



COGOP Gambia News

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Edition

A publication of Church of God of Prophecy, The Gambia

COGOP GAMBIA DEDICATES FIRST SANCTUARY BUILDING IN THE GAMBIA

“Let them construct a Sanctuary for me, that I may dwell among them.” Exodus 25:8.

On Sunday May 13, 2018 over 400 people gathered for Dedication Day of the first Sanctuary Building of the Church of God of Prophecy in The Gambia. It was a special day of celebration for the congregation, Gambia Christian community, friends and well-wishers as we have been praying for this day for a long time.

The journey to establishing Church of God of Prophecy in the Gambia has not been easy. The Gambia is not a new nation to the Church of God of Prophecy but has been inactive until just recently when I was appointed to oversee the church and to revive the work.



On my resumption in December 2015, we were faced with the challenge of renting a place for worship, as property owners became averse to renting or selling their properties for Church use. Gambia is predominantly Muslim nation with less than 8 percent Christians.



But thank the Lord, today we can sing a new song. The Lord has built us a Sanctuary fully owned by Church of God of Prophecy.

While writing this report, a few thoughts flash into my mind. It was April 1, 2017 the foundation of this Sanctuary was laid. And now, we are here and we are definitely thankful to be here. This building is a confirmation of Psalms 127:1a which says: “Unless the Lord builds the house its builders labor in vain...” And truly because it was the

Lord who built this Sanctuary, we did not labor in vain. Let me take this opportunity to express our profound gratitude.

to all the donors and harvest partner churches and individuals for your outstanding contributions in cash, prayers, and encouragements. Your partnering and generous donations enables this project to reach where we are today. Thank you very much!



I want to also thank our General Overseer Bishop Sam Clements, Africa Presbyter Bishop Stephen Masilela and other General Presbyters, Rev Cathy and John Payne and all the Global Missions Team and all the International Offices Staff. Bishop T. A. McCalla, Bishop James Kolawole National Overseer Nigeria and Ghana, the UK Brethren, Bishop Paul McCalla and his wife Dorette. Brother Randy and Sister Pam Atkins, the Mission Possible representative for honoring our invitation to attend this historic and symbolic Sanctuary Dedication.

COGOP Gambia members and leaders, the contractors and those who have labored in this project. Last but not the least, my beautiful wife Bridget and my family for their great support and working with me all the time.



May this House of God continue to be the place of prayer, spiritual empowerment, discipleship making, healing and worship for many! May the name of our LORD Jesus Christ be praised. Congratulations Church of God of Prophecy!

Rev. Chris Utu
National Overseer
COGOP Gambia



Sanctuary Dedication Highlights



A BIG THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS AND PARTNERS

We remain ever grateful to the following churches, groups and individuals for their generous donations towards the Sanctuary construction. Your generous giving enabled us to complete the first phase, which is the Sanctuary section of the building project.

COGOP Popular Bluff, COGOP Crown Heights, COGOP Camp Branch, Olanta COGOP, COGOP Harvest Outreach, COGOP Harvest Ministries Roanoke, The Mission Possible, COGOP Daystar Ministries Bassett, Gamle Gade Abba's Love Church, COGOP Bridgeport, COGOP Rome, COGOP Delray Beach Haitian, COGOP UK, Riverside Church of God Charitable Trust.

Randy & Pam Atkins, Mary Rash, Jeff Robineatte,

Ruth and Allen Robineatte, Bishop Milton Atkins, Bishop Sam Caldwell, John & Tamora Williams, Charlotte Spencer, Duvall Daryl K, Dotson Jr., Larry J., Norton Genevieve, Tyler Louetta, Hall Janie, Givan Michael, Dailey Magdaline, Smith Julie, Givans Betty J., Jonas, Dana & Celia M, Carter Bonnie M, Moore Cindy K, Reynolds Dewayne, Munn Lula, Hill Rose K, Penley Tammara E., Bates Marcy, Gamecho Anna P, Stine Margaret, Cambell Valary G. Syemour Delray, Smith Laura, Brackett Charles, Bell Darline, Harris Raquel, Penley Jerry D., Beth Ingles, Terry Davis, Pryce Nikkie, Roth Sharon E., Lindo Robert, Fitts Huberts L., Sykes Geneva, Gardner Everett E. Meador Gordon R. Chad Bagley & COGOPSparta, Dennis Bryson and others.



Presentation of Church Flag by Rev Mrs. Cathy Payne, The Global Mission Coordinator



Bishop S. Masilela, The General Presbyter for Africa and other Ministers praying for Rev Chris Uti Family and COGOP Gambia Ministers.



Bishop Paul McCalla, Regional Overseer UK Region 4, presenting cash donation from COGOP UK to COGOP Gambia.



Presentation of Bibles to COGOP Gambia members. Bibles donated by Rev. Cathy Payne and Brother Randy & Pam Atkins family.



COGOP Gambia distributed gift boxes and clothes donations from Samaritan Purse International and Randy & Pam Atkins Family to over 200 Gambia children.

Special Fundraising Appeal for the Second Phase of our Building Project

The first phase of the project is completed and we have dedicated it to the glory of God.

Now the second phase is the next challenge which is a story building that will accommodate the Children's



Department, Offices, Library, Toilets, and Parsonage for our National Overseer and family who currently reside in a rented apartment.

The second phase of the project is estimated to cost \$45,000.

The Lord has blessed us with so many children. One big testimony here is both Muslims and other



Christians denomination in the community now release their children to attend our church services.



We record averagely 60 to 70 children at Sunday Services. But we have no place to accommodate them.

Please don't be tired. *"Let us not be weary in well-doing for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not."*



Galatians 6:9.

Work is already commencing and we hope to continue as funds comes in.

Your generous donation will be of help to us to achieve the second phase of this project which is very important asset to our church in the Gambia. We need the support of our members, churches, as well as the benevolence of corporate bodies and individuals to help us to achieve this.

Please make checks payable to Church of God of Prophecy, and mail to Global Missions Ministry, Church of God of Prophecy International Offices, PO Box 2910, Cleveland, TN 37320 or make donations at www.globalcogop.org

Designation - **Gambia Church Building Project.**
Thanks for your help. God bless you.

Sincerely yours in the Lord,



Rev Chris Uti
National Overseer
COGOP Gambia

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