

## WOMEN ENRICHMENT SEMINAR REPORT 2021

Our Women Enriched team came out with the topic "CHILD UPBRINGING - THE ROLE OF A WOMAN" for the programme for this year, 2021 was held in four Regions in Ghana. Namely, Oti Region, Savannah Region, Northern Region and the Bono Region. This topic was a timely intervention for the Women Fellowship in the Pistis Christian Churches, especially those areas the team visited for the programme. The teachings were in two categories: Emelia Mintah managed the topic in the area of Physical Growth and Georgina Afrifa- Konadu, in the area of Spiritual Growth. Aside the teachings, the women were trained how to make a standard liquid soap at each of the programme centers. The team again allowed the women enough time to teach us (the team members) how they prepare their local food, soups, and how they also dress bed for their husbands and visitors at home.

On the 10th May 2021, Godfred Mintah (the Administrative Director) and his wife Emelia traveled from Accra to Tamale in the Northern Ghana for one day preparation with Afrifa-Konadu and Georgina for the trip ahead. We set off on the 12th May, 2021, to Abrubruwaa in the Oti Region with Krachi Nkwanta District. The next day at 9:20am, we met in the church at Abrubruwaa with three other local branches that came together for two days programme. A woman led in cooperate prayer and praises to God.

Godfred took over as the team leader. He introduced the team members with the topic for the year. He prepared the way for the first speaker and invited Emelia to teach on the topic: "CHILD UPBRINGING - THE ROLE OF A WOMAN" in the area of Physical Growth. She commenced the teaching with a quote from Proverb 22:6 by entreating the women to pray and bless their children in words and action, teaching them the word of God as they grow. Emelia recommended that those steps begin the very day the children are borne, and must continue as they grow because it will help them not to forget the presence of God wherever they would go. Going forward, she instructed mothers to teach their children the existence of God by showing them when and where to worship the Almighty God. In the course of the teaching, it was made known that children learn fast through observations and actions. They will learn to pray when they see mothers praying and sing with them. They will learn to use words and phrases like eg: **PLEASE, THANK YOU, SORRY, GOOD MORNING, GOOD AFTERNOON** and etc, when they see and hear mothers use those polite words with actions in and outside their homes. On the other hand, Emelia pleaded with the women to go and teach the children the time in which every action must be taken, so they will grow up with a sense of respect and punctuality.

Moreover in the area of health, she advised mothers to bath their children twice a day, teach them how to bath when growing up, clean them up and brush their teeth morning and evening. Children at age 5 must be taught to wash their socks and under wears and should be fed well – balance diet.

Finally Emelia challenged them to play a sensitive role by ensuring that siblings stay United when they grow up to be adult (Psalm 133:1-3). Whiles the children are growing, mothers should make friends and share some of their life time stories with them. This will let them do likewise with their private issues without worry at all. She said "mothers don't correct your children with

anger; discipline them and explain the reason why they are being punished"(Proverb 13:24). There was an hour and a half lunch break.

At about 2:30pm, Godfred takes over again and helped them memorized the names of all the items for the liquid soap making. He did that to help them identify the one to use first before the others. Lastly, Emelia took them through the soap making for about one hour twenty minutes and ended up with congregational prayer.

Georgina took over the second day after a short test conducted by Godfred to remind them of the previous lessons. She also taught on the topic: "CHILD UPBRINGING - THE ROLE OF A WOMAN" in the area of Spiritual Growth. Georgina stressed on the point that, the Development and Formation of a child plays a major role in Shaping, Molding and Nurturing the child both spiritually and physically (Prov. 2:6). Furthermore, she explained that molding a child spiritually is like using water, gravels and cement for a physical block. She said mothers must mold their children with spiritual materials like prayer, the word of God, and the rightful heart to serve. According to the teachings, it will give the child a firm stand in the Lord when he/ she grows up. Her focus was that spiritual growth is a day by day process of growing in the likeness and the image of CHRIST. She therefore threw a challenge to the women that they have been called by God with the privilege to set before each of their children the "LIGHT of the WORLD" (Jesus Christ). Letting them know that, JESUS is the only one who can save them, JESUS is the only one who will guide them, Jesus is the only one who will keep them both now and forever (Deuteronomy 6:4-7).

Georgina propounded three questions every woman should ask to understand the role a woman needs to play in a child's upbringing, in the area of spiritual growth. The questions were as follows;

1. Who is responsible for the spiritual growth of a child? (2 Tim.1:5)
2. What are the spiritual needs of a child? (Prov. 22:6)
3. What are the benefits of a child who grows spiritually?

Those questions were used as her sub topics to provide solutions for women to identify their weaknesses in raising children both in the home and the church, and how God expects them to play their Christian role as mothers to help grow the children spiritually. She practically advised mothers to pray with their children and go together to church with them. They should tell the children Bible stories about Abraham, Moses, Abigail and etc. She encouraged them to draw lessons out the Bible stories and teach the children with those lessons. In conclusion each of the women were made to commit themselves in the form of prayer to God, by taking a pragmatic responsibility to help raise their children in the way of God, and make them grow in the spirit.

After praying, Georgina allowed them one hour thirty minutes to teach us (the team members) how to prepare their local food and soup. They also taught us how they dress bed for visitors and their husbands at home. They were divided them into two groups and we supplied them with mattresses, pillows, and bed sheets. Each of the groups were awarded with a score based on their performance. The team leader advised the women to use their local spices and must reduce the

content of salt when preparing food. We added some knowledge to how they dress bed for visitors and husbands at home.

Finally the liquid soap made the previous day was shared among them for use in their homes. A sack of used clothes solicited by Emelia and few individual friends of Georgina were distributed to almost all the centers. The teachings of both Emilia and Georgiana touched the hearts of all the women and so, our wives were warmly appreciated by the women with a resounding clap at the end of every teaching.

This was how the programme was organised throughout the centers we visited, during the 7 weeks trip within the four Regions in Ghana.

#### FEEDBACK AND RESPONSE FROM THE CENTRES;

The number of women at Abrubruwaa were 36 and 5 men. Some of the women accepted the blame for failure to train their children from the early stage to go the way of God. They promised to go, work hard and win back their hearts for God and to themselves. They were asked to go and say sorry to those children they have offended.

At Brewaniase and Keri told, mothers were told not to provoke their children but rather make friends with them. A woman after realizing her fault, confessed about her wayward son who was once rejected by his father from the beginning without noticing the failure on their part. She wished this programme had come to them earlier. It was later on after several prayers, God laid on her heart to apply the same teachings Emilia taught that day and it worked for her. Now her son is her best friend and a changed person in the Lord.

Many women traveled about fifteen kilometers on a tricycle from some local branches to Keri. During the time of questions and answers, it was interesting to know that some even don't know God expects them to raise their children and teach them to serve Him. The number of women at Brewaniase were 37 and 11 men. 52 women and 4 men were also counted at Keri.

Nkwanta and Tutukpene had the lowest turnout in the District. Nkwanta registered 23 women and 3 men while Tutukpene had 16 women and 3 men. These women learnt new things on how to raise their children and the use of certain polite words like "**THANK YOU**" from a mother to a child, likewise the child to a mother. They consciously realised that continuation of the Christian raise depends a lot on how mothers should train up children in the Lord. The women finally praised and thanked God the soap making and the teachings.

From Tutukpene, we traveled across the Oti River to Krachi Borae District where we had two centers for the programme. It was unfortunate some of the women had an accident with a tricycle from Chinderi to Borae the very morning we started the programme. The team did our best by giving them first aid treatment with some medication to send home after the programme. The teaching was an eye opener to them, on how they have allowed some of their traditions to destroy the Christian values in raising their children for God. They said the tradition demands that a male child must not sweep, carry water and cook in the house. Those activities are

reserved for women and have misled some male children to disrespect mothers at home because, they will always have support from their fathers.

At this point, the women thanked the team for imparting them to train their children in the way of God. They praised God for the liquid soap and the used clothes. The number of women present were 88 and 4 men.

On our way to the Island at Attafiem, we traveled with engine boat for two hours thirty minutes on the Volta Lake. This experience was unprecedented; it was a silent moment throughout the journey. Our wives heads were tilted up in the sky as if they were under a military punishment.

The response we received from the women on the Island made us happy. Emelia's teachings made a woman make a confession about her daughter. She said her husband is a fisherman and so every Sunday down they go for fishing. When it is time for church service on Sundays, she will insist her daughter stays home and take care of the fish they brought from the river. She said she had repented and changed from that behaviour. She was ignorant and never knew it was wrong to engage her daughter in an activity that prevents her from going to church and worship God on Sundays.

During Georgina's teaching, Pastor Dzobo intercepted Georgina her on a practical demonstration she made by using words like Formation, Shaping, Molding and Nurturing to develop the child's spiritual growth. He was touched by the illustration and said the church has failed for not paying seriousness to the children Sunday school in the church. Pastor Dzobo was worried because there would not be any one to take our place when we are no more. After the teachings, two young men committed themselves to revive the Children Sunday School. A cooperate prayer was made for them to do a good work. They thanked the team for the teachings and the liquid soap. There were 43 women and 8 men in all.

Within the Kpandai District, Tandando registered 28 women and 20 at Kumdi. In the Salaga District, Makango recorded 21 and Salaga 16. At Chamba District, Lifaldo recorded 18, Segon 12 and Chamba 12.

In the North East Region, Yizesi recorded 37 and Loagri 34 women.

Gulumpe was the last center with fullness of gratitude. They also recorded 47 with seriousness to learning for positive change.

Finally, we can say, the Women Enrichment Seminar 2021 joy and appreciation thrown to God by the women across the whole centers we visited.

## CONCLUSION:

We would give praise to God for sailing us throughout the trip with many successes. Many women were revived both in the physical and spiritual. At some point, we all felt sick and thought we may not finish with the trip but the Lord's hands were heavy on us. We again had some problem with the new Nissan car, yet the Lord took us through. On our way back from

Yizesi to Loagri, a truck on top speed unknowingly smashed the glass with a stone at the door at the drive side. However, none of us was hurt

The grand total of all the women at the Women Enriched Programme 2021, was 578 from about 58 churches. Looking at the responses and the feedbacks from many of the pastors in local churches, we can confidently say there is a great hope for the future.

Both the journey and programmes were stressful and tiresome. Even though we praise God for the efforts of our wives, we will say they have performed very well to the glory of God.

Finally we will not leave out our team leader Godfred Mintah. He has exhibited a high level of maturity, love and cooperation throughout the trip. We will also thank Afrifa -Konadu for his organizational skills. The numerous calls he made to the Pastors and Women Fellowship Leaders to host the programme, not forgetting the good management of our funds.

To God be the glory great things He has done for us!

Presented by:

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