



LIC *Magazine*

Edition 2, 2021

Building the Lord's Temple



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Editorial

God created human beings to live in a community. When God created Adam, He immediately knew that Adam was missing a companion and thus created Eve to be with Him. In fact, the very nature of God is communal: the Trinity – God, the Father; God, the Son; and God, the Holy Spirit.

In a similar vein, while we are individual temples or living stones (Ephesians 2:19-22; 1 Peter 2:4-7), we are a collective body representing the Lord's temple, His church, His Kingdom. Instinctually, one cannot live alone nor grow on his/her own. We all need one another, and we cannot function without the Godhead, who Himself is the Head of the Body. While on earth, we are a work in progress. The individual and corporate prayer, individual and corporate Bible study, fellowship, evangelism, discipleship, fasting, etc., are tools God uses to build us individually and corporately.

One aspect of life where this idea of communal life is manifest is the family. Globally, marriage and family are being redefined to embrace a whole lot of things and the current debate on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer + (LGBTQ+) issues in Ghana has given the Ghanaian society the opportunity to contribute to the ongoing global conversation. Rev. Julius Coomson and Mr. Nuku Kumaga provide much needed definitions and Biblically-based answers to some burning questions about sexual orientation and practices and what the Word of God teaches us about them.

We also look at the progress of the LIC building project, as provided by the Building Expansion Project Committee and Mrs. Mawuena Coomson provides insights for discipleship of children in our ever changing, fast-paced global context from her participation in the AWANA's Child Discipleship Forum 2021. The shared lessons provide tools for building the future Church, rooted and firm in the faith. Ms. Emefa Aveh gives us a glimpse into the Youth Week activities that took place in August 2021.

We hope you are enriched by the articles and we wish you a blessed, fruitful and healthy New Year! **LICM**

LIC VISION & MISSION

The vision and mission of the L.I.C. have been set to guide the church. The vision is to be a vibrant fellowship that reflects God's glory on campus, in the nation and beyond.

The three-fold mission is to:

- Build a Bible-believing, Bible teaching and Gospel-preaching Church.
- Build a worshipping, witnessing and serving fellowship full of the warmth of Christ's love to attract all on campus and beyond to Jesus Christ.
- Disciple all in the fellowship to come to the fullness of the stature of Christ, reflecting His glory on campus, in the nation and beyond.

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The Believer As The Lord's Temple

Building is an endeavor that requires careful planning, precise execution of the prepared plan and perseverance to the end. These are even more critical if the building is intended for the use of a dignitary.

When the Lord asked Moses to build Him a tabernacle in the wilderness during the days of the exodus of the people of Israel from Egypt, the instructions were detailed and the cost was to be substantial - to be borne by the entire community (Exodus chapters 25-27). The purpose of the building was clear and that informed the planning and execution. "And let them make me a sanctuary, that I may dwell in their midst. Exactly as I show you concerning the pattern of the tabernacle, and of all its furniture, so you shall make it" (Exodus 25:8-9 ESV).

Much later, when the people settled in the Promised Land and all was going well for them, King David intended to build a Temple for the Lord (2 Chronicles 6:7-9). He made elaborate preparations for this task but the Lord gave that honor to King Solomon, David's son and successor. That 'house for the name of the Lord' took several years of preparation and execution for obvious reasons.

Solomon's position was this, "The house that I am to build will be great, for our God is greater than all gods" (2 Chronicles 2:5 ESV). When Solomon finished building the Temple and dedicated it he called it "an exalted house" (2 Chronicles 6:1&2).

We do not have that magnificent edifice with us today. Instead, God has chosen to make every Christian believer His temple or His dwelling place. In one of his exhortations, the Apostle Paul began by asking the Corinthian Christians a rhetorical question, "Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body" (1 Corinthians 6:19-20 ESV; see also 1 Cor. 3:16).

Now if the elaborate preparations and precision that characterized the building of the Old Testament Temple is anything to go by then we

need to understand that God is not going to settle for anything less in making temples out of us. In the end, that temple must be fit for His use. “If anyone destroys God’s temple, God will destroy him. For God’s temple is holy, and you are that temple” (1 Corinthians 3:17 ESV). The stakes are very high!

It all begins with the foundation which is the structure that carries the entire building, every bit of the building rests on it. If anything goes wrong with it the safety and security of the entire building is dangerously compromised. Paul draws attention to this truth in the most unambiguous way, “According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is building upon it. Let each one take care how he builds upon it. For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ” (emphasis added 1 Corinthians 3:10-11 ESV).

In addition, no believer should ever imagine or think that after laying such a solid foundation he or she can go to sleep. The building project must continue unabated; indeed, it must be a careful, tireless, quality, life long enterprise. This reality can never be overemphasized. We will do well to consider the counsel of the Apostle in this matter, “Now if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw— each one’s work will become manifest, for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed by fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each one has done” (1 Corinthians 3:12-13 ESV).

Not to forget, the real builder of our lives is the Holy Spirit Himself, we only cooperate with Him in order for the desired outcome to be realized. “So then you are no longer strangers and aliens,

but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit” (Ephesians 2:19-22 ESV).

In the end, the quality of the temple each of us becomes will be subjected to scrutiny by the Lord and we must better beware! Sometimes, the Lord will find it necessary to make some changes to the building of our lives and we are expected to cooperate fully with Him and not resist His efforts to make us better whether it is through chiseling, hammering, re-shaping, etc. The process is called discipline. The Lord takes those He loves through it. “It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline? If you are left without discipline, in which all have participated, then you are illegitimate children and not sons. Besides this, we have had earthly fathers who disciplined us and we respected them. Shall we not much more be subject to the Father of spirits and live? For they disciplined us for a short time as it seemed best to them, but he disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness” (Hebrews 12:7-10 ESV).

In order for the beauty of Jesus to be seen in us we are constantly in formation; we are being transformed slowly but surely into the kinds of buildings suitable for the Master’s use. In God’s own good time, may each of us become the type of building that will be suitable for our Lord to reside in and then put to any kind of use that brings Him alone the greatest pleasure. We will not lose our reward. **LICM**

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spirits and live?*

Enlarge Your Tent

The Journey of the LIC Building Expansion Project

By Dr. Kwaku Twum-Baah, Chair, Building Expansion Committee

1. INTRODUCTION:

1.1 The LIC Building Expansion Project consists of a detached two-floor block at the back of the sanctuary and adding a first floor and attic floor to the existing church hall and administration block. The ultimate objective is to meet the need for adequate space to cater for the varied church activities, particularly on Sundays, and also the space requirements for the LIC discipleship mission focus. The architectural design therefore responds to the dynamic needs of a growing church, the judicious use of space to address current spatial challenges, including that of physically challenged persons. Towards this end, with the exception of rooms for offices and operational activities, all other rooms serve several purposes at different times and days.

1.2 The Project Management Team (Supervising Consultants and Contractors) regularly held monthly Site Meetings, preceded by inspection of works, to receive reports on progress of work and to take concrete decisions on moving the project forward.

2. PHASE ONE WORKS:

2.1 The scope of phase one works involved the construction of a two-storey extension of the Sanctuary, with associated building services and external works: paved and planted areas, walkways, power and water connections, and drainage. An important authorised contract variation was the introduction of six additional meeting/office spaces at the attic floor level, which called for the construction of a more durable reinforced concrete suspended floor slab instead

of the suggested contract timber flooring. This ensured the creation of a sub-server room at the attic floor level, to ensure immediate usage of the data system in the phase one of the project.

2.2 The main contract was awarded on 29th July 2016, with 6th September 2016 as the start-up date and a completion date of 5th August 2017. On account of authorised additional works and variations made to the contract, coupled with a few stoppages due to bad weather, a 15-week extension of the contract completion date to 26th November 2017 was approved by the Council of Elders. The services contracts were awarded on 20th November 2016, with concurrent completion date as the main contractor.

2.3 The main contractor took possession of the project site on 5th September 2016, and started clearing the site on 7th September 2016. In the course of the work, the high-tension transformer cable was mistakenly dragged by the excavator, causing some damage. The repair work was successfully carried out and completed on 10th September 2016. This was followed a week later with the demolition of the Accounts office building, the storage/ mother's changing building and the baptismal section of the main sanctuary, as required by the design, to make way for the extension works in this phase of work to start.

2.4 The sub-structure works, including the setting-out and excavations of the horizontal extension works from the western end of the Sanctuary, the casting of foundation concrete and column reinforcement, and casting of foundation walls, hardcore filling and ground floor slabs with premix concrete began on 19th September 2016 and were completed on 7th December 2016.



Rev. Phillips (far right) prayed to commit the work and workers to God's care

Photo credit: Kwasi Nyarko

2.5 Super-structure works started on 7th November 2016 with the casting of the concrete columns, fixing the continuation bars for the ground floor columns and erection of column formwork, while first floor reinforced concrete works, covering the casting of the first-floor beams were done in the second week of January 2017.

3. HANDING OVER OF PROJECT PHASE ONE:

3.1 The Building Expansion Project (BEP) Committee received the keys to the facility from the Main Contractor on Friday, 8th December, 2017 and which the Chairman, on behalf of the Project Management Team, handed over to the Presiding Elder at an official dedication ceremony at the site after service on Sunday, 10th December 2017.

3.2 The facilities handed over include, on the ground floor, four (4) rooms for: sick bay, library, vestry, and audio-visual for mothers with young children; waiting room, male and female changing rooms with shower and toilets (for baptismal candidates), wheelchair toilet, caretakers' room with shower, keys room, and a kitchen/pantry (large enough to keep deep freezer and refrigerator), with a store room. The lack of rooms to move the staff displaced by Phase II works dictated that these facilities be not used for their original uses now.

3.3 On the first floor are six (6) meeting rooms, one of which is a double-room with audio-visual facility for medium-size conferencing or serve as a congregation overflow on special occasions; it could also be partitioned to accommodate two smaller separate meetings. The floor also has male and female toilets. The attic floor has six offices/small meeting rooms, sub-server room, and large spaces for storage and water tanks.

4. BETWEEN FIRST AND SECOND PHASES:

4.1 The Council of Elders and the BEP Committee had agreed, even before the handing over ceremony, that the original phase two and phase three should be combined as the second phase and that there should not be a long break between the first phase of the project and the second phase. In the Committee's estimation at that time, site possession and commencement of second phase works could start early 2018, and the tendering and award of contract process for that phase had already been set in motion.

4.2 At the time the Contractor handed over the phase one of the project to the Church, the expectation was that the combined phase two would follow by mid-April 2018, at the latest. A Family/Joint Sectional Meeting in February 2018

supported combining the remaining works as Phase II. The scope of works involved, therefore, was the construction of a second floor on the church hall (with an attic floor) and administration block, adjusting some rooms on the ground floor, and extending the washrooms behind the church hall to provide a bookstore and canteen. The meeting also accepted a revised schedule that would have had works start in July 2018.

4.3 The planned schedule was based on the expectation that a one million Ghana cedis, set aside by an earlier COE decision and that had not been utilised, was going to be available to use as mobilisation fund for the second phase. Subsequent unofficial information and the 2018

AGM presentation suggested that the situation on the ground did not support this and, therefore, there was the need to have a break to mobilise enough to, at least, meet the mobilisation amount before the phase two could start. The downside of the break was that BEP fund inflows went down, thus further extending the break in project works activity.

4.4 The BEP Committee continued to tap the brains of colleagues and to have periodic meetings to see the way forward and to advise COE accordingly. Eventually, the BEP Committee sought for and had a very useful engagement with the CEO on 13th December 2018, on some comments from LIC members and proposals for a suggested way forward.

the COE however indicated that available information was that there is need for more space, given the expected long-term outcome of the discipleship vision focus.

5. OUTCOME OF ENGAGEMENT WITH COE:

5.1 Proceed with Project or Not: Comments received were divided: while some suggested that Phase I of the project had provided enough room space for LIC activities, and that we need not proceed further, others said that more space was needed. The BEP Committee decided to stay neutral on this; the COE however indicated that available information was that there is need for more space, given the expected long-term outcome of the discipleship vision focus. Not proceeding with the project was therefore not an option.

5.2 Provide an Attic Floor or Not: Members have showed appreciation for the foresight to provide an attic floor with additional room space for the first phase, without flouting official Legon rules on building. Providing an attic floor that adds more floor/room space for the next phase would therefore be welcome, but this was going to add about GHc 2.0 million to the cost. The BEP Committee argued that LIC has no other land space to provide additional room facilities and that, even if it had, it would cost much more to provide the space that the attic will add. The COE was in agreement that if funds are available, it would be good to use the attic space.

God, My Healer

By Prof. Akosua Adoma Perbi

In 1968, at the age of sixteen and in form 4 in Achimota School, I noticed I had challenges reading the writing on the blackboard. As a result, I often sat in the first row of the classroom. When I shared this with my parents, they advised that I get permission from the school to see an optician in Accra. I got my first set of glasses that year from United Trading Company (UTC), making me a very happy girl.

In 1985, I noticed more challenges with my eyes and went to see an ophthalmologist at Korle Bu Teaching Hospital, who put me on glaucoma medication. I used these and other eye drops faithfully for over 40 years.

I began to experience blurred vision in 2017 and my doctor at the time referred me to an eye surgeon at Adenta for evaluation. At the end of the year, the surgeon operated on my left eye to remove a cataract. This was followed subsequently by another operation (cornea transplant in left eye) in February 2018. Unfortunately, the vision in my left eye did not improve after these surgeries as I had expected, leaving me disappointed and apprehensive.

In 2019, the right eye followed suit – unclear vision, elevated eye pressure, etc. On one of his visits to Ghana, my son Dr. Yaw Perbi suggested I see an eye specialist in North America. As God would have it, my husband's cousin who is an ophthalmologist in the USA, was visiting Ghana around the same time. He took a look at my eyes and recommended I come to the hospital in the US where he works, for further attention.

And so, on March 10th, 2020 I underwent a 3-in-1 surgery on my right eye in Toledo, Ohio. By the 3rd day after the surgery, the doctors were happy with the results and discharged me. We had planned a visit to my daughter in Washington DC for a week or so before heading back to Ghana. The day we arrived, Pres. Akufo Addo announced the closure of the land and air borders, resulting in an extended stay in Washington, DC.

We arranged a follow up visit with an eye specialist there, only to discover that the eye pressure was once more elevated. This necessitated another surgery, which was done on 1st July 2020. Post-surgery required several visits to the specialist to adjust medications to manage the eye pressure, which stabilized just before the borders were re-opened and we returned to Ghana on 9th September 2020.

By the grace of God, the right eye has healed well, and it sees even better than it did in my younger days.

To God be the glory!!! LICM

Defining the Various Terms in LGBTIQ+

By Rev. Julius Coomson and Mr. Nuku Kumaga
(on behalf of the Youth Impact Leadership)



1. What do the various letters/symbols in LGBTIQ+ represent?

LGBTIQ+ is an acronym that is used to represent all the communities included in the LBGTQQIAA. The letters stand for:

L-Lesbian; G-Gay; B- Bisexual; T-Transgender; T-Transsexual; T-Two-Spirit; I-Intersex; Q-Queer; Q-Questioning; A-Asexual; A-Ally; +Pansexual; +Agender; +Gender Queer; +Bigender; +Gender Variant and + Pangender.

2. What do each of the above mean?

Lesbian

A lesbian is a female homosexual: a female who experiences romantic love or sexual attraction to other females.

Gay

Gay is a term that is primarily used to refer to a homosexual person. Gay is often used to describe homosexual males, but it is important to note that lesbians may also be referred to as gay .

Bisexual

Bisexual refers to people with a romantic or sexual attraction or sexual behaviour towards both males and females.

Transgender

This is an umbrella term used to describe people whose gender identity differ from what is normally associated with the sex they were assigned at birth. It is often abbreviated as trans.

Transsexual

Refers to those who experience a gender identity that is inconsistent or not culturally associated with the sex they were assigned at birth.

Two-Spirit

This is a term used by some indigenous North Americans to describe people who are seen as having both male and female spirits within them.

Intersex

Intersex is a variation in sex characteristics including chromosomes or genitals that do not allow an individual to be distinctly identified as male or female.

Queer

This is an umbrella term used to describe sexual minorities that are not heterosexual.

Questioning

This refers to those questioning their gender, sexual identity, sexual orientation. The people under this group are concerned about applying a social gender label to themselves.

Asexual

This refers to those with a lack of sexual attraction towards anyone.

Ally

A person who considers him/herself as a friend to the LGBTIQ+ community.

Pansexual

A person with sexual attraction or romantic love towards people of any sex or gender identity. People in this group describe themselves as gender blind, which is to imply that gender and sex are insignificant in determining who they become sexually attracted to.

Agender

They are also referred to as genderless, gender-free or non-gendered. They are people who identify as having no gender or being without any gender identity.

Gender Queer

This is an umbrella term for gender identities that are not exclusively masculine or feminine.

Bigender

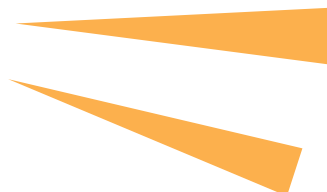
This refers to the situation where a person moves between feminine and masculine gender identities and behaviours, sometimes due to the context.

Gender Variant

This is also known as gender non-conformity and refers to behaviour or gender expression by an individual that does not match masculine and feminine gender norms.

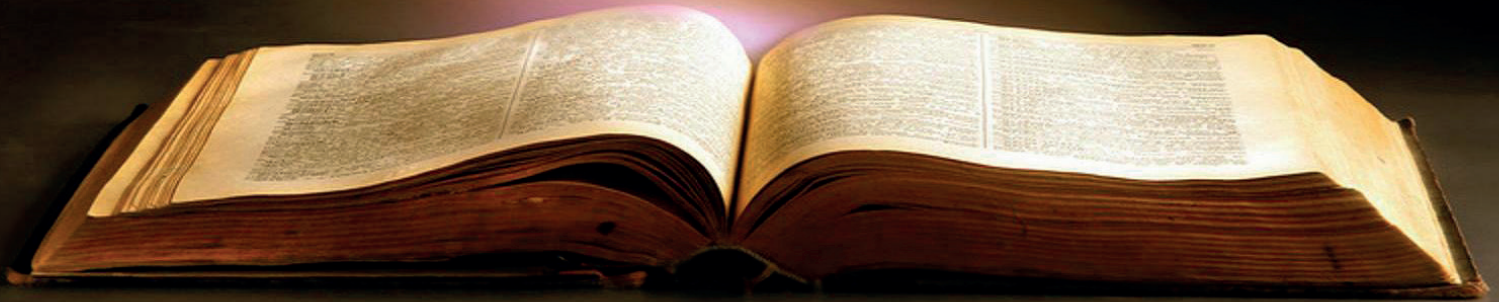
Pangender

This refers to people who feel they identify as all genders. It has a great overlap with gender queer.



What Does the Bible Teach About Homosexuality?

By Rev. Julius Coomson (on behalf of the Youth Impact Leadership)



Question 1 – Is homosexuality a sin? Why or why not?

Answer: The Bible clearly and consistently declares that homosexual activity is a sin. It goes against God's will and purpose for human sexuality. Scripture makes this copiously clear in both the old and new testaments and it is not limited to some obscure verses. However, homosexuality is not a necessarily a more grievous sin compared to other sins. All sin is offensive to God.

Question 2 – What does the Bible say about homosexuality? (Genesis 19:1-13; Leviticus 18:22, 20:13; Romans 1:24-29; 1 Corinthians 6:9-10; Jude 7; 2 Peter 2:6-9)

Answer: Looking at the whole of Scripture, we find a detailed picture of human sexuality. The story begins with God creating humanity in His image, male and female. Two different but complementary creatures, made for each other. Together, man and woman were fashioned to depict the image and likeness of God.

The Bible indicates it is an abomination for a man to have sexual relations with another man as with a woman (Lev. 18:22). Also, people who practice homosexuality will not inherit the kingdom of God and will suffer the punishment of eternal fire (1Cor. 6:9-10, Jude 7). The Book of Romans also captures homosexual acts as resulting from debased minds that did not acknowledge God as Lord nor give him thanks (Rom. 1:24-29).

Question 3 – Why is homosexual practice an abomination before God?

Answer: In Genesis 1:27, Scripture tells us that God created human beings in his image and he created them, male and female. Scripture tells us in Genesis 2:24 that a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife and they shall become one flesh. These verses show that sexuality is God's idea, and the full image of God is demonstrated in both sexes, and he ordained marriage between a man and a woman, not between man and man or woman and woman.

Therefore, the Heterogenous marriage relationship is God's original intent, and this relationship is so central to creation and humanity. God's weaves his idea for marriage throughout the Old and New Testaments. Marriage is the most crucial picture in Scripture of our relationship with God. God portrays himself as a husband, and his wife is the nation of Israel. She is unfaithful, but still his own, and he lovingly pursues her. And the church is the Bride of Christ, who sacrificed himself for her.

God's image is unchangeable and any attempt to distort this by humans is so wrong in his sight and constitutes idolatry as he seeks to rebel against the perfect order that brings glory to God. God's creative work is complete and has been declared as good by himself; making modifications to God's excellent work is a way of saying that his creation is neither perfect nor complete.

Homosexuality is wrong because it rejects God's model. Male and female were created for each other and together reflect the image of God. Same-sex relationships imply that the unique attributes both male and female bring to the relationship don't make much difference, that man and woman are virtually interchangeable.

Question 4 What was God's intention for human sexuality? (Gen 1:26-28, 2:24-25; Matthew 19:4-5)

Answer: In Genesis, God declares his purpose for Adam and Eve, that they unite in marriage and "be fruitful and multiply" (Genesis 1:28). God also puts man and woman together so that they would become one flesh as husband and wife. God's intention right from creation was for a man and a woman created in his image to come together and reproduce Godly children. Anything that deviates from this goes against the will of God.

Commenting further on this relation, Glenn Stanton, director of global family formation studies at Focus on the Family, notes that: God designed this marriage union to be permanent, committed, exclusive and self-giving. It is a complete union—emotional, spiritual, and physical—with the possibility of producing new life (Genesis 2:23-24).

Question 5a – How would you distinguish between homosexual temptation/tendency and homosexual behaviours/acts?

Answer: It is essential to distinguish between homosexual behaviours and homosexual temptations or tendencies. Homosexual behaviour is the sinful act of engaging in sexual activities between people of the same sex. Homosexual tendency or same-sex attractions is the condition of being enticed or attracted by/to homosexual feelings but not engaging in them. Homosexual practice is sinful, but being tempted by such tendencies, like any other temptation is not a sin. It is not the temptation, feelings of love or attraction between two human beings, or the struggle in our hearts that Scripture prohibits, it is acting upon them that is. God makes it abundantly clear He is close to the hurting, the confused and the tempted. Sin occurs when lustful thoughts are entertained, or we engage in behaviours outside of God's design.

Question 5b – How should someone with a homosexual tendency or inclination deal with those feelings? (1 Cor 6:11, 10:13; Heb 2:18)

Answer: A person may struggle with an inclination

to homosexuality or same-sex attraction, just as another person may struggle with a tendency to lie or indulge in any other form of sin. Feeling a certain way is no justification for giving in to such feelings as such feelings emanate from our old nature, which Scripture exhorts us to put to death (Colossians 3:5).

Breaking away from homosexual tendencies can be difficult and may take time. As children of God, we can overcome this temptation by renewing our minds by focusing on what the word of God says concerning homosexuality and meditating on these scriptures. Secondly, we must confess these feelings to God and trusted Christian friends and mobilize prayer support to deal with them. Another way to deal with this is to walk by the Spirit and not gratify the flesh's sinful desires (Galatians 5:16). God's forgiveness is available to the homosexual just as it is to the adulterer or thief. Building healthy relationships with others of the same sex, healing for past hurts, building accountable relationships in your church and growing closer to Christ and being changed into His image are also helpful in breaking free.

Non-Christians would need to hear the good news about Christ, give their lives to him, and then understand God's intention for human sexuality.

Question 6 – How do homosexuality and gender fluidity distort the image of God (Gen 1:27-28)?

Answer: God's reveals his image in gender (male and female), marriage (one man and one woman) and the reproduction between husband and wife (two men or two women cannot biologically have children). Altering the image of God is idolatry; redesigning sex, gender, family, or marriage is redesigning God's plan. God rejects the changing of his ideas or plans by man and therefore homosexuality is an abomination.

Gender fluidity depicts choosing another gender as opposed to the assigned gender from God; this is an act of man seeking to take charge of his life.

God's weaves his idea for marriage throughout the Old and New Testaments. Marriage is the most crucial picture in Scripture of our relationship with God. God portrays himself as a husband, and his wife is the nation of Israel. She is unfaithful, but still his own, and he lovingly pursues her. And the church is the Bride of Christ, who sacrificed himself for her. LICM

LIC YOUTH MINISTRY IN FOCUS ...

By Emefa Aveh



Remarkably (and rather obviously), it is easy to notice that LIC is blessed with a noticeable percentage of talented, vibrant, excellent and available Youth and Young Adults who (collectively) make up the Youth Ministry.

Armed, equipped, excited and charged to serve, the Youth Ministry responded to the arduous task of organizing its' three major programmes during a global pandemic (that necessitated conforming to somewhat "anti" event features) with the zest, gusto and creative energies that only the vibrancy of Godly youthfulness can rightly display. And to the Glory of God, the execution was splendid!

This write up is brief as it seeks to highlight a few details. The rest of the stories are told through the pictures. The Programmes in question are:

- Youth Fellowship Camp 2021
- Youth Ministry Week 2021
- Young Adults Fellowship Retreat 2021
- Youth Fellowship Camp 2021:

The annual Youth Camp took the form of a 2 day non residential retreat on church premises. It was a hybrid event with both a physical and a virtual audience. The theme was "Come, Taste And See; God is good!", culled from Psalm 34. and speakers included Mr. David Ebow Phillips and Prophetess Zipporah Crown.

Youth Ministry Week 2021:

Owing to the fact the pandemic took so much from everyone and impacted the lives of young people worldwide in many interesting yet somewhat overwhelming ways, the team settled on the theme “Count It Pure Joy” culled from James 1:2-4 and set about the task of designing the programmes to suit the needs of both its physical and virtual audience.

Programmes included:

- Youthweek Retreat
- Outreach
- Relationship Talk
- Acoustic Night (Sounds Of The Bible)
- Prayer Night (A Night Of Joy And Strength)
- Variety Night (Worthy To Worship)
- Youth Thanksgiving Service (Blast From The Past)
- Youth Funday

Some special and noteworthy features of this year’s Youthweek included:

- Having both virtual and physical speakers for the Relationship Talk
- The introduction of Acoustic Night as a new Youthweek Programme and the marvelous reception it got
- Minister Eric Jeshrun ministering in worship during the Variety Night
- A collaborative ministration with the various creative wings of the Youth Ministry (Music, Dance & Drama) to create an inspired piece
- The Youth Ministry at 41 anniversary cake baked by Kofi Asiedu of Nuel Cakes (a Youth Ministry member)
- The unique dresscode given to (and executed by) the wide church congregation for the Thanksgiving Sunday and the opportunity for pictures in front of a customized backdrop after Service to the glee of the young and old alike. Youthweek 2021 was indeed a “generationally” memorable one!

Young Adults Fellowship Retreat 2021:

In keeping with health and safety guidelines of the times we find ourselves in, the Young Adults Fellowship had a 3 day non residential, hybrid (physical and virtual attendance) retreat on church premises in lieu of its regular annual out-of-town residential (highly missed and heavily patronized) retreat in September. The theme was “Keeping Pace With Jesus” culled from Nehemiah 4, John 15:1-8. Speakers included Prophetess Zipporah Crown, Rev. Mrs. Agnes Phillips and Prof. Kweku Osam. There was also the exciting feature of a Drama Skit occurring in lieu of an exhortation and a surprise local “Etor” Birthday Cake for 4 male members whose birthdays fell during the retreat.

In spite of the physical and distancing limitations of the times, the cap on duration of events, as well as the numerous health and safety protocols to constantly keep, these programmes came off successfully and impacted many by the enabling strength and Grace of God! We set our gaze on the future, bearing glimpses of hope at what the coming year brings and can only wonder at this stage of how the Master would have us serve and cater to His delight! **LICM**



Prof Kweku Osam



The 41st Anniversary cake



Prophetess Zipporah Crown leading the Young Adults prayer meeting



Rev. Agnes Phillips addressing the Young Adults



Cutting the "Etor" cake



Emmanuel Sawyerr as "Life"



Some of the actors

5.3 Maintain Combined Phase II or Revert to Original Phase II and Phase III: Separating into second and third phases, as originally planned, will release facilities for use, but it will be more costly. A combined Phase II, as agreed in February 2018, would be less costly, because the Contractor would be encouraged to complete in 3 years, but it would be difficult for LIC to raise the needed funds in the 3-year duration. A combined second phase would create a lot more inconveniences, because room facilities, including washrooms, would not be available.

5.4 After the very fruitful engagement between the CEO and BEP Committee, the COE asked the BEP Committee to consider the suggested changes in the design and how they could be accommodated, and to provide COE with scenarios for the start of the next phase of the project.

The first floor would house a 54-seater conference room and media facility. An elevator and a multi-purpose auditorium were incorporated in this phase.

6. CONSIDERATIONS AND PROPOSAL OF BEP COMMITTEE

6.1 The BEP Committee, in its deliberations of the suggested design changes from the COE, was faced with two considerations: delay in start of work for the next phase and the cash flow picture.

6.2 Delay in Start of Next Phase: The BEP Committee was concerned that some of the suggested changes from the COE had come when all drawings had been done; one of these was to relocate the stairs close to the washrooms to create space for expanding the hall on the first floor. So, not only did it mean altering architectural drawings, but structural and services as well, and the consequence would be further delay of the start of next phase of work, given that the technical consultants have their own professional work to do.

6.3 Unfavourable Cash Flow Picture: Assuming a regular giving target of GHc 100,000 a month, it would take not less than 48 months (4 years) to raise the post-mobilisation amount of at least GHc 5 million. The Committee's own cash flow picture, as well as the expected individual contributions to the building fund would mean that it could take about five years to complete paying the contractor.

6.4 While we were still deliberating on the way forward, the BEP Committee Chairman received information from the COE, through our member of the COE, that an investment, which would mature somewhere in February/March 2019 and yield an amount of about GHc 2 million. This was good news, because it would be adequate to pay the mobilisation amount, but given both the

start of the next phase and the cash flow picture, the consensus of the BEP Committee was that we should proceed in two phases. The BEP Committee met a few times to assess the process and arrived at possible scenarios.


6.5 Scenario I (Vertical Phasing): This would involve erecting the main frame for the entire work, without the blockwork, as the first phase, and tackle the blockwork later as the final phase. This scenario would give more space for fundraising activities, but it would be an eye-sore if funds were not readily available to continue immediately. The worst part of this scenario is that there would be no completed additional facilities until the end of the project.

6.6 Scenario II (Horizontal Phasing): This would be the original phase two, to be followed with phase three. Phase two works would cover the construction of a first floor above the space occupied by administrative block, portion of the church hall, meeting room 2 and the kitchenette, and an attic floor above the space of the church hall, meeting room 2 and the kitchenette. It could take about 10-12 months to complete. The first floor would house a 54-seater conference room and media facility. An elevator and a multi-purpose auditorium were incorporated in this phase. The expected GHc 2 million cedis, plus additional funds raised in the year would be more than adequate. The case was strengthened by the fact that none of the suggested changes in design applied to this phase of the project, so that there was no delay in execution. Phase three works would cover the construction of a first floor over a portion of the church hall, the wash rooms, and an attachment for book store and canteen.

6.7 The BEP Committee was convinced that not only is combining the remaining works into one phase no longer feasible, but also a separation would provide additional facilities of value for money within a year. In addition to providing a fully completed block with facilities, it did ease pressure on our design drawing consultants and gave more space for thought on fundraising activities.

7. FINANCING OF THE PROJECT:

7.1 The BEP Committee is encouraged by the selfless spirit of giving of the LIC Family to the project fund. The Committee also acknowledges the contribution of GHc 10,000 from the LIC Credit Union that was brought to its attention on two occasions in 2016 and 2017. **LGM**



Takeaways from AWANA's CHILD DISCIPLESHIP FORUM 2021¹

By Mawuena Ivanna Coomson

Our church is only as good as its disciples!!!

Research has revealed that by 2050, a great number of youth and children would have departed from the church. The current dominant culture – secularism – is successfully dismissing God and emphasizing individualism. The world is strategically discipling our children from:

- Faith to doubt: “God is not real”, “God is dead”, “we are just fine without God”, etc.
- Love to insecurity: fake lives and friendships on social media leading to poor self-image, depression, among others.
- Communal to individual: personal autonomy has become the ultimate goal
- Contribution to consumption: “It is more blessed to receive than to give”.
- Rest to exhaustion: increased exposure to screens, tired families, etc.

THE CONTEXT OF THE FAMILY

For I have chosen him, that he may command his children and his household after him to keep the way of the Lord by doing righteousness and justice, so that the Lord may bring to Abraham what he has promised him (Genesis 18:19).

The family provides the foundation for discipleship. All kinds of families exist and none is perfect or ideal, not even biblical families. Remember Cain who murdered his brother? Remember how Jacob cheated his brother Esau? Modern families are no different. All the same, discipleship must take place, no matter the type of family. An intended family (e.g., Abraham-Isaac-Jacob) typically has a married couple and their children; an adapted family (e.g., Mordecai-Esther) could have a grandparent and grandchild; a one-parent family

How shall the church respond?

COUNTER-DISCIPLESHIP!!!

Doubt to faith, insecurity to love, consumption to contribution, exhaustion to rest....

But exactly how?

DISCIPLE THE PARENTS!!!

Parents are blessed with

- ➔ Proximity – parents are the closest to children
- ➔ Longevity – parents spend the longest time with children
- ➔ Love – no one cares for the children more than parents

(e.g., Eunice-Timothy) has one parent and an adopted family (e.g., Paul-Titus) is just as the name suggests.

Each of these families could disciple formally via explicit materials like memory verse flashcards and devotional books, as well as structured times for family/personal devotion and prayer times (ref. Deuteronomy 6:4-9). Nonformal discipleship occurs where there is some curriculum but no formal certification, e.g., Sunday School, AWANA, etc. Informal discipleship exists implicitly in family relations: interactions (even outside the family), conversations, play, reactions to situations, among others. How do parents treat house helps and beggars? Parents, can we ask ourselves: "What spills out of my mouth and what are my actions when my children bump into me all day?" Most families try to engage in formal and non-formal discipleship in a context suitable for the informal so it becomes difficult. Remember Jesus' approach was informal; He called his disciples to come and be with him.

Null discipleship may be the most impactful tier of discipleship today where what you do not talk about actually speaks volumes. Consider all the things your family never speaks about – sexuality, finances, etc. This reinforces the notion of the faith-secular divide. Shall we start speaking about these, rather than leaving the children at the mercy of secular education and advice? Today, the family must by all means engage in caring conversations between parents/guardians/grandparents and children/wards/grandchildren respectively. It is time to open the Bible at home! Read other books or watch movies and discuss. Family rituals and traditions must be geared towards discipleship – would you mind a lunch date to catch up with your child's spiritual walk with Christ? By all means, families must engage in community service. Parents, we can model this by for instance choosing an orphanage or mission house to which everyone saves and gives in bulk to annually. Shall we bring people home for a meal? How about supporting a missionary and their family with your children – financially and by communicating regularly with them?

THE CONTEXT OF CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

The foremost job of the child minder or Sunday school teacher is to LISTEN to the child. Who are these children? What are their needs? What is driving their specific needs? By attending to the child, we are able to form meaningful relationships out of which great feats in the faith will be chalked.

Pillars of Discipleship

Loving, caring adults in a warm welcoming environment help children feel like they BELONG, thus the children can be easily helped to BELIEVE or have faith. The aim is to make them BECOME resilient – stretchable but not breakable under the culture's weight – disciples.

Relationships form the heart of resilience!

Belong: A child in a meaningful relationship with an adult in the church will engage with the church, and is more likely to remain in the church.

Believe: A child with a meaningful relationship with an adult in the church is likely to be rooted in Scripture.

Become: Meaningful relationships with adults in the church eventually affects stability of faith in the future, as they move from simulation to real-world application of faith-based living.

In sum, the church needs a highly relational ministry, a deeply scriptural ministry, and a truly experiential ministry. Sign up to the Children's ministry and offer to simply love and chat with these young ones, even if you cannot teach. Look them in the eye and ask, "How was your week?" Let us notice when they are sad, visit them when they are sick, call when they are absent. Let them know the true King Jesus and the power of the Gospel. Edify and build yourself with Christian literature (books, videos, etc.) on the Gospel and contemporary issues like the LGBT+ agenda. Shall we read Scripture aloud and invite them to do same? Highly resilient disciples need real-world applications of faith.

*May discipleship become a priority and a reflex!
May love rule!* LICM

¹ The name AWANA is derived from the first letters of "Approved Workmen Are Not Ashamed" as taken from 2 Timothy 2:15.

Women's Forum 2021

By Linda Ntsiful



matter. She gave an introduction to breast cancer with revealing statistics and taught everyone present how to self-examine the breasts.

The main speaker for LIC Women's Forum 2021 was Rev. Akua Ofori-Boateng, an Anglican priest, Co-Founder of Aequitas, a mechanical engineer by profession, author of the book titled "Broken for use" and a seasoned speaker.

She gave a great exposition on the theme the Christian Woman in an Ever-changing World (based on Ephesians 5:15-16) in which she made the following submissions:

- We should not blame or use other people as an excuse for not being everything we can be.
- Making the most of every situation implies that though everything seems to be working against us, these difficulties provide us with an opportunity to demonstrate that the overcoming grace of God exists.

The hybrid edition of the 2021 LIC Women's Forum was held on Saturday 30th December, 2021. We had women participating in person at LIC and virtually on Zoom and YouTube.

We welcomed our Planning Committee Chair, Prof. Esther Sakyi-Dawson who gave her opening address. This was followed by a time of singing praises, the theme song "Women of Faith" and a hymn led by the Music team. Afterwards, we had an ice-breaker session led by Dr. Esi Ansah where she engaged participants to get to know each other.

We were privileged to have Dr. Louisa Matey, the Health Director for Ayawaso West give a Breast Cancer Awareness Talk since the month of October is the month dedicated for discussing this subject

- These difficulties do not set us back, but they come to give us an advantage, to strengthen us in the army of God.
- We are to make use of the evil days as Christian Women to demonstrate our faith.
- We must learn to understand the nature of the world we live in and be wise.
- We must be aware of what God wants us to do in every situation.
- If we want to be wise and navigate successfully in this everchanging world in which we live we must act on faith.
- As Christian women we must be able to reject what the world holds true and stand firm on the word of God.
- We need to draw all the resources we need from Christ to go through all our difficulties.
- We should use Scripture to point the world in the right direction.
- Thanksgiving is key as it eliminates every opportunity for complaining and murmuring.

- No matter what the world throws at us God has a purpose in all of them for us so we ought to give Him thanks.

This was followed by a time of prayer.

We also had an insightful overview of Women in the Bible by Rev. Agnes Philips in which she made reference to women such as Queen Esther, Deborah, Ruth & Abigail in her talk, “ Women fashioned by God”.

Below are some key lessons gleaned from these women.

Queen Esther

- Leadership involves sacrifice, no need to shrink back when duty calls.
- Question to ask yourself “ When God raises you up who do you raise up? “

Deborah

- Acknowledge what God has done in our lives.
- We should be peace makers in the various roles he gives us.

Ruth

- She was honoured in a way that was quite unusual.
- We can learn from the loyalty she showed towards her mother in law.

Abigail

- She didn't let her husband's attitude change her.
- We should ask God for grace to be able to carve out the space for us and continue to excel

- Changing people is not our responsibility it is God's.

She also encouraged us to examine ourselves by asking the following questions:

What are your high points?

What are your low points?

She reminded us that the Hero in all these stories is God. She added that God should be the most important person in our lives because He is the one who will grant us the grace to overcome difficulties in our lives and lead us unto the paths of righteousness.

We also had a breakout session with four groups led by a team of 12 facilitators. Ms. Nana Ekuaw Awotwi moderated the sharing session: A summary of the takeaways from the various breakout sessions are noted below:

Women, Career and Leadership

- Prioritisation is key so we are successful in all aspects of our lives.
- As a wife, submit to your own husband and recognise him as your head.
- While at work give off your best even if you're not recognised, remember to be productive.
- Recognise that each person is uniquely created, and so we should use our skills to bring up our families in the right manner.
- Start and finish everything with prayer.
- When we can't do something, we should outsource it instead of trying to do it all.
- Communication with God is what makes leadership effective
- We should use what God has given to us to bless others and be hospitable.



Developing Intimacy with God

- We were created to have Intimacy with God.
- You are never too old to begin your journey with God.
- Do not limit time with God to quiet time but engage God throughout the day.

Raising Godly Children in a Changing World

- God has given us promises but we are supposed to be raising our children so those promised are fulfilled
- Parents are chosen. Sometimes God places non-biological children in our paths aside biological children.
- Make time and be available for your children. Disciple them intentionally.
- Incorporate informal parenting in raising children.

Managing relationships, Singleness and Loneliness

- God has created us and put his Word in us therefore we are complete in Him.

- Prayerfully consider how to care for one another.
- In this season, it is good to build healthy friendships with both males and females, with a prayerful and watchful eye.
- There is no need to apologise for the season you are in.

Dr. Akua Ofori-Asumadu ended the sharing session with a few remarks after which we prayed and sang the theme song.

There was refreshment for those who attended in person. In addition, there was a virtual bazaar in which were businesses advertised on screen for participants to view.

Regarding attendance, there were 95 women who attended onsite at LIC, a maximum of 100 participants on Zoom and a maximum of 38 participants on YouTube. Generally, this year's event was a blessing to all who participated.

Background to the LIC Women's Forum

By **Rev. Agnes A. Phillips**

From the 80s, 90s and 2000s we were raising our families, growing in our faith, building our careers; we the older women of LIC. Then from the 2000s, our children became young women (and young men), and more women and their children joined us, from around Accra, Tema and beyond.

Busy as we were, we hungered for a closer relationship with God and with one another. We yearned to be more godly, more obedient to our Lord, better wives and mothers, excelling in our various careers — a VERY TALL order. But what do we do as women, active in the various ministries of a growing church, still desiring to discuss issues exclusive to us, but who cannot afford the time to become members of a regular Women's Fellowship? Women's Forum is the Answer!!! A forum by us, for us, to discuss our concerns, to challenge and inspire us in the upward climb to be women of God. Women who are strong in the faith, kind and humble, generous and courteous, qualified and competent, empowered by the Holy Spirit.

Down the Memory Lane

And so it was that on Saturday, March 8th 2014 (International Women's Day) the first LIC Women's Forum was held in LIC Sanctuary, under the Pastoral Care and Counselling Ministry of LIC, and attended by 150 women. Under the theme -

Woman: Created by God, Becoming Like Christ, the first Forum had Big Sister Rev. Dr. Joyce Aryee as the main speaker. "We've been created to be like sheep," she said. "It is one thing to know the Shepherd's voice, and another to follow like obedient sheep, trusting a Loving Shepherd." Speaking on Who is a Woman? Lessons from History, our own Prof. Akosua Perbi gave a broad historical sweep of women's contribution to civilization as co-managers of Creation. The breakout sessions dealt with six topics: The Christian woman and her self-image, her career, her family, her finances, her prayer life, and in the midst of trials and temptations. The first two topics were oversubscribed! (By the way, after three forums, we birthed the Men's Forum, hear! hear!!)

Seven years on, we are on the threshold of the fourth forum: The Christian Woman in an Ever-Changing World. We and our families live in the tumultuous world of the Covid-19 pandemic and a world where the God-given, timeless concepts of the human identity and human family are being challenged and threatened. Sisters, the world is confused, big time! But life must still go on even though we have questions, many and varied. The answer is still Jesus Christ, the Unchanging Rock in a roaring sea of tempestuous change.¹ He is our Hope, our peace, our Stability, our Refuge and our Strength. **LICM**

Donation to the Victims of Ketu South Tidal Wave Devastation

By Mrs. Angelina Adogla-Bessa

On Sunday, 9th November 2021 high tidal waves destroyed the homes, properties, and livelihoods of people in Ketu South.

In line with the aim of Social Action Ministry to identify, intervene and act on behalf of the church in the hope of making the ministry of Christ a reality to fellow Ghanaians, the ministry obtained the approval of Council of Elders to donate bags of cement and biscuits to the victims. The donation was made up of 256 bags of cement (costing GHC9,983.79) and 24 boxes of Nutrisnax biscuits (costing GHC1,704.00).

A team of four Social Action members, namely, Dr. Henry Telli, Mr. Delali Adogla-Bessa, Mr. Godwin Owusu Preko and Mrs. Angelina Adogla-Bessa made the presentation at Salakope of the Amutsinu/Salakope Constituency on November 20, 2021. The items were received by Mr. Sylvester Kamawu, the Assemblyman, Mr. David Doe, an opinion leader, and the National Democratic Congress (NDC) Constituency Chairman, Solomon Kumordzi.

The team extended solace to the people and shared God's word with them. The biscuits were distributed to all the people present at the presentation ceremony, including children who were invited to come for their share. The people were peaceful and calm. They received the team very well and they were very appreciative of the gifts. Solomon Kumordzi expressed gratitude to LIC on behalf of the people.

The cement will be used in the building of a community centre: a big hall with washroom facilities. LICM



Mrs. Adogla-Bessa (below) with members of the LIC Team and the community leaders.



Farewell Mr. You!

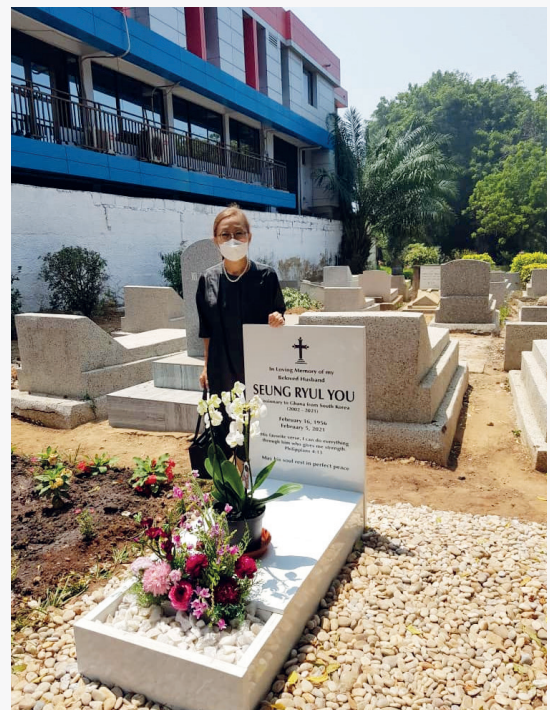
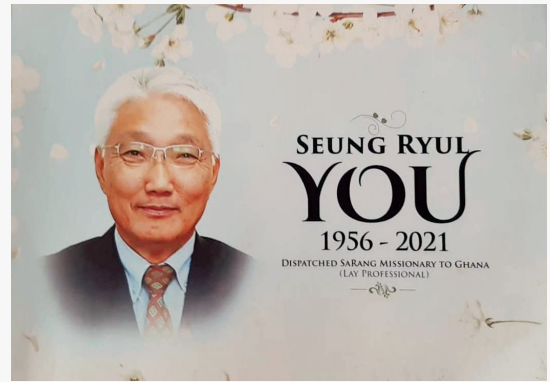
Friday February 5, 2021 will remain in the hearts of many participants of Called to Awaken the Laity (CAL) seminars for years to come. That day was when it pleased the Lord to call home Korean Missionary Seung Ryul You, whom we all called Mr. You. Before most people heard of his short illness, he was gone!

Seung Ryul and his wife, Dr. Kyung Ok Kim came to Ghana in 2002 and became members of Legon Interdenominational Church (LIC). Mr. You was a missionary/business man while his wife Dr. Kim, an accomplished pianist, taught at the Music Department of the University of Ghana School of Performing Arts. As a Sent Missionary of Sarang Church in South Korea, Mr. You was very keen on Discipleship and Leadership Training. He lived to spread disciple-making in the churches in Ghana and was instrumental in ensuring that many Pastors and Lay leaders from several denominations in Ghana, participated in the annual CAL Seminar, held in Seoul.

In February 2020, Mr. You facilitated the first Disciple-Making Global Partners' Conference in Ghana. As the Lord planned it, on February 5th 2020, Sarang Church's senior Pastor, Rev. Dr. Jung Hyun Oh, honoured Mr. You's labour of love during the conference with a plaque of appreciation. Exactly a year to the day, he was called up for a "higher appreciation". Preaching at the funeral service held at LIC, Most Rev. Prof. Paul K. Boafo, Presiding Bishop of The Methodist Church Ghana, thanked the Lord for Seung Ryul's dedication and persistence in moving forward the discipleship agenda in Ghana. In their tribute, CAL seminar alumni, said among other things, "When the history of disciple-making in Ghanaian churches comes to be written, the name Seung Ryul You will be inscribed in letters of gold."

His ashes were interred at the missionary cemetery of the Presbyterian church of Ghana at Osu, at a ceremony performed by the Moderator of the Presbyterian Church of Ghana, Rev. Prof J. O. Y Mante.

Seung Ryul You, you have finished your earthly tasks, rest in perfect peace. LICM



CROSSWORD

X	B	W	E	R	C	K	X	T	W	E	E
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C	I	D	E	O	C	A	T	O	B	O	E
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R	E	F	U	M	E	M	S	V	G	O	A

1. House
2. Cornerstone
3. Temple
4. Foundation
5. Chosen
6. Precious
7. Capstone
8. Builders
9. Rock
10. Priesthood
11. House
12. Chief
13. Holy
14. Dwelling
15. Altar

Do you seek an encounter with Jesus?

Do you desire a deeper relationship with God?

You're welcome to worship with
Legon Interdenominational Church
every Sunday and other worshipping days.

COVID-19 protocols are strictly observed

Link up on YouTube for our services:
<https://www.youtube.com/LICFamily>

You can also access the recordings of our programmes on
Soundcloud.com by searching for "TheLICFamily"

You Will Be Blessed

Theme for the Year 2021:

**THE INCOMPARABLE JESUS
HIS IDENTITY ... HIS MISSION**

Theme for the Year 2022:

CHANGING TIMES, UNCHANGING TRUTHS

For more information, call the Church Office:

0542 000687

LIC: Saved To Serve!

LIC: Saved to Mature!!