



ADVENTIST YOUTH MINISTRIES OBUASI ESTATE YOUTH FEDERATION



THE HISTORY OF OBUASI A.Y FEDERATION

Youth Camp and Youth activities were not a highly patronized programme in Obuasi and its environs in the early **1990s**, though it was a bigger one for the youth in the Accra and Kumasi Metropolis. It was a special program meant to address certain pertinent issues confronting the Youth and the platformial opportunity to seek redress emotionally, physically, mentally and spiritually. All this while, the Youth in the then two sectors (Estate and Kwabrafoso sectors) were not active, quite dull, not clicking and non-existing in some churches and districts, though there were a lot of young men and women, ladies and gentlemen, in the sectors.

Then **Elder George Adu** began (one of the elders in Estate Church) learning about the Youth and obtaining hand-outs and other literature from those who matter in Kumasi just to come and revive the Obuasi Youth, particularly Estate and Kwabrafoso. "It is said that, it takes only one person to bring a change." Don't forget that the Adventist Youth existed in some Churches under the able leadership of people like **Mr Frank Opoku, Mr Enoch Owusu, Mr James Nkansah, Mr Adu Kwasi, Coach Essien, Ps Fred Frimpong, one Bright from Kwabrafoso, Agrey Family Kwabrafoso, Karikari Marfo, Bro Duah (Bobriase), Eld Anane (Kwabrafoso) and few others we cannot remember.**

All these people did what they could to lead the youth to Christ through programs like Games, Excursions, Hiking among others. During these times, patronage of those programs were quite low, not appealing to church members and stuff like that. But some of us like **Ebenezer Mensah, Francis Appau, Charles Gyebi, Mark Ampofo, Edna Gyau Baffour, Elna Okra, Mercy Okantey, Mary Boateng, Hannah Osei, Adelaide Mensah, Perpetual Amoah, Benjamin Nkrumah, Frank Boafo (Gyeene), Frank Amponsah, Mary Amponsah, Ps Derrick Adu Asare (USA), Kofi Poku, Kwabena Sarfo** etc. were young then but very active in the youth ministry. We say thank you for the marvelous work and in fact we salute you for the tremendous work you have done so far in the Obuasi Youth Ministry-more grease on your elbows where ever you may find yourself, you have really contributed your quota. God bless us all-'Mo ayebi, Nyame nhyira mo'.

Again, time may not permit us to mention all who in diverse ways have contributed to sustain the youth even till now, **Eld Aggrey and his brothers, Eld Owusu Sekyere (Catsteve), Elder Duah (Bobriase), Ps Fred Frimpong-Koforidua, Eld Philip Obeng, the late Solomon Benson, Mr Essien (coach), the late Kwaku Abu, Sist. Regina Opoku, Sis. Ellen-K'foso, Wofa Baah Acheamfour, Mrs Edna Gyau Baffour, Mr Karikari Marfo, Mrs Elna Okra, Mad. Dina Anaye, George Yeboah, Appau Francis, Anthony Gyekye, Charles Gyebi, Ps Frank Amponsah, Nana Yaw (Dunkwa-now a military man), Ps Odoom** and the rest, who have impacted deeply in the lives of the youth positively. Your efforts and toils have yielded much fruits. It is now our turn to proceed and build on your foundation, May the good Lord help us.



In **1989**, **Dr. Pastor Gasper Colon** came to conduct an evangelistic campaign in Obuasi, Estate church premises.

During this campaign, team members from the Bantama church like **Elder Wiredu – U.S.A, Daniel Sarfo Poku, Boat, Anita** etc discussed **with Elder George Adu** that, elder if you join the youth, you can help them a lot. So after the campaign at Amanfrom for two weeks, **Eld. George Adu** invited **Anita**, the drum major to teach him how he can also train the youth on the drum major and marching drills.

When **Elder George Adu** came back he took people like the late **Comfort Asamoah, Fred Effah (now a Pastor in Eastern Region), Nana Appau Francis** and the rest and trained them in the drum major. **Elder George Adu**, decided that before we can start youth camps, we must be able to purchase drums for the Obuasi district. And by God's grace and with the help of the late **Pastor S.K. Yeboah**, we were able to purchase our first band for the district in **March 1994**. It was that year that we started the camp.

And in **1994**, after organizing the youth to some level, he (**Eld George Adu**) decided to introduce the Youth Camp programs to the youth and to make it grand and strong the first time, he invited people from Kumasi city (Bantama, Pankrono etc) to beef-up the spirit at Akrokerri Training College. So many people from Bantama (**Eld J J Appiah, Mr Daniel Sarfo Poku, Sis. Mary-Drum major, Coffie and others**), Pankrono (**Esther-now Sofomaame, and others**). All these people came to help us learn how to make and organize Youth Camps. In fact, that camp was fantastic, I remember that candle night during the Mini-Watch Night, when everybody lighted his small candle, courtesy the nearby-youth, in the circle and singing aloud and happily with the song "This little light of mine.....", our hearts were in heaven.

During this time, it was only Obuasi sector, comprising of Estate, Kwabrafoso, Dunkwa and New Edubiase districts under the able leadership of **Eld. George Adu and Mr Ahmed-Dunkwa**. And when the sector was growing, it was divided into Estate and Kwabrafoso sectors.

Estate Sector (comprised Estate, Dunkwa, and Jacobu districts) under the leadership of **Eld. George Adu** and Kwabrafoso sector (comprised Kwabrafoso, Bodwesango and New Edubiase districts) under the leadership of **Eld Mark Ampofo**. These divisions happened under the administration of Ps Osei Bonsu (then Conference Youth Director-SCGC)

However, the two sectors continued attending Youth Camps together until 1998 when each sector felt that each could organize its own youth camp. And unfortunately, on the part of the campers, they didn't enjoy the respective camps as when we were together-low turn-outs of campers, poor feeding, and poor programs among others. All these happened because we never took time to learn certain basic things so far as youth camps were concern, complacency and over confidence deceived us all.

In 1998-2000, we decided to merge again to organize the Youth Camp under the leadership



of Eld Mark Ampofo. Patronage was not too good but God saw us throughout the program. The venue was still Akrokerrri Training College. At this time, **Eld. George Adu** had decided to let another person continue with the good work he has done just to encourage us learn how to lead the youth.

Eld. Mark Ampofo didn't get it easy because it was like a “change of button” or it was like handing over a mantle from a senior prefect to a class three captain, though he was religiously and morally good, he struggled and had it tough.

And in **2000** because of the election run-off, Youth Camps were not organized as per the instructions by the conference because people feared, and again, that was when the dates were changing from the 19s to 20s (technically called Y2K). In **2001**, we could not get the Training College because President Kuffour had introduced the diploma distance learning and the school was a center and went to Boamponsem Secondary School at Dunkwa. In this era the spirit of the youth was dying and **Eld George Adu** came back to revitalize the spirit.

In **2002**, there was a Conference Youth Camp at Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST) so local camps were not organized. In **2003**, we went to Dunkwa Boamponsem secondary school under the leadership of Ebenezer Mensah and Gabriel Boateng (President and Vice) but no Youth Camp in 2008 because of the elections.

In this period, conference announcement was made clearly to the church members that, for the sake of the elections no one should organize a youth camp, and if one would want to organize, they should close the camp before the run-off (*ie 28/12/2008*). In the Federation, we all abided by the rule but because by then, the interest, spirit and importance of youth camp had been whipped-up, Dunkwa Junction and New Edubiase churches disobeyed the conference instructions and orders under the administrative leadership of **Isaac Fordjour (Hon. Escobar)**, the late **George Frimpong, George Mensah Jnr, Godson Oppong, Elder Akwasi Aboagye and Mad. Alice Owusu**. By then, the District Pastors (Ps Pambour And Ps Nnubeng respectively) confronted the newly elected federal president-**Mr Ebenezer Mensah** to call the people back home when they were about two days deep into the program, which we did, but all efforts proved futile. These districts did not heed to our advice and completed the camp successfully at Bekwai S.D.A Secondary School.

And to put on record for the sake of the future generations, this behavior was bad, lacked respect and must be condemned, must not be given space at all in our fold because it is irresponsible, lacks respect for our authorities and a bad example for generations.

In **2006**, we had the camp at Opoku Ware School under the leadership of **Ebenezer Mensah** and **Gabriel Boateng** as vice. It was very successful with some few hitches with our then Spiritual leaders (district pastors).



Since that time the presidency has remained with **Elder Ebenezer Mensah** with a change in the vice presidency. The vice president was changed to Eld Frank Amponsah who also reigned until **2012**. Currently, the federal administration is still in the hands of **Elder Ebenezer Mensah** and **Elder Daniel Okyere** with the supporting staffs like **Isaac Nkrumah, Janet Antwi, Bennet, Elder Gabriel Boateng, Isaac Fordjour (Hon. Escober), Charles Gyebi, Emmanuel Danquah, George Mensah Jnr, Daniel Adu Kyei, Seedorf (K'foso), George Yeboah, Elder James Appiah, Francis Appau, Enoch Mensah, Adolf Offe, Wofa Baah Acheamfour, Kwame Estica, Linda, Portia Serwaa, Ebenezer Dwumfour, Eld Akwasi Aboagye, Michael Anokye, Eld Bosompem, Kennedy(Boo Defender), Sister Sarah(Bobriase), Sister Aggie(Bobriase)** and many who this sheet cannot permit. We want to say thank you and God bless for your hard work and commitment.

Ebenezer Mensah reigned till **2014** and handed over to **Hon Jew Fordjour Escober** and **Daniel Okyere**, when the sectors had been divided into Estate and Kwabrafoso again. Both leaders did very well and lifted the flag so high for Christ.

After this, Estate Federation went to **Hon Jew Fordjour** and **Michael Boadi** as the President and Vice, whereas Kwabrafo District also went to **Daniel Okyere** and **Freeman**

In **2018**, Estate district as part of the Estate Federation decided not to join the federal camp at Kessben University and this generated misunderstanding and confusion in the minds of several youth members. They however, organized their own youth camp at Jamase on the Mampong road. Both camps were successful anyway. Both parties could not agree on the matter because of unaddressed issues and some leadership commentaries. The division came as a result of compliance and tolerance of shades of opinions. Fortunately, enough, they have begun smoking the peace pipe. Hoping that the matter dies naturally for the betterment of the youth.

These leaders have led the youth till now. Now Estate Federation is led by Michael Boadi and Kwabrafoso Federation by Daniel Okyere.

Despite the contributions of the above, we are still indebted to some ministers and other senior members like **Ps Osei Bonsu, Pastor Kofi Kwarteng (Past Conference youth director), Pastor Kwabena Boakye (youth director), Pastor Thompson (Union Youth Director), Ps Jonathan Owusu, Pastor James Opoku, Ps Amponsah Gyan Jnr, Pastor J O Mensah (Federal youth Pastor), Pastor Ranss Ankomah, Pastor Kyeame Fosu, Pastor Pambour, Elder George Adu (first federal president), Elder Ahmed (first Vice), Elder Rockson Kwaku Antwi-Ist Secretary (Germany), Elder Aggrey, Elder Manu, Derick Adu Asare, Jonas Owusu, Benjamin Nkrumah, Ecomog Troops, Late George Frimpong, Ebenezer Mensah, Escober, Maame Akomea, Ante Sophia, Maa Sarah (Kfoso), Maame Mary (Kfoso), Ante Kwakyewaa, Maame Dwumfour** and all those who in diverse ways have contributed to the growth and success of the youth.



If we are indebted to some people, we are also indebted to our matrons (current and past) we cannot neglect you. Our mothers and fathers, such as ***Maame Akomeah, Ante Sophia, Sister Christy, Sister Victoria Hasford, Maa Ataa, Mrs Joana Adomako, Maame Egyiriba, Sister Sarah, Ante Becky, Maa Dwumfour, Mrs Gladys Antwi, Sister Mary, Mrs Aboagye-Dunkwa, Obaa Sisi (Dunkwa Junction) Eld Manu, Amass*** and all matrons whose names cannot be mentioned now.

EBENEZER MENSAH'S ACHIEVEMENTS UNDER HIS ADMINISTRATION

Establishment of Education Endowment fund.

This fund was established in **2007** to help the needy but brilliant students secure their future but have been dwarfed because of some naïve thoughts and attitude from decision makers. So, when it comes to this issue, my heart saddens because of leadership attitude towards this project and lack of support from our frontiers and leaders. When brilliant chaps are looking for help to further their academic and vocational work to finally come and help the church some years to come, no one is near-by to offer any assistance in any form. Souls are dying and losing their divine future because of poor backgrounds and broken homes. In this Endeavour, we will forever remember ***Pastor Thompson (then Union Youth Director), Derrick Adu Asare (USA), Isaac Fordjour (Hon. Escobar), and myself (Ebenezer Mensah)*** for the immense role they played.

Pace-Setters

The solidarity and enhancement of the youth has given birth to the 'MOTHER' federation led by the Pastors and Elders in the local federal churches. Our federation was the first of its kind in the Ghana Union and now the concept adopted by all Unions in Ghana.

Growth (Membership and Spirituality)

Membership and Spirituality have grown as most youth members have been elected church leaders, some becoming Pastors, others playing leadership roles in some sectors, leading the church even now. It was during our tenure that Camper membership grew from 200 plus to 1000 plus.

Evangelism

Evangelism at Abadwum, near Akrokerri, Dunkwa during Youth Camp

Conference Games

Hosted the ever-historic Conference games in Obuasi at Ofori stadium (Training pitch for Ashanti Gold Sporting Club)



Establishment of Master Guide Club

Have established the Master Guides Club in the federation to train leaders for the various churches, districts and the nation at large. This was done in **2011** under the care of ***Mr Isaac Fordjour-Hon Escobar and Charles Gyebi.***

Bank Account Opening

Have opened an account for the Youth at Barclays and Gold Coast Securities Ltd.

Investiture

Established the first of its kind “the Exams Board” in the Union

A lot of members have been invested during our tenure. Over **700** members have been taught, tested and passed. In the federation, we now have close to **100** people who are MGs. In the past, it was not like that, but goodus to Ps Kwabena Boakye for his support and able leadership and our selfless Chief Examiners (***Adolf Offe and George Mensah***). It is during our tenure of office that we established the Exams Board to manage all exams in the federation. The first chairman was ***Mr Adolf Offe***. A lot more are also preparing for subsequent ones.

Leadership Workshop

Leadership seminar has been organized for the Youth leaders and the Federal Executives at Obuasi Estate Church.

Bible Quiz Competitions

Organized inter district Bible Quizzes for the youth several times.

Established Democratic Processes

Has established the process of electing federal Executives and their tenure of office. Per our agreement, each officer has tenure of two years after which he/she can be re-elected to the same office after which he/she retires from the same office but can hold other offices for some time and revert if he so wish. A document shall soon be developed.



Contribution to the State Security

Have also contributed to the creation of national/state assets through the police service, Armed Forces, Navy among others. Lots of the youth have joined these institutions and are successful

Social Amenities

Clean-ups have been organized in town-major streets and gutters and in some hospitals. Have also organized excursions for the youth.

And Many more

GOING FORWARD

The federation will be 20 years in December 2014 and we would want to celebrate it in grand style, where we will invite all past and current leaders and philanthropists to join us give thanks to God for seeing us through the journey. It has not been easy but He has been good to all of us.

Moreover, we are planning to liaise up with the Federal Singing Band to have a big Evangelical Campaign in one of the cities close-by.

Due the growth in membership and districts in Obuasi and its environs, the Federation will be eventually divided into two ie. Estate sector and Kwabrafosso Sector.

This vision has materialized today but has evolved into different names but same principle/idea. Instead of the name "Sector" it is now called Federation (ie Estate Federation and Kwabrafosso Federation) as per the Union's directive.

However, this will make the mother/Initial Federation defunct and has offloaded our duties, functions, responsibilities and assets to them.

And due to the divisions of the federations, a new body called "Youth Council" was naturally introduced oversee the administration of the two federations. This body comprised Ebenezer Mensah, Isaac Nkrumah, Adolf Offe and the two Pastors in the two federations.

Long live Obuasi Federation, Long live Adventist Youth in Ghana.

