

**CHRISTIAN COUNCIL OF GHANA (CCG)
2017 CHRISTMAS MESSAGE**

LET US ALLOW JESUS TO BE BORN IN OUR HEARTS AS WE CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS

The Christian Council of Ghana (CCG) wishes all Ghanaians a Merry Christmas.

This year's Christmas celebration offers us another opportunity to reflect on how we can allow Jesus to be born in our hearts.

Luke 2:6-7 states that "While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a Son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them."

Mary and Joseph were not given room to deliver the baby Jesus. The guest rooms were occupied. The people could not find space for Mary's Son because they were not conscious of the fact that the baby was God's gift to them and to the whole world. That consciousness eluded them and so they missed the presence of God. The manger which Joseph and Mary found became the dwelling place of God's presence among the people.

Christmas must convey the consciousness that God is always seeking opportunity to bring His presence among us, and we must create space in our hearts and lives for His Presence. That God consciousness should not elude us in the celebration of Christmas.

We call on all Ghanaians to offer their hearts as that 'manger' where Christ would be born. Let us empty ourselves of the preoccupations of life and consciously create space for God in our lives. If we don't, we miss His presence and lose the essence of Christmas. Our nation must be conscious of God's presence among us in every sphere of our lives.

We further urge Ministers to use this Christmas season to reflect on Galatians 4:19: "My little children, of whom I travail in birth again until Christ be formed in you."

Ministers should facilitate the formation of the God Consciousness in the hearts of their members during this Christmas and beyond. They must prepare their members to embrace the season with prayer and deep reflection on how they can make their hearts the home of Jesus Christ.

We wish all Ghanaians the best of the season and call for modesty in all that we do during the Christmas festivities.

SGND

**REV. DR. KWABENA OPUNI-FRIMPONG
GENERAL SECRETARY**