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Ghana Pastor Sarpong Marks 10 Years After Church Fell to 8

A true story of faith under pressure. Read the first half below, then continue online.

KEY SPIRITUAL TAKEAWAY

"A Harvest of Blessings,"

(Transliterated from the original Hindi.)

They had gathered only to pray. When prayer itself becomes the target, faith is proved not by words but by staying.

The Story - Part One

Pastor Philip Sarpong marked the 10th anniversary of Altar of Blessings Ministry on Sunday 22 November 2026 by unveiling a new GH¢1.7 Million church auditorium in Ghana, and by telling the story of how his congregation fell from 25 members to just eight before growing to approximately 115. The anniversary celebration took place at Abran-Kese, Swedru (Lake Road), under the theme "A Harvest of Blessings," taken from Genesis 26:12-13.

It was a day of thanksgiving for a ministry that very nearly disappeared. Eight people. That is the number Pastor Sarpong kept coming back to, because it is the number that tells the whole story.

A church of twenty-five had shrunk to eight, and most pastors in that position would have closed the doors and walked away. He did not. He used his old private Astra vehicle to transport those eight members to church, because the ministry had so little, and he kept preaching to a room that was mostly empty.

Ten years later, those eight have become 115, and the room is a brand-new auditorium. Pastor Sarpong's involvement in Christian ministry spans almost 27 years, including periods of service with Deeper Life Bible Church and International Central Gospel Church.

He has seen ministries rise and fall, and he has learned the difference between the ones that last and the ones that do not. The lesson he shared on Sunday was not about strategy or marketing. It was about a word he says God gave him in the hardest season of all.

He was told to "hide and grow like a snail." It sounds strange until you think about it. A snail does not hurry, and it does not show off.

It moves slowly, it carries its home on its back, and it grows in the quiet, where nobody is watching.

For a pastor watching his congregation shrink from 25 to eight, it was the right word at the right time. Patience, humility and spiritual development became the whole ministry, and the snail, it turns out, was going somewhere after all.

The new auditorium is the visible proof of that slow growth. About GH¢1.7 Million was spent on constructing and furnishing the facility, including the purchase of a new set of musical instruments. It is a plain, practical building, meant to give the congregation improved space for worship, fellowship, prayer meetings and other spiritual programmes.

The Turning Point - What Happens Next

The story reaches a life-changing moment that changes everything -- and what seemed like the end is only the middle. Two reports disagree on the numbers, and one question is left unanswered: will the CCTV footage ever come out? Read the full story to find out what happens next.

PERSONAL REFLECTION & DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. When gathering to pray carries a real cost, what keeps a community coming together anyway -- and what would keep you coming?

2. The pastor's sister shielded him with her own body and fainted under the blows. What does costly, self-giving love look like in your own family or church?

3. When justice is delayed and a complaint is withdrawn under threat, how do believers hold on to truth without giving in to fear -- or to hatred?

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