



THE METHODIST CHURCH GHANA NORTH AMERICA DIOCESE

December 22, 2024

TO: ALL CIRCUIT SUPERINTENDENTS AND PEOPLE CALLED METHODISTS

My Dear People Called Methodists in North America,

LETTER FROM THE OFFICE OF RT. REV. DR. SAMUEL EDUBATE NKETSIA

As we prepare to celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, I want to extend my warmest wishes to you and your loved ones. I am aware that even at Christmas, there may be some challenges in our individual homes. It is likely that some of us might have lost our jobs and loved ones. Some of you have also experienced misfortunes in the Year 2024. Nevertheless, The Lord has been gracious to us and guided us through another year. In our quest to appreciate His manifold blessings upon us, I urge you to therefore allow the undying message of Christmas to continue to shine brightly in our lives, and offer us hope, love, and peace in the coming New Year.

During the Christmas month of December, we are confronted with last-minute preparations, such as purchasing food and gifts for loved ones. It is also that time of the year when we take stock of events of the outgoing year, ponder over things to celebrate during the Christmas festivities and our expectations in the coming year. However, each year comes and goes away with its challenging moments. As a person in the Diaspora, I am aware of the fluctuations in the exchange rate and their impact. The devastating effects of wars often grapples with uncertainty, economic challenges, and social issues. With so many issues lingering on, it is easy to lose sight of the true meaning of Christmas.

Remember that the parents of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, faced an uncertain journey to Bethlehem. We know how they found themselves in humble surroundings. As His followers,

we might have one way or the other encountered the unexpected in our lives. Yet, amidst the difficulties, let the enduring message of God's love be the light of our path. When Mary and Joseph travelled on a donkey a very far distance and wanted a place to rest, we are told that there was no room at the Inn they visited. But at the end of it all, they got to celebrate the birth of Jesus. It is obvious that most of us, if not all, encountered some shadows or troubles in 2024. Nonetheless, I want to encourage you to find hope in the light that the birth of Jesus brings. Like the shepherds on that holy night, let us not be afraid, because the message of Christmas is a message of hope that transcends time and circumstances.

In his message to the People called Methodists at Christmas and the coming Year, the Presiding Bishop of Conference, the Most Rev. Professor J. Kwabena Asamoah-Gyadu, charged us to find the will of God, follow the will of God and fulfill the will of God. As we prepare to welcome the New Year, I would like to reiterate the directions of the Presiding Bishop that we should **Find**, **follow** and most especially endeavor to **fulfill the will of God**.

As leaders of the Church, the Presiding Bishop charged us, to serve the Lord's people in the spirit of Jesus Christ, who told His Disciples that, "He is among them as someone who serves" (Luke 22:27). I pray that in the coming year, both leaders and the rest of the church members will find common grounds to serve our Father in Heaven and make His glory shine amongst Men on earth.

Brethren, I pray that this Christmas fills your heart with the warmth of love, the joy of hope, and the peace that surpasses all understanding. May the light of Christ shine brightly in our lives, find all that we look for and bring comfort and assurance in the Coming Year. As the seasons change and years come and go, and as the sun sets on another year, may it rise again and shine light on new opportunities, perspectives, and adventures. Consider the New Year as a plain book, with a pen in your hands to fill your life with promises of a brighter tomorrow. On behalf of the Diocesan Executive, I would like to wish you and your family a blessed Merry Christmas and a prosperous Happy New Year. Afehyiapa ooooo!!!

Yours In His service of grace,
Rt. Rev. Dr. Samuel Edubate Nketsia
(Diocesan Bishop)