

# EMMANUEL OKAI

Regional Director Accra, Ghana

## Background:

**How do you serve in GCI?** National Pastor and Chief Executive for the Ghana Fellowship of GCI. Also, as the GCI Regional Director for West Africa, Supporting the Missions Director KK (Kalengule Kaoma), to Oversee Liberia, Ghana, Togo, Benin Republic, Nigeria and Cameroon. / **How many years have you been part of GCI?** 43 years now; I was baptized in September 1975 during Ghana’s second Feast of Tabernacles held in Cape Coast University (where I attended college a few weeks after baptism). / **How did you connect with GCI?** Through the Plain Truth Magazine when I was about 16 years old. / **Is there something unique about your church services that connect with your local context?** The music service made up of locally-flavored choruses, praises and hymns – mostly sung in the local languages and accompanied by drums and other musical instruments. In addition the vibrant participation of all segments of the congregation in dancing is special to Ghana’s cultural context. / **How did your ministry develop?** I started by serving the youth of my church in Lagos, Nigeria, Then as a Ministerial Trainee in Los Angeles and Ghana before being ordained an Elder in Accra. / **Who has invested in you to support you in your ministry?** All my Senior Pastors have been great mentors – Abner Washington being the stand-out mentor till today. My wife, Margaret has been the greatest supporter in my ministry. / **What makes you choose to give your time and energy to this ministry?** It is a calling from God and I believe it has eternal benefits for everyone involved. / **How has your ministry had an impact on who you are?** It has had a tremendous impact. My being a minister has changed everything about me since it began in 1990. / **What are some of your reasons for choosing to participate with GCI in ministry?** It started when my pastor asked me to help the youth. I was then drafted into pastoral ministry –it was not my choice. I believe God knew what was good for me. Actually, like the Hymn “take my life and let it be consecrated Lord to Thee,” that is how my life has been impacted these nearly 30 years.



## Get to Know Emmanuel



1.

I am most grateful to be born and still be alive.

2.

What energizes me - The hope of eternal life and the end of all the ills and evils around everywhere – in my community, nation, and world.

3.

My region is unique because: Ghana’s climate is warm and humid all through the year and it is devoid of any of the natural disasters that plague other areas of the world. Besides, our people are among the most friendly and most welcoming in Africa.

4.

5 Things I can’t live without: My wife, my son, my church family, something to read each day and good food.

**FAVORITE SCRIPTURE? LIFE MOTTO?** Romans 14:7 - 8. Whether we live or die, we belong to Christ.

**DESCRIBE YOUR PERFECT DAY.** Late wake up, breakfast of fruits and oatmeal, reading of scriptures and Bible commentary, indoors chatting with family, early dinner and outing to the theatre - no stressful phone calls and drive through traffic.

**IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE YOU WOULD LIKE US TO KNOW?** The Lord has been good to me. He lifted me up and opened many doors for me – including leading me to choose a wife who has been a true help-mate and companion for nearly 40 years!! (can I hear an “amen!”?)

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