

WHO ARE THE CHRISTIAN CHURCHES IN WEST AFRICA ?

The Christian Churches in West Africa are sister churches to Christian Churches through out the world. There are over six thousand Christian Churches in America. World wide there are another 6,000 churches. Christian Churches in West Africa grow in number and in spiritual maturity through a partnership of labor with missionaries and dedicated African leaders.

Christian Churches seek to bring unity among all believers on the basis of the Bible only. We feel that unity in Bible teachings and church practice can be accomplished by following these mottoes:

---NO BOOK BUT THE BIBLE
---NO CREED BUT CHRIST
---WHERE THE SCRIPTURE SPEAKS, WE WILL SPEAK,
AND
WHERE THE SCRIPTURE IS SILENT, WE WILL BE SILENT
---IN OPINIONS, LIBERTY
---IN ESSENTIALS, UNITY
---IN ALL THINGS, LOVE
---WE ARE CHRISTIANS ONLY, BUT NOT THE ONLY
CHRISTIANS

These mottoes became the plea of a group of sincere Christians in America in the early part of the nineteenth century. Preachers and evangelists from denominational churches such as Presbyterian, Methodist, and Baptist became discouraged with the man-made teachings (doctrines) and practices of their denominations. They were unhappy with the division caused by denominational practices. They lived hundreds of miles apart, but they learned about each other. They began corresponding and meeting together for the purpose of unity.

NO BOOK BUT THE BIBLE

Over the years, handbooks, prayer books, and other documents were written to say what the church should practice. These books and documents contained man-made ideas that brought division instead of unity. These preachers and evangelists decided that the best way to bring unity among Christians was to use NO BOOK BUT THE BIBLE. They agreed to study the Bible only. They discovered in the New Testament, the teachings (doctrines) and practices of the first church, which was established by the Apostles of Jesus.

NO CREED BUT CHRIST

A creed is a statement of beliefs used by a denomination to separate itself from the beliefs of another denomination. These men saw creeds as instruments of division and not useful for unity. When they examined the New Testament they found only one creed: a simple statement which says Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God - Matthew 16:16, Acts 8:37, and Romans 10:9-10. Therefore they said: "We will have NO CREED BUT CHRIST."

WHERE THE SCRIPTURE SPEAKS, WE WILL SPEAK, AND WHERE THE SCRIPTURE IS SILENT, WE WILL BE SILENT

These men discovered that many of the teachings (doctrines) and practices of their denominations were man-made. These man-made teachings (doctrines) and practices were given equal value with biblical truth and often caused divisions. In order to avoid this problem these men agreed that: "WHERE THE SCRIPTURE SPEAKS, WE WILL SPEAK, AND WHERE THE SCRIPTURE IS SILENT, WE WILL BE SILENT." The Bible is the only source of truth because it is God's word. Therefore, we must defend the truth revealed in the Bible. Human beings have no right to make up their own teachings (doctrines) and practices which they present to the world as God's will for mankind.

IN OPINIONS, LIBERTY