

Dr James Emman Kwegyir Aggrey (often known as "Aggrey of Africa") was an African intellectual, missionary and teacher.

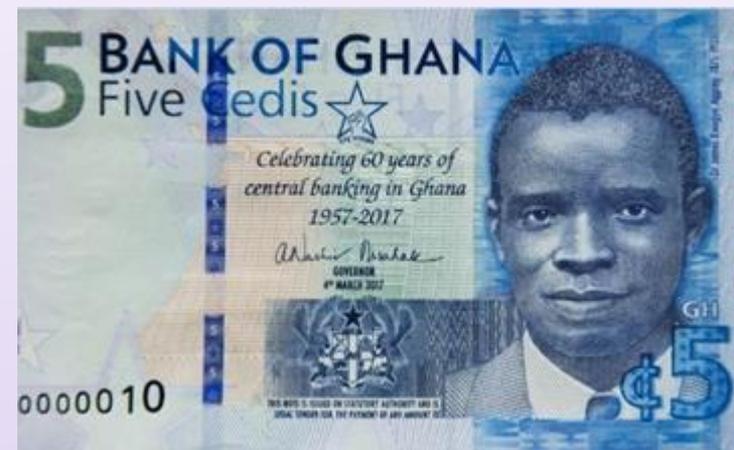
Aggrey was born in 1875, in Gold Coast (now Ghana). He was an excellent scholar and a committed Christian and by the age of 15, was in sole control of a Abura-Dunkwa village school.

In 1898, Aggrey travelled to the US and studied at Livingstone College in North Carolina, a college built for the descendants of black slaves. Aggrey was a very successful student, and ended up working at Livingstone College for more than twenty years.

Aggrey became a pastor but he did not only teach his congregation, who were largely very poor, about God. He also taught them practical skills such as nurturing the soil, keeping chickens and draining swamps to avoid water-borne disease.

Aggrey returned to Africa when he was in his forties. He worked hard to improve the education system in Ghana for both boys and girls.

Aggrey used stories, humour and symbolism to explain his beliefs. He believed every human being should be proud of the skin colour that God had given them, using a piano as a metaphor and saying, *"You can play a tune of sorts on the white keys, and you can play a tune of sorts on the black keys, but for harmony, you must use both the black and the white."*



"The surest way to keep people down is to educate the men and neglect the women. If you educate a man, you simply educate an individual, but if you educate a woman, you educate a whole nation"

"My people of Africa, we were created in the image of God, but men have made us think that we are chickens, and we still think we are, but we are eagles. Stretch forth your wings and fly! Don't be content with the food of Chickens"

Dr James Emman Kwegyir Aggrey