



Wholistic Quality in Values-based Education

The West-Central Africa Division (WAD), which encompasses 22 countries, experienced a massive reorganization during this quinquennium (2010-2015), which resulted in six unions being reorganized into 10, and 39 conferences and missions being reorganized into 49. These changes, in turn, resulted in an increase in the number of people directing the educational programs and activities of the new entities. As a result, the interest in and motivation to establish and support Adventist education has increased throughout the division. In addition, the educational programs and activities are receiving closer supervision than in the past.

The achievements listed in this report are the outcomes of the Christ-centered education offered by WAD institutions during this quinquennium.

Integration of Faith and Learning

Because of our passion to redeem and restore the lost through the grace of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, every WAD educational endeavor is designed to include intentional, systematic inculcation of biblical faith and values. Primary emphasis on universal moral principles through values-based education (VBE) effectively opens the hearts of students and their parents to faith in the Bible.

To support the teachers in this discipling ministry, the education department personnel at various levels throughout the division regularly conduct integration of faith and learning seminars and workshops on the philosophy of Adventist education, best practices in Christian teaching, learning, and living, and faith and science, among others. In addition, the division has expanded the number of subscriptions to *THE JOURNAL OF ADVENTIST EDUCATION* for our teachers from 500 to

3,000 (a 600 percent increase) through permission from the General Conference for us to print and mail the magazine locally. Further, peer review of instruction, with its positive effects on teaching effectiveness, is gaining ground in our institutions. In addition to high-quality, biblically based education, most of our schools at all levels regularly provide free services to their immediate communities in the areas of health, welfare, sanitation, nutrition, and drug-free lifestyles (prevention and treatment).

K-12 Schools in WAD

Compared to the last report in 2010, WAD has seen a reduction in the number of primary schools due to government takeovers in some countries in our territory. Despite this challenge, our K-12 schools continue to have a significant impact. The large number of baptisms reported during this quinquennium are evidence of the commit-

B Y C H I E M E L A I K O N N E

ment by teachers and staff to participate in redemption and restoration through Adventist education.

Academically, WAD students perform above the national and regional averages of their peers. Although most of the division's schools operate in places where the majority of classification events are held on Saturdays, they receive recognitions and awards for outstanding performances in events held on the other days.

For example, in Ghana, the Seventh-day Adventist Senior High School in Asokore earned first and second place in national debates marking the African Union Day of the African Child; and the students at the Seventh-day Adventist Health Assistant Training School (HATS) in Asanta scored a historic 100 percent in the 2013 final examination—the first school in Ghana to achieve this honor. In Nigeria, Adventist Secondary Technical School in

Owerrinta, Babcock University High School in Ilishan-Remo, Adventist Technical Secondary School in Ohafia, and Adventist High School in Osogbo all earned several awards in math, science, arts and culture, languages, writing, and overall academic performance in various Olympiads and exhibitions.

Maranatha Volunteers International, a non-profit organization that constructs buildings worldwide, has helped to strengthen the WAD K-12 system by completing 90 classrooms and 37 one-day churches in Ghana during this quinquennium.

Higher Education

- *Adventist University Cosendai* (AUC) in Nanga-Eboko, Cameroon, continues to offer bachelor's degree programs in business (including accounting, administration, and finance), software engineering, information management, computer maintenance,

education, theology, and church administration. AUC's 27 full-time faculty and staff members effectively prepare a student population of about 320 from 11 countries in their various areas of specialization. The university has had a positive impact on the religious faith, health, and welfare of the local community.

- *Adventist University of West Africa* (AUWA) in Monrovia, Liberia, commenced operations on February 21, 2011, with a limited number of two-year Associate Degree programs. For its first term, beginning in March 2011, it enrolled 206 students. In March 2013, AUWA received a full University Charter from the Liberian Government (effective from November 8, 2012) to offer bachelor's degree programs in theology, education, health science, and business. It will hold its first graduation in 2015. With a student enrollment of 570



Babcock University (Nigeria) students and faculty members participate in community service.

from seven nations, and a faculty of 70 in 2014, this new school is already making a significant impact on its constituency. For example, the United Nations selected AUWA as one of the tertiary institutions to train its personnel in Liberia. Moreover, the Liberian government is expecting AUWA to be one of the model universities in the country.

- **Babcock University** (BU) in Ikeja, Lagos State, Nigeria, continues to be recognized as one of the country's leading universities. Its development and growth since 2010 have been phenomenal. New, modern structures, enhanced infrastructure, and facilities are spread across the campus. Enrollment has increased from 5,850 in 2010 to 9,246 in 2014 (including 410 graduate students) from eight nations; the number of faculty has increased from 248 to more than 476; and programs have grown from 30 to 61 (46 undergraduate and 15 graduate).

According to UNICEF reports, in spite of Nigeria's current status as Africa's largest economy, it daily loses about 2,300 children under the age of 5 and 145 women of child-bearing age. For this reason, The Benjamin S. Carson, Senior, School of Medicine (BCSSM), inaugurated in 2012, is a beacon of light and hope.

Located on the campus of Babcock University, BCSSM's goal is to produce doctors who, in addition to demonstrating practical skill for handling common health problems and medical emergencies, possess a strong inclination to broad community health and preventative medicine, as well as the ability to lead a health team and manage, at least, a small health facility with competence, commitment, and compassion.

The program has grown from 14 pioneer and 33 pre-med students within the past three years. Currently, the BCSSM enrollment stands at 252. Partnerships and collaborations have been established



Babcock University students engaging in discussion outside of class.

with medical organizations in the U.S.A., Mexico, and India. Residency programs are available in surgery, internal medicine, radiology, community medicine, obstetrics and gynecology, pediatrics, family medicine, ENT, hematology, anesthesiology and medical microbiology and chemical pathology. Future plans include the establishment of a cardiac center and a renal center for dialysis and kidney transplants.

- Because of the need for more qualified church workers and the important role of education in evangelism and societal development, the church is pro-

posing to establish a second university in the southwest region of Nigeria, Clifford University, to be named in honor of the British pioneer missionary to this area, Pastor Jesse Clifford.

Already, the church's International Board of Education (IBE) has granted the school candidacy status to offer degree programs in the humanities, management, science, and technology, subject to licensure by the national accrediting body.

- **Valley View University** (VUU) in Accra, Ghana, remains one of Africa's

foremost ecologically designed and developed campuses.* Its expansion since 2010 has been remarkable: Student enrollment has increased from 3,279 to 9,200 (including students in distance learning and sandwich programs—modular sessions held three times a year) from 22 nations; the number of faculty has grown from 130 to more than 190; and programs offered have increased from 17 to 27, including Master’s degrees in banking and finance, human-resource development, and strategic management.

Plans for the Future

The transmission of biblical faith and values will remain the primary focus of WAD’s educational programs and activities. Peer review and clinical supervision of instruction will be conducted regularly to foster best practices in teaching, learning, and living. Fur-

ther, audio-video documentation of best practices in different subjects and topics will be produced and distributed to teachers so they can use them to upgrade their skills.

Our universities are planning to strengthen their research capabilities so they can expand their contributions to the improvement of the mental, physical, social, and spiritual development of human beings around the world. Further, they will engage in wider national and international collaborations with other institutions, as well as student and faculty exchange programs and research in medicine, nutrition, business, computer science, and technology.

We remain very grateful to the General Conference and North American Division education departments, Andrews University, and all our other

partners in Adventist education for their encouragement and invaluable support. But above all, we give glory to our Creator God for the honor of worshipping and serving Him! ✍

* See Dietmar Simmering, et al., “A University Campus in Peri-Urban Accra (Ghana) as a Haven for Dry-Forest Species,” *Flora et Vegetatio Sudano-Sambesica* 16 (2013):10-21: http://www.uni-giessen.de/cms/fbz/fb09/institute/ilr/loek/publikpdf/Sim_FVSS.



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The commissioning of Ellen G. White Hall at Valley View University in Accra, Ghana, by Aulikki Nahkola, principal lecturer in Old Testament at Newbold College, on July 6, 2014. At extreme right is Vice Chancellor Daniel Buor.