

AutoBiography of ArchBishop Dr. Augustus B. Marwieh

ArchBishop Marwieh of Liberia was truly one of the world's outstanding citizens and visionaries. His story is the Horatio Alger story of Liberia and Africa. He was highly educated and highly respected by the government and the peoples of Liberia and throughout African and the United States. He served in many official and ex officio capacities for his country its government, the church, and the people of Liberia and Africa. He was also recognized extensively throughout the United States as an ambassador of goodwill between the people of Africa and the people of the United States.

Born on April 30, 1928 in a cassava field in a native village while his mother was digging for cassava, ArchBishop Marwieh rose from modest beginnings to sit on some of the highest councils in the world. A native Liberian, he entered school in 1943, when he was fifteen 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.

In 1954 ArchBishop Marwieh went to the United States, where he studied 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), ArchBishop Marwieh also 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. He attended the Summer Institute of Linguistics at the University of Oklahoma, Norman, Oklahoma where during three summers he translated his native language to writing. The ArchBishop received a Bachelor's Degree in theology (1958) and a Masters in religious education (1960) and later went on to receive a Doctorate (PhD) in missology from the Reformed Theological Seminary, Jackson MS.

In November, 1960, ArchBishop Marwieh was ordained by the Progressive Baptist Church a member of the National Baptist Convention of America.

Other degrees and honors that have been bestowed upon the ArchBishop include membership in the National Honor Society of Bible Institutes and Colleges of the United States. He was delegate and speaker at the International Congress on World Evangelism, Berlin, West Germany, 1966, delegate and speaker at the West African Congress of Evangelism, Aberdeen, Nigeria, 1968, and convener and speaker at the international Congress of World Evangelization, Lausanne, Switzerland, 1974. In 1968 he was one of the 39 alumni (along with John Kenneth Galbraith-economist, educator, and author; Glen T. Seaborg- 1951 Nobel Laureate, one of the developers of the atomic bomb and Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission; Willard F. Libby-1950 Nobel Laureate, discoverer of radiocarbon (Carbon 14); John W. Gardiner-Secretary of Education; Irving Stone-author; Ralph Edwards-actor and TV host; Rube Golberg-cartoonist; Jackie Jensen-football All American player) chosen by the University of California, Berkeley to write the book, "There Was Light: An Autobiography of a University, Berkeley: 1868-1968." He

was listed in the “Who’s Who of the University of California, Berkeley.: He was also one of two people whose biographics were the subject of the book “Born to Lose, Bound to Win” by Lorry Lutz, Harvest House Publishers, 1979, Between 1975 and 1980 he was amember of the Mission Commission of World Evangelical Fellowship. As a result of his outstanding contribution to his country and its people, he was knighted by his country in 1978 as the Knight Commander for African Redemption. In 1986 he became one of the six Goodwill Ambassadors appointed by the Liberian government serving for national reconciliation among Liberia’s political parties.

In December, 1960, Augustus Marwieh returned to his native land of Liberia to serve his country and its people. Initially he was principal of Ricks Institute. In 1961 he married the former Othelia E. Washington, a native Liberian. He was Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the Elizabeth Native Interior Mission, which educates and trains natives in academic, agricultural, industrial, social, and religious pursuits. He was founder of the Peoples Christian Polytechnic Institute of the E.N>I. Mission in Sinoe County, Liberia. ArchBishop Marwieh was also founder and President of the Associate of the Independent Churches of Africa, which includes over 170 churches in four countries; Liberia, Sierra Leone, Ivory Coast, and Ghana. He was also founder and President of the Ministry of Hope, Monrovia, Liberia. This nonprofit organization has an active and progressive ministry in the role of teaching and instructing people in personal development, education, the arts of music and drama, healthcare and medicine, agriculture, industry, and religion. The Ministry of Hope also had a Children’s Ministry and a Prison Ministry. ArchBishop Marwieh through the Ministry of Hope had a weekly one hour televised program which reached many Liberians and was widely viewed. In addition, the government radio station in Liberia signed on in the morning and off at night with ArchBishop Marwieh’s message.

On April 25, 1992, the Agency for Holistic Evangelism and Development (AHEAD) was founded in St. Joseph, Missouri, with a Board of Directors consisting of several prominent christians in the United States of American.

AHEAD exists for the furtherance of the agro-tech community vision and the establishment of such communities of hope throughout the country of Liberia. It is through a concerted effort of talented and dedicated members on the ground in Liberia, and in the boardroom that this real and proven tool is being implemented and replicated.

AHEAD established a training institute in the Liberian refugee camp in Buduburam, Ghana. Over nine hundred high school students graduated, received diplomas in business, agriculture, building construction, theology, community health, and journalism. AHEAD has also established in this camp the West African College for Sustainable Development which was training the graduates of the AHEAD Institute to become professional teachers so that the education they have received was passed on to others.

In 2006, ArchBishop Marwieh, made the bold decision to relocate AHEAD’s activities to Liberia. Hence, operations in Ghana were scaled down and ministry work began in Liberia. This saw the opening of a school for the needy in Whomgbay Bong County, the establishment of a

presence in Monrovia, a farm project in Bong and Grand Bassa Counties, and the soon to be completed Cynthia Nelson Memorial Clinic in Logan Town, Bushrod Island.

Additionally, AHEAD launched a micro loan program for small businesses in Monrovia with several successful loans in effect. The organization has also held several leadership training workshops for church leaders in Liberia and planted a new church called the New Life Bible Church which the ArchBishop personally oversaw.

ArchBishop Marwih leaves to mourn his passing his lovely wife, Othelia, five natural children, four adopted children and a host of relatives and friends.