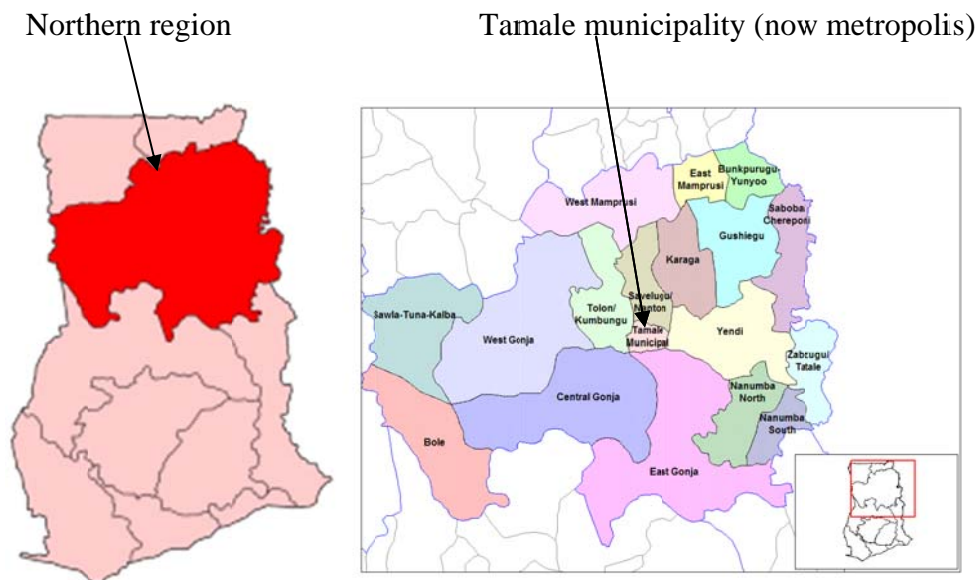


REPORT OF POST FIELD TRIP TO GHANA FROM 20.08.12 TO 10.09.12

by Adadow Yidana

During the second semester break of 2011/12 academic year, I embarked on a three weeks post field work trip to Tamale, Ghana, to do a reassessment of the information I gathered during my previous field trips. The trip became necessary in view of the need for me to reengage some of the key actors in the Pentecostal movements in a discussion to cross check the data I had from them and the possibility of getting additional data to add to the existing one.

The exercise took place in a city of Tamale, located in the northern part of Ghana. Ghana is a country in West Africa and share boundary with Burkina Faso to the north, Togo to the east, Ivory Coast to the west and Gulf of Guinea to the south. The northern region is among ten regions in the country and is home to 2,479,461 (10.1%) of the country's population of 24,658,823. Tamale is noted as the third fastest growing city in the country. The city was chosen for the study because of the increasing prominence of the activities of the Pentecostal movement, though it has been noted to be home to Muslims and traditional religious practitioners. Below are maps showing the position of northern region in Ghana and where Tamale is located within the region.



Three previous visits were undertaken to gather the necessary information needed for my dissertation. But in each of these visits, I was not able to get detailed information on the 2010 Populations and Housing Census on the religious affiliation of the Ghanaian population,

because the officials in charge were still working on it. This data was required to get an update of the current population to be able to make sense of those who profess Christianity, and more importantly, Pentecostalism. This visit afforded me that opportunity and I was able to get the comprehensive report, which provides a breakdown of their religious affiliation. The data indicates that Christianity continues its dominant position amongst all the religious organisations in numerical terms, constituting 71.2% of the entire population, and those professing Pentecostalism constitutes 28.3% of the total population.

I also visited the four selected churches, the Reach Chapel World Outreach Ministry, the Kings Christian Ministry, Winning Life Chapel and Powerful Jesus Outreach Ministry. This was to interact with the head pastors of these churches and to explore the possibility of getting additional information to add to the data I had from them previously in addition to seeking clarification on some of the information that were provided, which seem ambiguous after I finished my transcription. During the interaction, I was able to get information regarding the people they healed, especially at the Reach Chapel World Outreach Ministry, even though it was not different from the ones I had.

I also tried eliciting information with regard to their use of entrepreneurial skills in their daily encounters, and how it enhances the management of their respective churches. Though these meetings were informal, I got an insight into why entrepreneurial skills are employed to manage the affairs of their respective churches. They allude to the fact that since running a church involves managing people and other financial and material resources, entrepreneurial skills is required for one to be able to make positive progress. In addition to this interaction, I was able to do additional observation on their healing and deliverance, just to enrich my data.

Apart from the leaders of the churches, I also visited executives of the local council of churches and those of the Ghana Pentecostal and Charismatic Council. Clarifications were sought on some salient points I had from them previously.

Upon my return to Accra on the 8th of September 2012, I had an informal discussion with one Dr Michael P.K of the University of Ghana who have a rich knowledge in the Pentecostal movement, to share his experience with me.

I left Ghana and travelled back to Halle, Germany on the 10th of September 2012.