



GHANA FELLOWSHIP OF
EVANGELICAL STUDENTS

KNOWING CHRIST AND MAKING HIM KNOWN

THRIVING TOGETHER

GHAFES

Ministry from 2023 - 2027





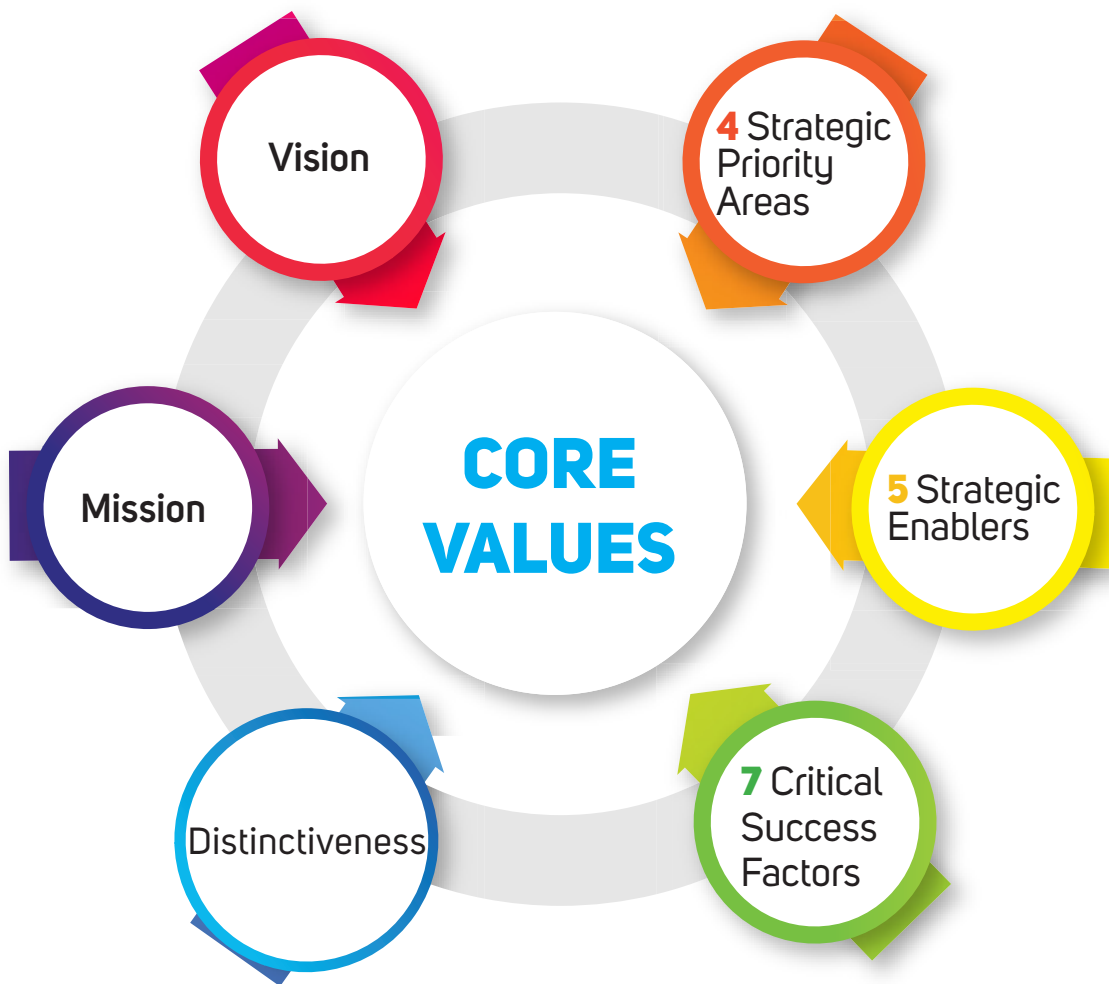
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Thriving Together

GHAFES Ministry from 2023-2027





OUR HISTORY

The beginnings of GHAFES is linked with the work of Christian lecturers from the British Inter-Varsity Fellowship - IVF (now the Universities and Colleges Christian Fellowship-UCCF) in the middle 1950's and early 1960's. These lecturers invited students to their homes for weekly Bible reading and prayer (i.e Cell Meetings). In typical British style, these meetings were followed by tea and biscuits, and soon became known as Bible study, prayer and tea Fellowships. By 1955, these informal Bible study meetings had been moved to the halls of residence at the University of Ghana, Legon. However, the informal Bible study groups in the College of Technology were the first to formally constitute themselves into the Inter-Hall Christian Fellowship (IHCF) in 1956. This was followed in May 1961 with the formal launch of University Christian fellowship (UCF) at Legon. The Fellowship at UCC was formed later by 5 students who had been members of Scripture Union in their secondary schools. Talks started among the three Fellowships of forming a national movement and in 1966 at a conference in Aburi, the Ghana Inter University Christian Fellowship (GIUCF) was born. With the growth of the number of Fellowships forming the GIUCF came the need for a name change, particularly with the introduction of fellowships in tertiary institutions which were typically, not universities. This was effected in 1975 with the adoption of the name Ghana Fellowship of Evangelical Students(GHAFES).



BACKGROUND & EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

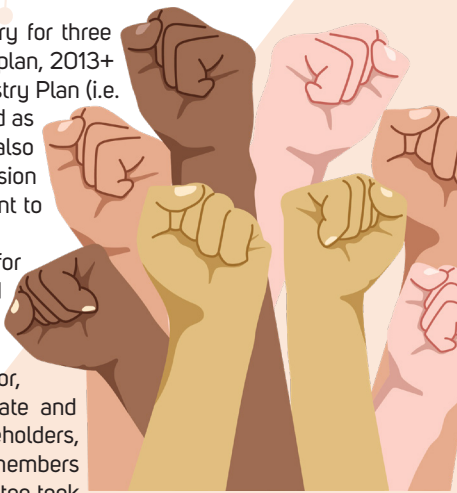
A new strategic plan for GHAFES became necessary for three main reasons. First, the previous GHAFES strategic plan, 2013+ had expired. Second, the Fellowship's 20-year Ministry Plan (i.e. GHAFES Ministry from 2000 to 2020), which served as a foundational document for the strategic plan, had also expired. Third, the Living Stones document (IFES Vision 2020), which also served as a foundational document to the strategic plan had expired.

Against this background, it became imperative for GHAFES to renew our commitment, direction, and priorities and to think about and plan for the future. With the GHAFES Board's blessings and under the support and leadership of an external facilitator, Elder Emmanuel Annan Boate, a GHAFES Associate and Management Consultant, a committee of key stakeholders, including students, associates, staff, and Board members set out to develop a new strategic plan. The Committee took

time to review the past and present, explored what the Lord is doing in other national movements within the English and Portuguese Speaking Africa (EPSA) region, and drew inspiration from the new strategic vision of the International Fellowship of Evangelical Students (IFES) global family. We prayerfully deliberated on and explored what our fellowship at the Local Campus, Zonal and National levels should look like in the next 5-years. With God's help, the fruit of these discernment processes and engagements is the birth of a 5-year strategic plan, under the theme, "Thriving Together: GHAFES Ministry from 2023-27.

"Thriving Together: GHAFES Ministry from 2023-27" aims at providing the broad strategic direction based on the *raison d'être* of the Fellowship. The Plan is expected to underpin the Fellowship's annual work plans, annual operational plans and programme initiatives. The Plan contains roll over of some uncompleted projects and programmes under the Fellowship's 20-Year Strategic Plan (2001-2020).

The Team adopted a participatory and consultative approach to ensure that there was a broad-based involvement of various stakeholders including Students, Associates, Staff, and the Board in defining the status of the Fellowship and the formation of the 5-Year Plan.





NEED, VISION AND STRATEGY STATEMENT (NVS)

After decades of engaging the tertiary world in Ghana with the Gospel of Jesus Christ, we still find a substantial number of students who go through the university without being engaged with the Gospel; an appreciable proportion of which are hostile to the Gospel. There is also a continuing lack of believers who are solidly equipped with an absolute commitment to the Lordship of Jesus, and who have developed the essential basic disciplines for Christian living and service. A growing number of students still lack the transformative edge that will radically transform their campuses through corporate and personal life and witness. These inadequacies are obvious contributors to the continuing decline of Christ-centred families even among graduates from our universities, unwillingness or inability of Christian graduates to take responsibility in the church, society and the marketplace in order to inject the transformative values of the kingdom into those spheres, the scarcity of professionals with integrity, and ultimately, the apparent dearth of effective Christian witness in the public square that is needed to push the Great Commission and the task of World Evangelism. Beyond these is the inadequate support ministries like ours who are focused on raising leaders to champion the abovementioned causes receive from the very people we train over the years. This strategic plan is intended to inspire a new wave of earnestness that will help raise generations of Christian students and graduates who will be the embodiment of Christlike disciples both in their private and public lives.





OUR VISION & MISSION STATEMENTS, CORE VALUES AND DISTINCTIVENESS

As an inter/non-denominational movement of evangelical students in Ghana, we shall be guided by the following ministry identity statements and values:

01

VISION STATEMENT

A movement of Christlike Students and Associates (*Character*), proclaiming Christ (*Witness*), transforming tertiary campuses, the church and society in Ghana (*Impact*).

MISSION STATEMENT

To reach, equip, and connect tertiary Students and Associates to be effective witnesses of Jesus Christ, serving as agents of change on campuses and beyond.

02

03

CORE VALUES

The GHAFES Family continues to hold-in-high esteem biblical beliefs expressed in our doctrinal basis which are not only central to the Christian faith, but also binds us together from diverse denominational backgrounds; thereby providing boundaries that characterize us as followers of Christ.

We are, therefore, guided by six Core Values –

Love of God and towards all persons

We acknowledge that love is the supreme ethic existing between the Father and the Son through the Holy Spirit. Inspired by this love, we respond to God's love for us through our obedience to him and response to his invitation to partner him in his redemptive mission of reconciling all men (and in this context tertiary students) to himself.

Faithfulness to Scripture

The Holy Scripture is the final authority in all matters of faith and conduct. We respond to God's invitation to love his word and savour it as expressed in its careful study, practice and teaching. We therefore, challenge a new generation to love, study, and live out Scripture, practice its spiritual disciplines to ensure the consistent growth of the believer and the engagement of the world with the implications of the gospel.

Prayer

We pursue a vibrant faith through the discipline of prayer that is dependent on and experienced through a growing relationship with God. Guided by Scripture, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we listen to, receive from, and intercede with the one who is the author and finisher of our faith.

Integrity

In our relationship with God and all persons, we hold integrity as a critical virtue underpinning our private and public lives. We espouse, therefore, integrity as the consistency of thoughts, emotions, actions, ethics, practices, measures, moral principles, expectations and outcomes on the basis of our firm belief in the Scriptures.

Stewardship

We espouse the fundamental principle of biblical stewardship. God owns everything, we are simply managers or administrators acting on His behalf, and that one day each one of us will be called to give an account for how we have managed what the Master has entrusted to us. Hence, our response to the call of stewardship is simply the logical outworking of our love for God by caring for what belongs to Him.



Pursuit of Excellence: In All We Do

When we observe the beauty and orderliness of creation, we come to a steady conclusion that God is excellent in being and in doing. We pursue excellence as a high quality and value in all that we represent and venture to produce distinct outcomes.

04

OUR DISTINCTIVENESS

As a GHAFES family, we share a foundational sense of our uniqueness which gives cause to live out our calling to the tertiary institutions. We express our uniqueness of our ministry by these statements;

- National and Indigenous: We are self-governing, self-supporting, and selfpropagating within the context of Ghana.
- A Fellowship: We are inter and non-denominational.
- Evangelical: We emphasize that salvation is by faith alone through the Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ alone and that Scripture (the Bible) alone is the final authority in all matters of faith and conduct.
- Student-Led Initiative: We are student-focused and encourage students ministering to their fellow students as a primal part of our ministry.



STRATEGIC PRIORITY AREAS (SPAs)

At the LCF, Zonal, and National levels, GHAFES will focus its energies on these four (4) Strategic Priorities Areas (SPAs) in the next 5-years, namely:

1. Thriving in Witness
2. Thriving in Whole-life Discipleship
3. Thriving in Leadership Development & Mentorship
4. Thriving on New Grounds and Strengthening Associates Ministry & Weak LCFs

SPA 1

THRIVING IN WITNESS

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." - (Acts 1:8,NLT)

Strategic Goal: Students empowered by the Holy Spirit and equipped to boldly and creatively proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ while addressing current issues biblically, intelligently and persuasively till other students come to faith in Jesus.

At the local, zonal and national levels, we will:

- encourage, equip and train undergraduate and graduate students to confidently and creatively share the Good News of Jesus Christ;
- increase the involvement of Christian Students in evangelism and the number of students reached with the gospel; and
- enhance the involvement of Christian students and graduates in praying for world evangelization.





SPA 2 THRIVING IN WHOLE-LIFE DISCIPLESHIP

"And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man." - (Luke 2:52,NIV)

Strategic Goal: Students firmly built into communities of Christlike disciples, boldly living for Jesus Christ, while integrating their faith with every aspect of life in a challenging environment.

At the local, zonal and national levels, we will:

- strengthen and nurture new believers and existing LCF members;
- enhance the capacity and prepare students to love, study and to live God's Word;
- encourage students to build strong, biblical and consistent prayer lives at the individual, small group and general fellowship levels to impact global missions; and
- build efficient and effective structures to engage and train students on issues of counselling, sexuality and welfare.

SPA 3

THRIVING IN LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT & MENTORSHIP

"And David shepherded them with integrity of heart; with skillful hands he led them." (Psalm 78:72,NIV)

Strategic Goal: Students developed to live and lead like Christ; becoming effective and transformational servant leaders who bring to bear the values of God's kingdom in every sphere of life.

At the local, zonal and national levels, we will:

- enhance Leadership Development through consistent training and engagement of student leaders at the local, zonal and national levels;
- recruit associates as mentors to guide students to live holistic lives through the GHAFES leadership and mentorship initiatives; and
- equip students to engage and integrate their faith with their field of studies and practice.

SPA 4

THRIVING ON NEW GROUNDS AND STRENGTHENING ASSOCIATES MINISTRY & WEAK LCFs

*"... But I say, wake up and look around. The fields are already ripe for harvest."
(John 4:35b,NLT)*

Strategic Goal: Strengthen weak LCFs, pioneer new LCFs and revitalise associates ministry as part of propagating communities of believers rooted in the Bible.

At the local, zonal and national levels, we will:

- assist weak or struggling LCF's to become established LCFs;
- expand the ministry's scope by pioneering new LCFs;
- revitalise Associates Ministry; and
- establish structures for the effective running of Associates ministry.



STRATEGIC ENABLERS (SEs)

The implementation of the four (4) strategic priority areas will require an enabling environment (internal and external) and a deliberate investment in five (5) strategic enablers (SE), namely:

1. Strategic Partnership Development and Networking
2. Institutional Growth and Sustainability
3. Research, Improved Innovation and Documentation
4. Infrastructural & Logistical Development
5. Investment in Digital Media and Strategies

SE1 Strategic Partnership Development and Networking

Strategic Goal: Improved and vibrant partnerships with Churches, Universities and Other Organizations.

At the local, zonal and national levels, we will:

- strengthen Partnership with Chaplaincies, LCF Patrons and Tertiary Institutions' Administrations;
- enhance Partnership with Churches, Christian Organizations and Donor Agencies;
- support other Student Movements in IFES; and
- increase Engagement of LCF Alumni groups.

SE2 Institutional Growth and Sustainability

Strategic Goal: Strengthened and enhanced GHAFES governance, institutional and human capacity.

At the local, zonal and national levels, we will:

- improve the structural performance for the ministry;
- enhance the Human Resource Capacity;
- enhance Resource Mobilization; and
- enhance Organizational Branding.

SE3 Research, Improved Innovation and Documentation

Strategic Goal: Establish a research team; improve innovation and documentation of balanced Christian-based content to drive ministry engagements.

At the local, zonal and national levels, we will:

- establish a Research team, promote relevant Research Projects and Scale up content development;
- enhance Capacity for Research and Content creation; and
- promote Documentation, application of research findings and Ministry Innovation.

SE4 Infrastructural & Logistical Development

Strategic Goal: Improved ministry capacity with relevant infrastructure and logistics for efficient ministry delivery.

At the local, zonal and national levels, we will:

- complete the GHAFES House Building Project; Plan for development of the land at Winneba; and acquire land properties;
- acquire relevant equipment for ministry advancement; and
- secure and furnish convenient and operational office spaces for Northern and South East zones.

SE5 Investment in Digital Media and Strategies

Strategic Goal: Improved capacity in developing and utilizing digital tools and platforms for Evangelism, Christian Apologetics, Discipleship, Leadership Development and Mentorship.

At the local, zonal and national levels, we will:

- invest in digital infrastructure and platforms; and
- build capacity of staff and students in digital strategies for effective ministry.

CRITICAL SUCCESS FACTORS

The following have been considered as critical success factors, which if implemented, would be game changers in enhancing the reach and impact of the ministry in the next five years.

Focusing on Digital Platforms for Ministry

01

02

Prioritizing Creative Evangelism and Missions for Ministry among and by Students

Restructuring Small Group Life and Scripture Engagement as Key Strategies for Whole-Life Discipleship

03

04

Effective mobilization and engagement in prayer among Key Stakeholders

Capacity building and involvement of Associates in direct Student Ministry

05

06

Strengthening strategic partnerships with churches and other organisations for Student Ministry.

Structuring Leadership Networks and Mentorship Programmes as Key strategies for Leadership Development and Transformation.

07



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