

# Ghana

## Republic of Ghana

**James G. Poitras**, Area Coordinator/Official UPCI Representative

**D. K. Tei**, National Superintendent, UPC of Ghana

**Population:** 22,600,000

**Area:** 92,100 sq. mi.

**Capital:** Accra

**Languages:** English (official), African languages including Akan, Moshi-Dagomba, Ewe, and Ga

**Religions:** Christian, 63%; Indigenous beliefs, 21%; Islam, 16%

**Missionaries appointed to Ghana:** Jim and Linda Poitras and Nick and Pam Sisco

West Africa's Republic of Ghana lies on the Gulf of Guinea and borders Ivory Coast, Burkina Faso, and Togo. This Oregon-size country, the former British colony of Gold Coast, became independent March 6, 1957. Its natural resources include gold, industrial diamonds, bauxite, manganese, timber, and fish.

It was inhabited in pre-colonial times by a number of ancient kingdoms, including the inland Ashanti kingdom and various Fante states along the coast. Trade with European states flourished after contact with the Portuguese in the fifteenth century, and the British established a crown colony, Gold Coast, in 1874.

## 48 • Insight: The Foreign Missions Directory

Gold Coast was the first black African country to obtain independence from colonial rule. Upon achieving independence from the United Kingdom in 1957, the name Ghana was chosen for the new nation as a reference to its ancient roots in the Empire of Ghana.

The first resident UPCI missionaries to Ghana, Robert K. and Evangeline Rodenbush, arrived in 1969. The UPC of Ghana now has 17,077 constituents, 151 licensed ministers, 257 churches and preaching points. In addition to ACTS-Ghana (African Center for Theological Studies) in Accra, a portable, short-term Bible school effort teaches as well as promotes evangelism to Ghana's 15,000 villages without a Protestant church. Over 3,200 Ghanaians have studied in the mobile, short-term Bible school program which takes training to where the people are. This program has been used in over 12 countries in the Africa Region.