

**CRITERIA AND GUIDELINES FOR ALL CONTESTANTS OF THE ECWA
ANTHEM**

1. The contestant must be in right standing with God (Born Again), however good the individuals anthem.
2. The contestant must be a baptized and committed ECWA member who has been actively involved in the life of the church for not less than six months.
3. Contestants must be from age 14 and above
4. All entries for the anthem must be rooted in the scriptures and core values of ECWA
5. All entries would be holistic in nature such that they reflect ECWA past, present, and launch ECWA into the future.
6. A minimum of 3 and a maximum of 4 verses would be accepted. Where the verse 1 contains the inception (History) of ECWA, verses 2 and 3 will contain the core values, identity, vision and mission statements of ECWA. Verse 4 contains the future of ECWA for those submitting 4 verses. In the case of those submitting 3 verses, verse 1 contains the inception (History) of ECWA, verses 2 will contain the core values, identity, vision and mission statements of ECWA and Verse 4 contains the future of ECWA.
7. The last two lines would be repeated on all verses as a chorus.
8. The language of the anthem must be English which would later be translated to other languages.
9. All entries must be recorded in MP3 and accompanied with the lyrics in a PDF format.

NB: The attached documents below has been attached alongside the form to give the contestants an inspiration and clue to what is expected of them.

ECWA core values

1. Integrity
2. Accountability
3. Self-control
4. Love and care for one another
5. Godliness
6. Hard work and Productivity
7. Humility and service
8. Justice and fairness
9. Orderliness in worship
10. Inspiring leadership
11. Enabling Environment
12. Sound Doctrine
13. Sanctity of Life
14. Equality and Creative potential of mankind
15. Mission and Evangelism
16. Holistic Ministry

ECWA Mission statement

ECWA exist to glorify God and to achieve His purposes by Communicating the Gospel to the lost, discipling believers, organizing them into local churches and caring for the needy in the world through advocacy and social service.

ECWA vision statement

ECWA envisions to be a dynamic global church guided by the Holy Spirit, self-sustaining and effective in meeting needs of the society spiritually, socially, economically and an agent of change towards Godly living.

ECWA identity statement

ECWA is a community of evangelical believers in Jesus Christ, who hold to the inerrancy and final authority of the Bible, we stand for the preaching of the involvement of every believer in holistic ministry to the world.

ARTICLE II: GOAL AND OBJECTIVES

- (1) The singular goal of ECWA is to glorify God.
- (2) The goal shall be achieved through the following objectives. To:
 - (a) Preach and teach the Holy Bible, the inspired and infallible Word of God;
 - (b) Maintain a strong body of Christ's followers for the advancement of the public worship of God the Father, through Jesus Christ our Lord;
 - (c) Promote the evangelical, educational, medical and welfare work of the Church and further these interests through the pulpit ministry, publications, broadcasting, media, and other means consistent with the character and purpose of the Church;
 - (d) Prepare and engage pastors, teachers, evangelists, missionaries and other workers of the Church;
 - (e) Feed the hungry, clothe the poor, support and empower the needy both spiritually and physically;
 - (f) Enter into any discussion, agreement or arrangement with the Federal Government of Nigeria, State, Local, Municipal governments, any country or organization, within and outside Nigeria;
 - (g) Collaborate with the Federal, State, Local and Municipal Governments in promoting a just, peaceful, prosperous and united country for the welfare of the citizens of Nigeria/other countries to the glory of God;
 - (h) Collaborate with the Federal, State, Local and Municipal Governments in promoting spiritual, moral and physical development and transformation of the people and society;

(j) Do all or any of the above things as Principal, Trustee or Agent, or otherwise either alone or in conjunction with any Church, Company, Undertaking, Body or Persons.

SIM/ECWA HISTORY

SIM is an international, interdenominational Christian [mission organization](#). It was established in 1893 by its three founders, Walter Gowans and Rowland Bingham of Canada and Thomas Kent of the United States.

The Founding of SIM in Africa



The vision for SIM (and ECWA) was first born in the heart of a woman - ***Margaret (Craig) Gowans***.



Margaret Craig was born in 1836 in Hamilton, Lanarkshire, Scotland, and married a brewer in Kilmarnock named John Gowans (1836-1906) in 1861. She was the first person in SIM/ECWA history to have a vision to take the gospel to the Soudan, which then led to what we know today as ECWA. They had nine children and emigrated to Toronto, Canada, in 1879.. Mrs. Gowans fervently believed that world-wide missions was an important part of the church's calling. It was due, in part, to her influence that two of their children became missionaries. **Annie**, their oldest, went to China in 1892. **Walter**, their fifth child, went to the Sudan. According to Bingham, Mrs. Gowans told him about her son's call to go to the Sudan where 60-90million people "lived without a single Christian missionary."

It was she who encouraged her own son Walter, his friend Thomas Kent and later Roland Bingham, to embrace God's heart for the Soudan and to be willing to take the Gospel to those of that region who had not heard it.

The initials originally stood for "Soudan Interior Mission," Soudan being an older spelling of the [Sudan region](#) of West Africa. After various name changes and mergers, the mission simply goes by "SIM" today. In French-speaking countries it is known as "Société Internationale Missionnaire." It is made up of united organizations that began more than 100 years ago, including **Africa Evangelical Fellowship**, **Andes Evangelical Mission**, **International Christian Fellowship** and **Sudan Interior Mission**.

The First Attempt:

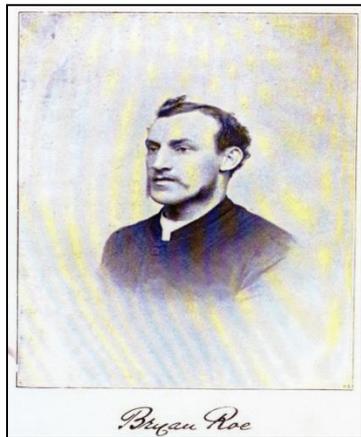
Walter Gowans was a Scottish Canadian. His parents were pillars of the Presbyterian Church. His Sister was a missionary to China. He, Walter, was the first of the three founders to feel the burden of the Soudan. Kent and Bingham joined him in England to prepare to leave for the Soudan.

Thomas Kent was an American, from Buffalo NY, a Congregationalist (Baptist). He was later invited to join Gowans and Bingham in UK to prepare to go to the Soudan.

Roland Bingham was an English Canadian. He migrated from England to Canada in 1889. He was a Member of the Salvation Army. It was Mrs Gowans who had the most influence on him. He made a pledge to join her son in England even though he had never met him.

Gowans went to England in June 1893. Later Bingham joined him and then Kent by October 1893. They struggled to raise finance but decided to go ahead anyway by faith. They did not form a mission, they had no denominational support. They just went as three individuals. They learnt of the death of other missionaries in the Soudan but were undeterred. They departed on 4th November 1893 on board SS Accra and landed in Lagos on 4th December.

They faced problems of discouragement in Lagos. The Superintendent of the Wesleyan Mission Bryau Roe:

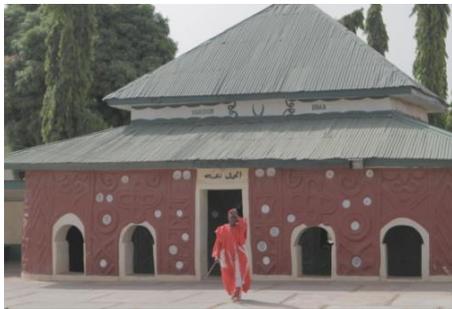


He told them: *You will never see the Sudan, your children will never see the Sudan, your grandchildren may.* Bingham was struck down by fever after only three weeks. Walter, like the mother, believed in divine healing. Kent and Bingham did as well.

Bingham's willingness, however, to take medicine after his temperature rose to over 105⁰ shortly after they arrived in Lagos caused a rift between him and Gowans.

He remained in Lagos and the others proceeded to the Sudan. They left April 1894 for Lake Chad via Kano. The men brought a boat with them, hoping they could travel up the Niger River to its confluence to the Benue, travel east along the Benue, and then trek overland to Lake Chad. When Royal Niger Company officials refused to grant them permission to take the riverine route, the men decided to travel overland from Lagos into the Central Sudan.

Sunday 6th May 1894 they entered Bida and visited the Etsu Maliki (Emir) in his palace.



Monday May 14th 1894 they went to Bida market looking for where to station and preach. They made plans also to get carriers to accompany them to Kano. On Wednesday 30th May 1894 Thomas Kent became sick again. Vomiting blood & feverish, the poor fellow couldn't travel even till 1st week of June because of Toms illness and war on the road.

Monday 11th June 1894 they went to Lemu. Then 9th August 1894 Gowans wrote a letter to his Mum. Well Glory to God He has enabled me to make a hard fight for the Soudan & altho [sick] it may seem like a total failure & defeat it is not we shall have the victory & that right speedily

I have no regret for undertaking this venture & in this manner my life has not been thrown away My only regrets are for my poor dear Mother for her sake I would have chosen _____ to _____ live.

Mother Dear! - And what a mother you have been, it seems I appreciate you now more than ever I did. Oh how often I have thought while lying here of your love & how I have longed to see you again in the flesh. Don't mourn for me darling dearest Mother if the suffering was great thank remember it is all over now & think of the glory I am enjoying & rejoice that "your boy" was permitted to have a hand in the redemption of the Soudan.

Oh! How I did wish to live for your sake. Thomas my cook, will tell you of all my plans. God knows that next to His glory my ambition was to make you happy & I had certain schemes which I am positive would have succeeded & which besides helping on the work would have enabled me to make you & the girls comfortable...

Gowans, however, fell sick and some explorers met him and was taking him to Lagos in the hope of saving his life but he died at Ghirku only 65 km away, on 17th November 1894.



Kent reached Bida on 3rd October 1894. He waited there because of transport problems. He wrote on 30th November that he expected to depart for Kano next day, but took ill and died in Bida on 8th December 1894.



He was in the presence of two other missionaries (Holt and Lomax) who sent word of his death to the Southern Baptists in Ogbomoso.

David Loynd left from England 20th October 1894 to become the fourth founder. In December he and Bingham, now recovered, went on to Ogbomoso where in early 1895 they learnt the fate of Kent and Gowans. This is where they decided to revise their strategy and develop a chain of stations rather than attempting a giant leap to the Sudan. They returned to England in May 1895. Bingham then went to Canada to see Gowans' mother.

Bingham told her about her son's death. "She came in a little later and extended her hand and held mine in silence for a little while. We were both thinking about the past. Then she broke the silence with these words. *'Well, Mr. Bingham, I would rather have Walter go out to the Sudan and die there, all alone, than have him home today, disobeying his Lord.'* She prayed specifically that God would send a messenger of the Gospel to the village where her son died"

Later Attempts

Bingham married Helen Blair in 1898 and became full time secretary of the mission, now organised. From 1898 it was known as the African Industrial Mission (AIM). On

21st February 1900 he left Liverpool on SS Jebba for Lagos with Moline and Taylor, but all returned home to Canada because of illness.

Two were sent to Tripoli in 1901 to study Hausa. Two others were added and the four sailed on 30th October on SS Bornu with Sir Frederick Lugard. They arrived Niger River mouth 18th November 1901. The mission was still known as the Africa Industrial Mission. Taylor, Banfield (Canada), Anthony, Robinson (USA) went on to Lokoja where they stayed four months while considering the best mission site, including Kabba. They left for Pategi on 15th March 1902 and arrived 18th. First mission station, more than eight years after the first landing in Nigeria. Dr Andrew Stirrett arrived to join them in November that year.

Second mission station at Wushishi in 1904. In September 1905 the mission became the Africa Evangelistic Mission (AEM). In Aug 1906 it became part of the Sudan United Mission (SUM) but later separated again to become the Sudan Interior Mission in June 1907.

African Mission Society established in 1948. The churches established were incorporated as The Association of Evangelical Churches of West Africa in 1954 with 400 local churches in 7 DCCs. Today, the church records over 6,000 churches organized into 84 DCCs and about 6 million members.

Many people have benefited directly or indirectly through the ministries of SIM/ECWA.

DEPARTMENTS OF ECWA

- 1 Admin/Personnel
- 2 Audit
- 3 Christian Education
- 4 Church Related Min
- 5 ECPL
- 6 Education
- 7 ELWA
- 8 EMS
- 9 EPL
- 10 Finance
- 11 Guest Houses
- 12 Medical
- 13 POD
- 14 Rural Develop.
- 15 ECWA Development Finance Scheme Limited (EDFSL)
- 16 ECWA Portfolio

ECWA Anthem Contestant Information



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Group Name:

Individual

Group

First Name:

Surname:

Address:

City:

Male

Female

State/Province:

Date of Birth:

Home Phone:

E-mail Address:

Next of Kin

Name (1):

Name (2):

Address:

Address:

State/Province:

State/Province:

Zip/Postal Code:

Zip/Postal Code:

Cell Phone:

Cell Phone:

Relationship:

Relationship:

Special Needs or any other Information: