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DREAM IT.  
LIVE IT.

# SPEKTRA

Africa's No.1 Design Build Monthly Newsletter

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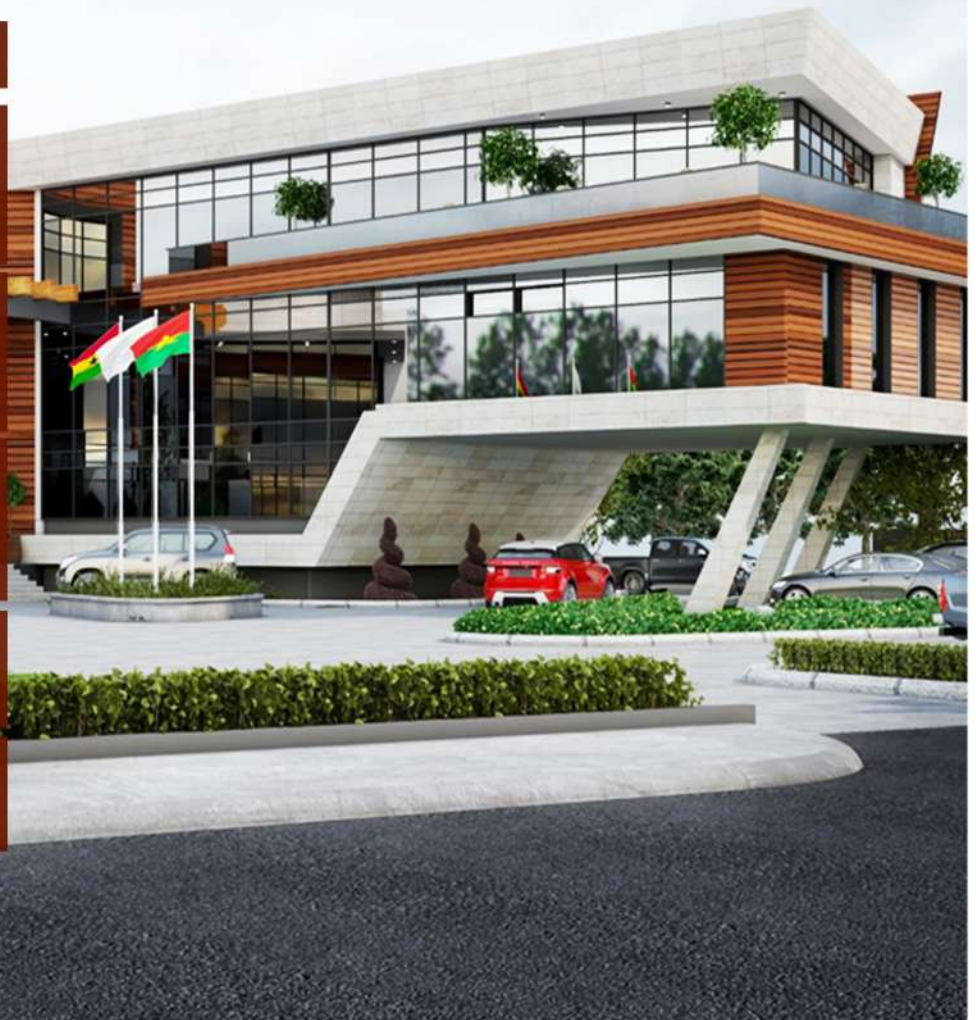
BIRTHDAY WISHES TO THE CEO OF  
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## THE CEO'S THOUGHTS

"On any day, you can be **active, reactive or proactive.**  
**make the choice now!**"

*William Evans Halm (a.g.i.a)*





Your selflessness and devotion keeps us moving. I pray the Good Lord keeps you and bless you with more wisdom, divine strength and health. Happy birthday CEO. God bless you Sir  
- **Isaac Dadzie**

"Thank you for being a great leader and father to all, it is well appreciated."  
- **Ivy Acquah-Dennis**

Happy birthday to our CEO Mr. William Halm. We pray for abundant blessings from God, wisdom, strength and long life. Have a lovely day Sir. -**Rhema**

I am so privileged to have been given the opportunity to work under such a great and amazing leader like you, dear boss. I wish you the best in your endeavors as you celebrate this wonderful birthday and many more. Happy birthday. - **Samuel Addison**

Hi William, working with you has been great. The ease and patience with which you help handle issues is very admirable. Coming to work each day is enjoying and fulfilling. This is because you have the heart and soul of a true rock star. I pray God increases your understanding and wisdom. Happy birthday. -**Nuzrat**

Happy birthday Mr Halm, you have been a great mentor and wish you all the best. GOD BLESS YOU - **Cyril**

Happy, Happy Birthday to you sir, You have been a great mentor and an inspiration and today being your Birthday ,I wish you long life, good health ,joy and prosperity! - **Moses**

Happy Birthday Mr. Halm. You're a great inspiration to me, your words are so full of wisdom. No doubt you're a great Dad and a great Mentor. May the good Lord continue to bless you with Wisdom and long life. -**FC**

Happy birthday Mr Halm, God bless You! -**from the Accounts office(Daniel & Jeff)**

I wish you a happy birthday Sir, may this new year bring you great blessings! -**Francis**

Happy birthday Mr Halm. God bless You! - **Joseph**





# Leadership & Direction!

MOSES T. COFIE

Managing Consultant, leaders & Mentors.

A critical task of every leader, is to articulate the vision (goal, target, objective, etc.) so clearly that it is not lost on any of their team members. Unless the team members have a common understanding of the exact destination, they could work at cross purposes.

'Who is a leader?' I recently asked the junior staff of an organization. Their responses were varied, and they sought to describe rather than define a leader; he is confident; he knows his stuff; he's a doer; he's a team player; a problem-solver; an encourager; he's bold; a good listener; he is firm and fair; he's proactive and purposeful; he is results-oriented; he takes ownership for whatever task he is given; he plans ahead; he organizes; he delegates; he takes decisions; he communicates effectively; he is resourceful; he holds people accountable; he is willing to learn; he grows people; he is focussed, and he takes charge.

While their answers did not address my question directly, they provided a generous list of the qualities and attributes that help make an effective leader. Why?

Leadership is the art of motivating a group of people to act toward achieving a common goal.

It is about developing people and helping them reach their full potential. Inherent in these definitions and the qualities listed, is an implicit assumption that there is a destination we are heading to. Every meaningful venture has a destination, the attainment of which marks success. It may be to obtain a degree, finish reading a book, organise an event successfully, achieve a sales target, learn a new vocation, start a small business, learn a new skill, find a solution to a problem, etc.

If your leader fails to communicate that destination, you have a duty to ask, so that your diligence and hard work are not counter-productive.



# PROJECT OF THE MONTH

## BURKINA SHIPPERS' COUNCIL PROJECT

The Burkina Shippers' Council project is a 3 storey office with a total floor area of 2983 . It is purposely designed for the head office of the Burkina's Shippers' Council in Ghana. The Building consist of 3 floors of which one is dedicated to the needs of the client which includes training rooms, board rooms, offices, Kitchenettes, transport offices, etc., and open offices for rental for businesses operating within the Port.

The structure of the building has it longest side facing north-south orientation to reduce the heat gained from the sun which are usually on our west and east facades. On the west and east facades, the building has slit small slim windows to reduce solar heat gain on the east facade, and on the west facade all the washrooms and staircases have been put on the west facades. This allows the building to be more energy efficient in terms of the use of air conditioning and heat gain. Also the building is designed such that the large glass facades have a view towards the sea and towards the beautiful port during the day and night.

The interior of the building is clad with composite wood sided panels and large porcelain tiles together with curtain walling. This will hopefully reduce the maintenance cost that comes with frequent painting.



The form was determined by the need to maintain a very huge existing tree on the site leading to a "y" form which straddled with the tree along its middle axis. Hence being ecological friendly to the site.

The parking lot has been designed with extensive landscaping with trees to provide shade for both cars & pedestrians.



# BUILDING WEALTH

## IN A TIME OF FINANCIAL UNCERTAINTY

SOURCE:  
AXIS PENSION TRUST LTD.  
WEB : [HTTP://WWW.AXISPENSION.COM](http://www.axispension.com)



In the area of personal finance, there are a lot of different numbers that we are all concerned about. However, there is one overarching number that fully captures how effective your personal finance efforts are: **Your Net Worth**. By knowing where you stand financially, you will be:

- | More mindful of your financial activities
- | Better prepared to make sound financial decisions
- | More likely to achieve your short-term and long-term financial goals.

Net worth is a robust indicator of your personal financial health. A positive and increasing net worth indicates good financial health and cushioning against financial setbacks.

With this in mind it is not only important for you to know what your net worth is but what your ideal net worth should be based on your current conditions.

### **Tips on how to improve your Net Worth**

Your net worth is a great measure of your personal wealth and you want that number to grow over time. Measures to grow your net worth can be broken down into 2 main categories:

#### **I. Grow the value of your assets**

- | Increase your income by exploring multiple streams of income.
- | Reduce the money you spend on depreciating assets.
- | Invest your money wisely.
- | Avoid making unnecessary money mistakes
- | Have appropriate insurances to manage risk and preserve wealth.

#### **II. Reduce the cost of your liabilities**

- | Avoid borrowing more than you need to.
- | Create a strategic debt payoff plan. You will want to work on paying off debt, but do it in a smart way. For example, pay off high-interest consumer debt quickly as opposed to a very low interest mortgage.

Above all have a personal finance strategy. Ideally, your net worth continues to grow as you age – as you pay down debt, build equity in your home, acquire more assets, etc. We are better off by creating a strategy that helps us to manage our money better.



# ICONIC BUILDING OF THE MONTH

## ST. PAUL'S CATHEDRAL

You have probably seen St. Paul's Cathedral at least once ... on the television, in the news, or as the backdrop of a movie. Remember the woman who would "Feed the Birds" in the movie, "Mary Poppins"?

Architect Christopher Wren designed this Anglican Cathedral as London rebuilt after the Great Fire of 1666. At that time, King Charles II commanded that all new houses be made of stone and brick rather than wood. Londoners needed structures that would last. This church was actually the fourth to be built on the site, and the one with the most staying power.

Just building the Cathedral took 42 years, until 1711. It is based on the form of medieval churches, with two western towers, a long nave, and a central crossing above which rises a tower -- the dome.

The Cathedral's dome is the second largest in the world, at 366 feet, or 111.56 meters, in height. Until 1962, it was the tallest building in London. St. Paul's Cathedral can hold 3,500 guests. It was large enough for Winston Churchill's funeral in 1965. It was grand enough for the wedding of Prince Charles and Lady Diana in 1981, after which it became one of the most popular churches to visit in England.





# FIREFIGHTING

From putting out fires with well water to forming municipal brigades, firefighting brings about collective action and innovation. The Romans developed early firefighting techniques, such as the manual pump, and even organized firefighters to race to the scene of fires and put them out.

Until the most recent century and a half, fire could wreak havoc in a city. In 64 A.D., two-thirds of Rome burned down. In 1666, the Great Fire of London (which followed on other big but not "great" fires in earlier centuries) burned down two square miles and left tens of thousands without homes. The Chicago Fire of 1871 left 100,000 homeless.

As urban populations grew, the potential for fire damage did, too. Fueled no doubt by disasters of the day, the 16th and 17th centuries saw breakthroughs in firefighting. The French developed fire engines that featured the newly rediscovered manual pump. Innovation led to suction pumps. In either case, their effectiveness was limited due to the lack of hoses, not developed until 1672. These were 50 feet, or 15 meters, in length, still standard today in much of Europe.

Meanwhile in Boston, wooden chimneys were outlawed in 1631. Over in New Amsterdam (today's New York City), the governor appointed fire wardens. Benjamin Franklin established a volunteer fire company in Philadelphia.

Even before that time, some early entrepreneurs organized private firefighting forces. They would rush to the scene with men and equipment, then

negotiate a price with the owner of the burning building. Examples are Marcus Licinius Crassus in 115 B.C. and insurance companies that formed in late 17th century London. The presence of the insurance company's medallion on the front of a British building is what would start the water flowing. Otherwise, the building burned.

In the early days of the U.S., some insurance companies paid brigades for putting out fires, so the companies would compete to be the "first responders." They used horse-drawn steam engines, invented in 1829 and popular until the 1910s, when they were phased out due to the invention of the internal combustion engine.

Fire hydrants date to the early 1800s. Though they seem standard in size, color and location, they actually vary by locale and may even be sunken into the ground -- as in some areas of Australia, for example -- and identifiable at ground level by a "plug."

It wasn't until the 1850s that many municipalities paid firefighters. Today, about 70 percent of U.S. firefighters are volunteers. There are more than 60 brigades in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland, where there are likewise both volunteer and paid firefighters.

Sprinkler systems were invented in 1860 and have been helping put out fires ever since. In the past 10 years, more and more governing bodies are pushing for all structures, including residential, to feature sprinkler systems.





"One hour per day of study in your chosen field is all it takes. One hour per day of study will put you at the top of your field within three years. Within five years you'll be a national authority. In seven years, you can be one of the best people in the world at what you do."

Earl Nightingale



The perfect son

- A. I have the perfect Son
- B. Does he smoke
- A. No he doesn't
- B. Does he drink whiskey
- A. No he doesn't
- B. Does he ever come home late
- A. No he doesn't
- B. I guess you really do have the perfect Son.
- How old is he
- A. He would be six months old next Wednesday



### ABOUT THE EDITOR

Karen Evans Halm is an architect and an associate of the Ghana Institute of Architects with over a decade's experience in the field, specializing in Interior Design and Landscape Architecture. She is also the co-founder of Spektra Global Ltd.



*Hurray!!*

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