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### Spirit media : charismatics, traditionalists, and mediation practices in Ghana

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**Publication date**  
2008

[Link to publication](#)

#### **Citation for published version (APA):**

de Witte, M. (2008). *Spirit media : charismatics, traditionalists, and mediation practices in Ghana*. [Thesis, fully internal, Universiteit van Amsterdam].

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## Chronology

### Late 16th century

Ga people start urban settlement near Portuguese trading fort in what is now known as 'Old Accra.'

### 17th century

The Dutch, Swedes and British built forts in present-day Accra (in 1605, 1657, and 1673 respectively).

### 18th century

Sizable towns emerge around the original Ga town as well as around the British, Danish and Dutch trading forts (James Town, Osu/Christiansborg and Ussher Town).

1874 The Gold Coast is officially proclaimed a British crown colony.

1877 The British move the colonial capital from Cape Coast to Accra.

1906 Birth of Pentecostalism on Azusa Street, Los Angeles.

1922 Establishment of the British Broadcasting Corporation in London.

1935 Introduction of radio to the Gold Coast by Colonial Governor Sir Arnold Hodson.

1954 Establishment of the Gold Coast Broadcasting System as separate from the Information services.

1957 Ghana Independence.

1960 Kwame Nkrumah is appointed the first president of the Republic of Ghana.

1961 Inauguration of the External Service of Radio Ghana.

1966 National Liberation Council stages the first military coup and overthrows Nkrumah's socialist government.  
Introduction of commercial broadcasting.

1965 Introduction of television to Ghana.

1977 Nigerian charismatic preacher Benson Idahosa starts broadcast on Ghana Television.

## SPIRIT MEDIA

- 1979 4<sup>th</sup> June Revolution by Flight Lieutenant Jerry John Rawlings. The Armed Forces Revolutionary Council (AFRC) takes power, but turns it over Dr. Hilla Limann after democratic elections.  
Duncan-Williams founds the first Ghanaian charismatic church, the Christian Action Faith Chapel International.  
American evangelist Oral Roberts starts broadcast on Ghana Television.
- 1981 31<sup>st</sup> December Revolution by Flight Lieutenant Jerry John Rawlings; the Provisional National Defence Council is established with Rawlings as chairman. Foreign Christian programmes are banned from the airwaves.
- 1982 Rev. Kwabena Damuah takes part in PNDC government.  
Rev. Kwabena Damuah resigns from the Catholic Church and from PNDC and founds the Afrikania Mission.
- 1984 Mensa Otabil founds the International Central Gospel Church.
- 1986 Afrikania Mission starts weekly radio broadcast on GBC2.
- 1989 PNDC government passes Religious Bodies Registration Law (PNDC law 112).
- 1992 Adoption of the new democratic Constitution of the Fourth Republic.  
Rawlings wins presidential elections.  
Liberalisation of the broadcast media; establishment of the National Media Commission.  
Afrikania Mission stops radio broadcast.  
Repeal of the Religious Bodies Registration Law (PNDC law 112).  
Death of Afrikania leader Kwabena Damuah; Kofi Ameve becomes the new leader of the Afrikania Mission.
- 1994 Radio Eye begins broadcasting as the first private radio station in Ghana, but is taken to High Court for illegal broadcasting.  
Beginning of the public controversy over *trokosi*.
- 1995 JoyFM begins broadcasting as the first legal private radio station in Ghana.  
Mensa Otabil starts weekly *Believer's Voice of Hope* broadcast on JoyFM.
- 1996 Rawlings is re-elected as president.  
International Central Gospel Church completes and moves to Christ Temple at Abbossey-Okay, Accra.
- 1997 TV3 begins broadcasting as the first private television station in Ghana.  
Mensa Otabil starts weekly *Living Word* broadcast on Ghana Television, later on TV3.

## Chronology

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- Mensa Otabil established first private university in Ghana, Central University College.  
Mission organizes first Convention of African Traditional Religion at Independence Square, Accra.
- 1998 Metro TV begins broadcasting as the second private television station in Ghana.  
First clash between traditionalists and charismatic-Pentecostal churches over 'ban on drumming and noisemaking.'
- 2000 John Kufuor wins presidential elections; New Patriotic Party takes over power from Rawlings' National Democratic Congress.  
Mensa Otabil starts weekly *Living Word* TV broadcast in Nairobi, Kenya.  
Afrikania Mission moves to new headquarters at Sakaman, Accra.  
Afrikania Mission starts Afrikania Priesthood Training School.
- 2001 Mensa Otabil starts daily broadcast on Radio Gold, Accra.
- 2003 Death of Afrikania leader Kofi Ameve; Atsu Kove is appointed the new leader of the Afrikania Mission.
- 2004 Mensa Otabil starts daily broadcast on Happy FM, Accra.