

Our 2007 Service Award Recipients



Bishop and Mrs. Augustus B. Marwieh are our 2007 Service Award Recipients, an award that they so deserve and probably over due. Bishop and Mrs. Marwieh served Ricks Institute from 1961 to 1965 at the invitation of Dr. William R. Tolbert, then Vice President of Liberia. Bishop Marwieh was first appointed as Dean of Administration in February 1961 and then served as Adviser to the Principal, Rev. Poe who he later succeeded as Principal in 1963. As Principal he proposed the present motto of the school, "Not for Self, but for Others" which is used today. It was during his administration that the present uniform, navy blue and sky blue was proposed. The administration building and girls' dormitory were also built under his leadership. Ricks Institute became a high school and held its first graduation in 1964 during his reign. Before his appointment at Ricks, he initiated the coming of the Southern Baptist Missions to Liberia and subsequently at Ricks.

The "people's Bishop," as he is affectionately called, is a household name in Liberia. He is one of the world's outstanding citizens and visionaries who has diligently served his country and people, the church and Africa in many respects. Bishop Marwieh is extensively recognized throughout the United States as an ambassador of good will between the peoples of Africa and the U.S. He is considered the doyen of mission work in Liberia. He is known for his deep commitment to the social, cultural and economic emancipation of his people, which is the hallmark of his mission.

Born in a cassava field in a native village while his mother was digging for cassava, Bishop Marwieh has risen from modest beginnings to sit on some of the highest councils in the world. He did not enter school neither wore clothes until he was 15 years old. Ten years later, he graduated from both the University Laboratory High School of the University of Liberia as valedictorian and from the B.J.K. Anderson School of Business and Commerce with high honors.

Bishop Marwieh is highly educated and has earned many degrees and laurels in a wide-range of disciplines from his studies at the University of California (Berkeley), Bay Cities Bible Institute (Oakland), Simpson Bible College (San Francisco), Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary (Mill Valley) and Fuller Theological Seminary (Pasadena).

In his quest to further grow in the grace and knowledge of God, he studied at the School of Pastoral Care of the North Carolina Baptist Hospital and the Bowman Gray School of Medicine in Winston Salem, North Carolina.

Dr. Marwieh attended the Summer Institute of Linguistics at the University of Oklahoma, where he translated his native language to writing. The Bishop received a Bachelor's degree in Theology in 1958 and a Masters in religious education two years later. In November 1960, the Progressive Baptist Church following his graduation ordained him. In December of 1960 he returned home to serve his country and people.

He also holds a doctorate degree (Ph.D.) in Missology and Economic Development with emphasis in empowerment and nation building.

The bishop has attended and spoken at a host of international conferences including the International Congress on World Evangelism in Berlin, Germany, the West African Congress of Evangelism in 1966 in Ibadan, Nigeria. In 1974 he served as convener and speaker at the international Congress of World Evangelization in Lausanne, Switzerland.

As a result of his outstanding contribution to Liberia, he was knighted as Knight Commander for African Redemption in 1978. In 1986 he became one of the six good-will ambassadors appointed by the Liberian Government serving for national reconciliation among the country's political parties.

Bishop Augustus B. Marwih is also founder and president of the Association of the Independent Churches of Africa (AICA), a conglomeration of 170 indigenous churches in Liberia, Sierra Leone, Ivory Coast and Guinea. He also founded and served as president of the Ministry of Hope, a non-profitable organization which had an active and progressive ministry in the role of teaching and instructing people in personal development, education, the arts of music, drama, healthcare, agriculture, industry and religion. Bishop through the Ministry of Hope had a weekly one hour televised program, which was then widely viewed by many Liberians. Throughout its existence, the ministry spanned the entire spectrum of the condition and the full range of man's concerns. Not only did that ministry save souls for Christ, it also helped the flock to lead richer, more productive and wholesome lives.

Since he fled the civil war in 1990, he has been in significant physical contact with Liberians back home and even in the refugee camp. He currently runs a pilot project, the Agency for Holistic Evangelism And Development (AHEAD) on the Liberian refugee camp in Ghana in a bid to address the plights of his people. AHEAD operates various programs to empower refugees in economic development, empowerment and self-sustainability, education and healthcare as well as Christian evangelism and (ATI), the West Africa College of Sustainable Development and the Child Feeding Center on the Buduburam refugee camp in Ghana.

Bishop and Mrs. Marwih have been married since January 29, 1961 and are blessed with 5 children: Floyd, George, Bettie and Donna Marwih. Floyd, George and Bettie are Alumni of Ricks. Bishop and Mrs. Marwih are also blessed with 12 grand children and many adopted children.