7% (Globocan, 2020).

Risk factors of Breast Cancer

Studies shows that the cause of breast cancer is unknown but there are diverse risks factors that can result in breast cancer. These risks are modifiable (can be prevented) and non-modifiable (cannot be prevented).

Non-modifiable risk factors include;

1. Being a woman
2. Older age (> 50 years)
3. Genetic mutations (BRCA1 or BRCA2 genes)
4. Reproductive history
5. Family history of breast cancer
6. Previous treatment using radiation therapy

Modifiable risk factors include;

1. Physical inactivity
2. Overweight or obesity after menopause
3. Intake of hormones
4. Use of certain oral contraceptives
5. Intake of alcohol
6. Smoking

Symptoms of Breast Cancer

The first noticeable symptom of breast cancer is appearance of a lump (an abnormal thickened enlargement) that feels different from the rest of the breast tissue.

Other signs include;

1. Thickening of breast tissue
2. One breast becoming larger or lower
3. A nipple changing position or shape or becoming inverted
4. A rash on or around a nipple
5. Discharge from nipple(s)
6. Constant pain in part of the breast or armpit
7. Peeling, flaking or scaling of the skin of the breast or nipple
8. Swelling beneath the armpit or around the collarbone (NBCF, 2021).

Research

In a recent study (September, 2021) by some faculty members and a student of the Department of Nursing and Midwifery (DoNM), Pentecost University (PU) on Breast health practices among women in Eikwe in the Western region of Ghana, results from the study reveal worrisome gaps in the attainment of breast health in Ghana.

Eikwe is a small fishing town in the south east of the Ellembelle district of Nzema in the Western region of Ghana. The town is situated in Axim. It is located after Sanzule-

Krisan and is a branch road off the Esiama-Elubo road. It shares boundaries with Krisan and Sanzule to the West and Ngalekpole to the East.

Its geographical coordinates are 458'00" North, 228'47" West and altitude 15m.

(<https://www.maplandia.com/ghana/western/axim/eikwe>; personal communication).

The study sought to determine the knowledge of breast diseases and the risk factors of developing these breast diseases, to determine the knowledge of breast self-examination (BSE) and to determine the extent of breast screening practices [BSE, clinical breast examination (CBE) and mammography] among a sample of 100 women in Eikwe.

Findings showed that all the women (100%) knew that the breast could be exposed to diseases and more than three-quarters (>75%) were able to mention some breast diseases including fibroadenoma, duct ectasia, breast abscess/infections, mastitis and breast cancer. However, about half of the women (47%) did not know the causes or the risk factors to the diseases they mentioned. Also, about (91%) had heard about BSE but more than (>80%) did not know how to perform BSE. Moreover, regarding the extent of breast screening practices, all the women (100%) had not heard about CBE and (93%) had not done mammography before. Generally, more than half (>50%) of the women were not interested in breast screening practices. The reasons they gave included;

1. Lack of know-how in doing BSE
2. No symptoms of breast diseases
3. Belief that they can never get breast diseases
4. Fear of discovery of the presence of breast diseases
5. No time to do breast screening practices since they had to attend to their livelihoods

It is recommended that intensive education on the importance of breast health should be given to women in the rural communities in Ghana.

Prevention

The corner stone to prevention of Breast Cancer is early detection through breast self-examination (BSE) (see Figure 1), clinical breast examination (CBE) and mammography. These practices offer women the best opportunity for reducing breast cancer deaths globally. We send this clarion call to every woman;

1. Be informed
2. Practice regular breast self-examinations
3. Get screened at any nearby health facility.

To our men;

1. Help save the boobs
2. Become breastie bestie.

Figure 1: Breast self-examination

Source: www.hcmarbella.com



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STML MATRICULATION HELD

A total of 126 students of the Pentecost University's School of Theology, Mission and Leadership were matriculated at the Gomoa Fetteh Campus in PCC.

Aps. Mike Etrue who represented the Chancellor and Chairman of The Church of Pentecost, encouraged the students to take the privileges offered at the University serious; in order to prepare well for ministry. He said "God will not overlook diligence in one's pursuit of His assignment."

The Vice-Chancellor of the University, Rev. Prof. Kwabena Agyapong-Kodua in his matriculation speech charged the students to make their time in the University count; since the training is a major determinant of what they are going to do when they complete. He added that "universities shape human resources and world views. So if a University is not underpinned by Godly principles, it is likely to be a hub for training nation wreckers,"

Matriculation is a formal initiation of students into the privileges and responsibilities of a university. Today's matriculation is the first part as the University prepares to do another one for students in other faculties at the main campus in Sowutuom.





MINISTRY GIVES LIFE; NOT DEATH.... VC TO MINISTERIAL STUDENTS

Apostle Professor Kwabena Agyapong-Kodua, the Vice-Chancellor of Pentecost University, has advised ministerial students to engage fully with Jesus and allow Him to mold and modify them to suit the ministry they have received.

Speaking at the morning session of the first day of a 3-day retreat on Wednesday 6th October 2021, at Pentecost University's School of Theology, Mission and Leadership, the Vice Chancellor identified three main things: (1) that in comparison with the old covenant, the ministry they have received gives life and not death; it is more glorious; brings righteousness and not condemnation; it is permanent and not transitory; it is written on the hearts of people, not engraved on stones; and it is the ministry of the Spirit (2 Cor 3:7-11). (2) Despite the glorious attributes described in above, this heavenly treasure is contained in jars of clay (2 Cor 4:7). Hence the "condition of the jar or vessel can discolour the life within" ... Prof. Agyapong-Kodua said he said "The state of the jar therefore determines the ministry that it can give birth to.

He alerted that, the container or jar can be broken, crushed, and even leak hence must be treated with great spiritual care. He concluded with (3) that, the container can be worked on and be remoulded as depicted in Jeremiah 18 of the bible. He said, "we only have to allow ourselves to be remoulded by God and presented unto Himself, useful vessels for His glorious ministry." (2 Tim 2:20). He emphasized that, whoever Jesus picks, He modifies, remoulds and energizes for His great work of ministry, if the individual is willing and ready.

When the University A+ VC was taking the students through the processes that will ensure victory in their ministry, he mentioned among other things that, "adequate preparation is key."



He said, “no good soldier goes to war without preparing.” He continued by saying that, preaching alone does not guarantee victory. Quoting from Proverbs 21:31, he affirmed that although preparation does not guarantee success, it is a reflection on our worship and respect for the One who has called us and the role we have been called into.

He alerted that preparations reduce mistakes. In other words, for one to be victorious without much mistakes, the person ought to prepare well. He said this to encourage the students to take their preparation at STML seriously before they leave for their various stations.

Praising the lecturers and staff of the School, he asked the students to make good use of them. Pointing at some of the lecturers present, he said “make good use of the finest ministers we have.” He told them to engage these experienced ministers and learn from them, in other to avoid or reduce mistakes in their ministry and lives.

Apostle Professor Agyapong-Kodua again challenged the students not to repeat the mistakes they once criticized their ministers of doing. “You know what you didn’t like about your ministers, so do not do those things when you also become a minister” he stressed.

Comparing their former employment to this greater call, Apostle said, ministers should wake up early to spend quality time with God in prayers, read and meditate upon the word of God, for ministry calls for hard work. He said, doing the work of God is a serious business – “a noble task” (1 Tim 3:1)- the business of winning souls and preparing them for Christ is the most serious task. He therefore asked the students to start from now and spend good time in deep prayers, studying the word of God and reading good biblical literature.

He advised that, there is grace for all who wait on God and there is supernatural growth in ministry for those who allow God to work on them and their ministries. He added, “whoever engages with God all through his ministry will receive phenomenal growth, to the praise of our God.” He emphasized once more as he concluded and led the students in intensive prayers.



PENTECOST UNIVERSITY HOSTS LEADERSHIP OF THE GHANA REGISTERED MIDWIVES ASSOCIATION

The Department of Nursing and Midwifery under the Faculty of Health and Allied Sciences of Pentecost University held a workshop for some members of the Ghana Registered Midwives Association notable among whom included the leadership. The workshop is a part of activities towards developing a curriculum for diabetes training in Ghana. This is in line with the University A+ agenda to support the enhancement of curricula in Ghana to make them continuously unique and globally competitive.

According to Dr. Abigail, the Head of Department of Nursing and Midwifery at Pentecost University, who is also the President of the Ghana College of Nursing and Midwives (GCNM), the GCNM offers specialty training for nurses and midwives who want to branch into various specialties within their profession. "But there is a generally a gap when it comes to opportunities for specializing in diabetic care. That is why we held this workshop with support from Pentecost University to deliberate further on a curriculum that will fill that gap and make nursing and midwifery training in Ghana more elaborate. Dr. Kyei added that "the ideas we gather here will help us pay attention to issues that need to be addressed in the curriculum we will be developing to suit our peculiar circumstances when it comes to Diabetic care in our part of the world".

The lead facilitator Mrs. Angelina Ankomah, an award winning Ghanaian nurse in the UK, threw light on gestational diabetes mellitus which concerns pregnant women and infants. She used her experiences, observations and works at the West Herts NHIS Trust, UK which earned her an award by the Royal College of Nursing. Speaking at the workshop, Mrs. Ankomah said "at the West Herts NHIS Trust, I observed and ensured early screening, diagnosis and management of diabetes among pregnant women. This resulted to early and successful treatments and increased the



hospital's diabetes patients roll by 135% in 3 months." Mrs Ankomah, therefore, said she is glad to use these skills and experiences to contribute to developing the curriculum for diabetes care education in Ghana.

Commenting on the workshop, the President of the Ghana Registered Midwives Association Mrs. Netta Ackon, thanked PU for the initiative to host the workshop. She added that the workshop has equipped them with unconventional skills for early detection of gestational diabetes mellitus. Mrs. Ackon also said "we were made to know that the current management regime for diabetes is too basic, and members of my association are willing to undergo more training and therefore, advocate for more attention for diabetes care in the country."

The workshop was organized by Pentecost University with support from The Trio Bridge Foundation, a renown non-governmental health promotion organization in the UK. workshop is a part of activities towards developing a curriculum for diabetes training in Ghana. This is in line with the University A+ agenda to support the enhancement of curricula in Ghana to make them continuously unique and globally competitive.

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PIWCs are Centers of Excellence – Pentecost University Pro Vice-Chancellor

The Pro Vice-Chancellor (Ag) of Pentecost University, Aps. Dr. Emmanuel Anim has said the Pentecost International Worship Center (PIWC) of The Church of Pentecost are supposed to be places of excellence. Dr. Anim said this when he delivered the 10th anniversary public lecture of the PIWC-Odorkor, organized in collaboration with Pentecost University, on Tuesday 19th October 2021 in Odorkor in Accra.

Speaking on the theme “The impact of PIWCs on Pentecostal worship, the story so far and the way forward,” the Pro VC said culture “particularly, a culture of dominant group always has impact on Christian practices. The theologian therefore, gave historical antecedence of the internalization and cultural pluralism of the Christian faith as it spread from Jerusalem to the rest of the world. He said the first century church was largely concerned about conformance with the ethos of the preexisting Judaism and the Jewish culture.

“That is why in those days, Christianity was about what to eat, when to do what, but with little reference to the salvation message of Christ. “These he said already existed in Judaism which the early converts transported into the early church thereby made it hostile to other cultures.”

Aps. Dr. Anim continued that as the church grew, people of other cultures converted. This he said generated some clashes among cultures. He said “among other factors, the dramatic conversion of Saul, a renowned Judaist and soldier, resulted to wide spread of Christianity among many cultures.” This he said resulted to a diminish of the Jewish influence on the Church. As the gentiles became influential, they started searching for the place of Christ in the trinity instead of following Jewish norms.

He therefore, narrowed the lecture down to the Church of Pentecost and the PIWC concept. He said the PIWC concept was crafted to attract nationals of other countries and Ghanaians whose cultural identities and taste may have changed due to long stay abroad, or any other factor. He added that by and large, the concept has retained a lot of young people who were not comfortable with the early day Pentecostal mode of worship.

On the way forward, Aps. Dr. Anim urged that PIWCs should strive to be centers of excellence. By this “I mean that PIWCs should be prudent in how they manage time, type of music and ensure harmony of the diverse cultures of their members. He also added that ministers of PIWCs should be given international exposures.

In conclusion, Dr. Anim refuted claims that the concept is elitist and therefore urged ministers and PIWC congregants to protect the brand with good conduct in order to realize God’s plan for the concept.

On his part, the Chairman of the occasion Aps. Dr. Amos Jimmy Markin recounted his days as a young minister of PIWC in Kumasi and said the concept has come far. According to him, the concept initially faced opposition in the church, and serving as a PIWC minister then drew criticisms and prejudice. He concluded that “in all that the PIWC concept has grown and will be the main mode of operation in the church in the next few decades to come.” He advised that members should leverage the relative free the concept bring while observing and holding onto the basic message of the salvation for all souls.



Fuller Theological Seminary USA / Pentecost University Missiology Lecture 2021 Held Successfully

The Missiology Lecture 2021 organized by Fuller Theological Seminary in the United States in collaboration with Pentecost university has successfully ended. The three days' lecture is held in three centers globally, including Accra Ghana for Africa and Europe and Korea for the Asia block. The conference was on the theme "re-envisioning the mission of health: a global invitation to health and thrive in crises. It was addressed by seasoned academics from both Fuller and Pentecost University.

Addressing the global audience on the mission of healing from the African perspective, Aps. Onyinah Onyinah, a faculty member of Pentecost University asked for refinement in the healing ministry in the Africa Christian context. The respected academic said there are challenges with some of the practices in the healing processes such as blaming of vulnerable people for lack of faith and physical abuse in some cases. He, therefore, said "taking lessons from the COVID19 experience, as in no touching, pushing, and laying on of hands, the church may take cue from this and refine its healing practices.

In his remarks, the Vice-Chancellor of Pentecost University Aps. Prof. Kwabena Agyapong-Kodua said this has been a fulfilling lecture. He said that given the uncertainties and confusion around the world caused by Covid 19, the rise of Christian scholars to contribute to knowledge will go a long way to bring healing and comfort to many homes. The VC also said he is moved that Pentecost university was selected as one of the three centers, globally, for the renowned Fuller Theological Seminary lecture.



Alumni Connect

On 29th October 2021, leaders of the various year groups of the School of Theology, Mission and Leadership of the Pentecost University Alumni Association held a meeting on campus.

Participants expressed joy about the progress of the University A+ Agenda and the pride it's stirring up among the PU alumni network, globally. They also discussed means of re-invigorating the association and connecting with current students to share opportunities.

This is the first time that a sect of the PU alumni has met on campus, after a long while.



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