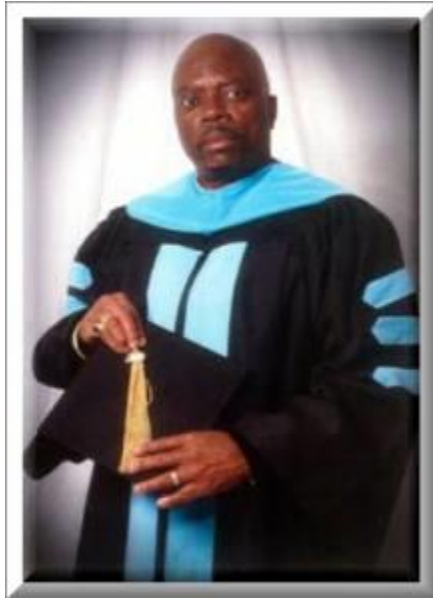


Rabbi Joe Gbaba Designated as Guest Speaker at Gbarnga Methodist Mission School Alumni Reunion Event on Saturday, 3 September, 2016 in Columbia, Maryland



Introduction

Distinguished alumni of Gbarnga Methodist Mission School from all walks of life in the diaspora will converge on the City of Columbia, Maryland for their annual alumni convention beginning Friday, September 2 through Sunday, September 4, 2016. Also expected to attend this auspicious gala are hundreds of guests, including Liberians and foreign nationals and friends of the school. Designated as guest speaker is none other than Rabbi Dr. Joe Gbaba, Executive Director of Dehkontee Artists Theatre, Inc. (DATI). Dr. Gbaba will address the crowd on the topic: ***“Expressing Gratitude to Our Alma Maters: Using Education as Bedrock for National Development and Reconciliation”***.

The veteran educator and cultural expert will also seize the opportunity to urge the government and people of Liberia, foreign governments and philanthropists, members of the Gbarnga Methodist Mission School Alumni Association and the United Methodist Church of Liberia, to prioritize the holistic education of postwar Liberian boys and girls so that they may become fruitful and peaceful law abiding citizens of Liberia and the world at large. Furthermore, Dr. Gbaba is expected to encourage alumni of the Gbarnga Methodist Mission School (also known as Tubman-Gray Junior and High School) to give back to their Alma Mater which ranks as one of Liberia’s best primary and secondary schools.

History of Gbarnga Methodist Mission School



St. John's United Methodist Church, Gbarnga, Bong County, Liberia

The Gbarnga Methodist Mission School was founded in 1949 in the City of Gbarnga, Bong County, in Central Liberia, by the Methodist Church of Liberia (now known as United Methodist). The goals and objectives of the Methodist Mission was to provide the best learning environment possible for students attending Tubman-Gray Junior and Senior High School and later the Gbarnga School of Theology that was augmented to the Mission to carry out and enhance the Christian ministries of the United Methodist Church in Central and Northern Liberia.

The school was later named in honor of William V. S. Tubman, Sr—a devout Methodist Christian and 18th President of the Republic of Liberia—and the founding missionaries of the school, Mr. Ulyses and Mrs. Vivian Gray who were Director and Principal of the Mission and school, respectively. Initial funding was provided through the auspices of President Tubman. The actual ground breaking activities and construction of the campus, as well as the administration of the school were carried out by the Grays who are regarded as the spiritual Mother and Father of Gbarnga Methodist Mission School. Through their sweat and sacrifice Gbarnga Methodist Mission School rose to prominence as one of the best primary and middle schools in the Republic of Liberia. It was later elevated to secondary school in the 1980s after the military coup d'e'tat in Liberia.



Some Alumni from the 2015 reunion in Maryland, U.S.A.

Over the decades Gbarnga Methodist produced outstanding graduates that have made immense contributions to Liberia in various disciplines. Some of the illustrious alumni include: Dr. Emmett Dennis, President of the University of Liberia, the late Honorable Bismark Kuyon, former Principal and member of the House of Representatives of Bong County, Mrs. Viola Gaba, former Principal, the founder of the Gbarnga Methodist Mission School Alumni Association in the Americas, Mr. James Venn and his late wife Williametta Knuckles-Venn, Mrs. Irene Roberts-Gulley, Mrs. Nenie Peabody-Coleman, Ms. Natalie Steward, and the current President of the Association, Mr, Kafua Kulah, among many distinguished alumni.



Tubman-Gray High School Eagles Gymnasium, venue of the Upcountry Basketball Tournament

In the past (from 1949-1989 up to the inception of the Liberian civil war) the Gbarnga Methodist Mission had a thriving agricultural program that supplied the local area with meat, fish, chicken, and vegetables. Gbarnga Methodist Mission School gymnasium was used as the famous venue for the Annual Upcountry Basketball Tournament that brought together many reputable secondary institutions of learning in the hinterland of Liberia to compete and socialize. Furthermore, Gbarnga Methodist along with the Lutheran Training Institute (LTI) in Salayea, Bong County, Carroll High School at Grassfield, Yekepa, Nimba County, and St. Martin's School in Gbarnga, and Gboveh High School in Gbarnga had some of the best basketball and athletic programs in Liberia. They also produced many famous Liberian basketball stars such as Dodo Kromah, Quasi Gaba, Anani Gaba, Colin Wilson, James Venn, James Harris, Larry Melton, Christian Burphy, Phillip Harris, and Trokon Karmo, Orea Wright, Matthias Nimely, Thomas Kollie, Jarloth Wolo, Stephen Clarke, Charles Gbenyon, among many others.

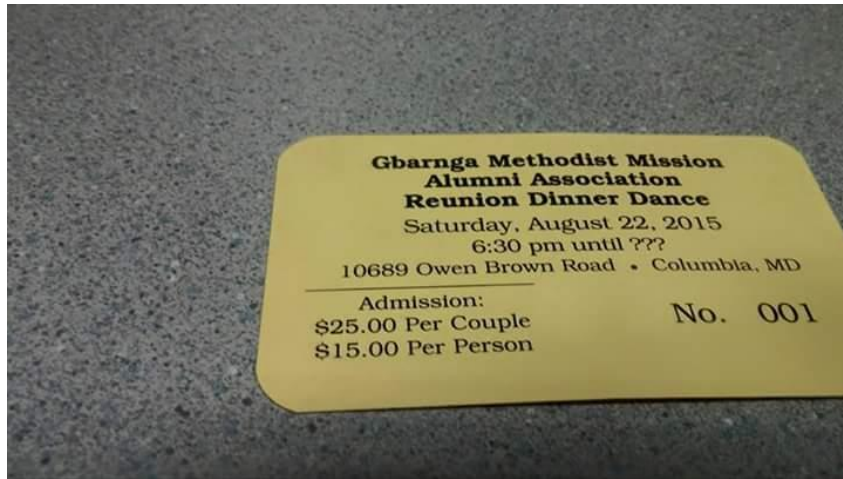
Background of the Gbarnga Methodist Mission School Alumni Association



The Gbarnga Methodist Mission School Alumni Association was organized in 1993 through the initiative of Mr. James and Mrs. Williametta-Nuckles-Venn who served as President from 1993-1997. He was succeeded by Shem Logan (1997-2009), followed by Lydia Smith as Interim President of the Association between the years 2009-2011. Thereafter, there was a brief lapse in the succession of the leadership and Mr. Venn was asked to run the affairs of the Organization for a brief period. Currently, the Gbarnga Methodist Mission School Alumni Association is headed by two-term President Kofua Kulah (2012-14; 2014-2016). Under his able leadership the Association reportedly provided their Alma Mater a consignment of books worth more than

\$1,500 dollars and are now planning to raise funds to undertake more vital projects to uplift the academic and physical outlook of the Gbarnga Methodist Mission School campus.

2016 Calendar of Events of the Tubman-Gray Eagles in Columbia, Maryland



Major events of the 2016 Tubman-Gray Eagles Convention in Columbia, Maryland include: processing the documents of the Association to gain 501 © (3) status from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS); carrying out a fundraiser to provide ten scholarships to deserving students for academic 2016-2017, and establishing an active line of communication between the Association and the school administration, etc. Against this backdrop, the President and officers of the Gbarnga Methodist Mission School Alumni Association are calling on all alumni and friends of Tubman-Gray Junior and Senior High School to attend in full to help raise much needed funds to support and give back to their beloved Alma Mater.

The “Meet and Greet” event of the Tubman-Gray Eagles takes place Friday, September 2, 2016 from 5 p.m. at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Michael Carter at 5912 Grand Banks Road, Columbia, Maryland. The fund raiser Dinner ball is scheduled for Saturday September 3rd at 6 - 11PM at The Savior Abiding Church, 10689 Owen Brown Road, Columbia, MD 21044.

Admissions:

Couple.....\$25.00

Single.....\$15.00

See you in full and come let us reminisce about the good old days when Gbarnga Methodist was the place to be academically, socially, and athletically! Come and enjoy an evening of great entertainment, education, and a spirit-filling speech by our guest speaker, Rabbi Dr. Joe Gbaba on Saturday, September 3rd, 2016! The event starts at sharp 6 p.m. Everyone is cordially invited.

