

**GIRLS FRIENDLY SOCIETY WORLD COUNCIL  
SIERRA LEONE**

**28 JULY to 5 AUGUST 1990**

Minutes of the meeting of the 13th meeting of the World Council of the Girls' Friendly Society held in Freetown, Sierra Leone, from 28 July to 5 August 1990

**Theme: "Bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord" (Eph 6:4)**

**Saturday 28 July**

The World Council of the Society started with the registration in the Lounge of the Brookfields Hotel from 2pm to 4.30pm. Later members boarded buses for the Annie Walsh Memorial School, for the reception hosted by the Standing Committee of the Diocese of Freetown. Delegates and Observers were welcomed by the Bishop of Freetown, the Rt Revd Prince E S Thompson, who said that despite the fact that our guests had come during the rainy season and at a time when the economic climate was bleak and gloomy, the abnormal circumstances should not prevent the true Christian character from manifesting itself. He wished members a successful World Council. Guests were entertained to songs by the Kroma Family.

The last item for the day was a "Getting to Know you Evening" produced and compered by Mr Hubert Charles. The Freetown Players and the Freetown Youth Centre Drama Group, introduced Sierra Leone to participants.

**Sunday 29 July**

Members travelled by bus to Regent in the mountains to attend the Open Service at St Charles Church, the oldest Anglican Church in Sierra Leone. The service was well attended, despite the heavy downpour. The Old Testament Lesson was read by Mrs Joy Epton, Central President for England, the New Testament Reading and Gospel in Krio by Miss Daphne Langley and Mrs Henrietta Johnson respectively. The World Chairman led the Intercessions. Three Bishops were in attendance, the Bishop of the Diocese of the Gambia, Bishop T S Johnson, who celebrated the Eucharist; the Rt Revd P E S Thompson and The Rt Revd Dr Michael Keili, Bishop of the Diocese of Bo, who delivered the sermon. He commented on the historical background of the church and Regent Village and remarked that our attendance at the service was a worthy contribution to a glorious heritage of the church history. Emphasis was laid on love, which had brought members with different backgrounds, languages and culture together. At the end of the service, some of the delegates including the Bishop of the Gambia were guests at a Buffet Lunch at the home of Mr and Mrs S A J Pratt and family whilst others went to the Reception organised by the GFS branch of Regent, at the Village Community Centre.

In the evening, a Reception was held in the Main Hall of the Hotel by the members of the Mothers Union. The event was chaired by the Revd J O P Lynch, Vicar of Christ Church and Principal of the Bishop Johnson Memorial School.

Each morning at the Rotary Room, the Holy Communion was administered by one of the Chaplains and the evening services were led by members from different groups of countries,

**Monday 30 July**

The Holy Eucharist was celebrated by the chaplain, the Rt Revd T S Johnson and the theme was "The Call".

After breakfast, participants departed from the Hotel for the Opening Ceremony at the Miatta Conference Centre in the Youyi Building at Brookfields. Music was supplied by the Male Police Band. The Conference was called to order by the Bishop of Freetown who invited Bishop T S Johnson, Chaplain to the Council, to say the opening prayers. The welcome song was sung before the World Chairman gave her welcome address.

### **The World Chairman's Address**

And I said to the man who stood by the gate of the year, "Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown" and he replied "Go out into the darkness and put thine hand into the hand of God. That shall be to thee better than any light and safer than any known way".

These words of M L Haskins portray the thoughts which went round and round my head during the Commissioning Ceremony at a well-attended service at the Cathedral Church of St Deinid, Bangor on Wednesday 5 August 1987. I was asked the question: "Are you willing to render to our Lord Christ your entire obedience, so that you may serve him as he commands you?"

I replied: "I will serve Christ and obey him."

At that time, the task seemed colossal, but I was determined that by God's grace, I will carry out the task entrusted to my care. I will "put my hand into the hand of God" and allow him to lead me along the paths he would have me go. I can truthfully say, that in everything I have done during the past years I have depended on him for guidance.

Solet me now, formally welcome all our guests to the Thirteenth World Council. I pray that for us thirteen will be a lucky number! Many of you have travelled thousands of miles over several days, to Africa and for most of you; this is the first visit to this vast continent. The places you will visit will be but a speck on the map of Africa. Nonetheless, we welcome you with open arms and we hope you will enjoy a worthwhile one.

The hosting of the World Council in Sierra Leone is a direct result of the decision taken in 1975 to base the World Project for 1975/78 in West Africa. It only materialised in 1980 when Miss Eva Hales from Belfast, dedicated ten months of her life, working with GFS leaders in Liberia, Sierra Leone and the Gambia, bringing new life into the branches. In the words of the late Archbishop Scot ".....the branches of the GFS came to life through the performance of Eva. Mrs Betty Ross had prepared the soil.....she did the sowing on the field already prepared by Mrs Ross". Of course, the successful project was planned and implemented by Mrs Floris Bain the then retiring World Chairman (who is thankfully here today) and her team in America. But it was worth waiting for. It was some of the leaders who were trained then, who spearheaded the hosting of the Council in Sierra Leone.

Unfortunately, in the meantime, many of them are no longer with us – they are either dead or have left the country for one reason or another.

Before the baton was handed over to me, Mrs Umeyo Iwai, the last but one world chairman from Japan, said in a letter to me that it was going to be a difficult but rewarding task and this it has been. In the last three years, we have endeavoured to strengthen our dying branches and to restart some of those which were dead in our country and the other West African countries. We have not had the degree of success we wished for, but we are thankful to God, that the Ghanaian delegation is a testimony of the work that was done by one of our members. GFS in West Africa has been strengthened. The opportunity to host World Council has paid rich dividends.

Now we look ahead into the future. The GFS seeks to nurture young girls in the service of Society and the Church. I must confess that, in the last three years, we have not done very much of that at diocesan level, although the branches have continued the work in their own quiet way. Now that the activities involved in the planning for World Council are over, we look forward to a period of service, when we will launch out into the deep, get more and more girls involved in the process of having fun while learning and serving.

The organisation of World Council has come a long way from that of 1966 when five people – three from the United States of America, one from England and one from Ireland – travelled to Australia to attend the World Council meetings. The world seems to have grown smaller and more people are able to get together from far off places. Today there are sixty-seven non-Sierra Leonean participants as well as sixty-nine Sierra Leoneans. This is an indication of the growth which has taken place over the years and the love of the members for the society.

We pray that in the few days we will be meeting at Brookfields Hotel our discussion will produce decision that will ensure the continued development of the organisation.

Many people have contributed toward what we hope will be a successful World Council, but I cannot and do not intend to name them all here. However, few are worthy of mention, I must thank my husband, Bishop Prince for his love, patience, advice and support throughout these three years. Also, Henrietta Johnson who helped me efficiently perform the task I felt at the start was going to be the most difficult. She has quietly typed, produced and distributed the World Newsletters throughout the period. The Secretary who has given of her time, talent and treasure, as well as the patient husbands of all those who worked to bring World Council 1990 to Sierra Leone.

Once more I welcome you all!

The **Guest Speaker** for the occasion was Prof Eldred Durosimi Jones, past Principal of Fourah Bay College, the University of Sierra Leone. He emphasised the necessity for every right-thinking Christian girl throughout the world to give serious thought to her obligations to society in a way that her life would be meaningful, not only to herself but the society in which she lives. He suggested that one way by which the Girls Friendly Society could assist in education, is by either buying or collecting gifts of books for little church libraries so that young girls could have access to good reading material.

**Greetings** came from Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother; President Bush and wife, Barbara; Archbishop of Canterbury; the Presiding Bishop of America; Fr Franklin L Reid, Rector St Luke's Episcopal Church, Bronx, New York; David N Dunkins, Mayor of the City of New York; Bishop Rogeis S Harris, Diocese of South West Florida; the Rt Revd G P Mellick Belshaw, Bishop of the Diocese of New Jersey; the Chairman Executive and members of the Girls; Friendly Society, Diocese of North Wales; The Archbishop of Wales; The Rt Revd A C Holland, the Bishop of Newcastle, Australia; the President and members of GFS, Diocese of Los Angeles; Mrs Audrey Moore, GFS President and Revd Michael Clarke, former Rector of St Patrick's Church, Barbados; Archbishop, Church of the Province of West Africa; President of the Sierra Leone Council of Churches.

In the vote of thanks given by Mrs Alice Maude Newstead, the Secretary to the World Council, she thanked the guests for the sacrifice made to witness the ceremony, the members of the Sierra Leone Male Police Band for their musical contributions, and last but not least the Guest Speaker, who was

assured that his paper would be given deep consideration especially in areas where he had made useful suggestions. His work as an English teacher and writer has always been admired.

### **World Council Session 1**

The session started at 3.30pm with the introduction of World Council Officers by the World Chairman.

The Vice-Chairman	Mrs Dilys Fowler from Wales
The Secretary	Mrs Alice-Maude Newstead
The Treasurer	Mrs Esther Allen.

The delegates and observers from each country were then introduced by the Senior delegate

<b>Country</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Delegate</b>
Australia	Mrs Kathleen Reynolds	
	Miss Anne Quinee	Junior
Barbados	Miss Beverly Sealy	
England	Mrs Joy Epton	
	Miss Janine Hughes	Junior
Gambia	Mrs Priscilla Johnson	
Ghana	Mrs Juliana Okine	
	Mrs Johanna Veronica Haizel	Junior
Ireland	Mrs Olein Gyles	
	Miss Hazel Codd	Junior
Japan	Miss Mary Yoshiko Miyanishi	
	Miss Mariko Ishikawa	Junior
Lesotho	Mrs Alice Ntsebeng Mafereka	
New Zealand	Mrs Joy Parkin	
Nigeria	Mrs Clarice Modu	
	Miss Grace Osuji	Junior
Philippines	Dr (Mrs) Kate Botengan	
Sierra Leone	Miss Daphne Langley	
	Ms Elizabeth Mdingi	Junior
Transkei	Mrs Nobantu Makunga	
	Ms Elizabeth Mdingi	Junior
United States	Mrs Patricia L Bryant	
	Miss Laura Detor	Junior
Wales	Mrs Carol Gardner	
	Miss Elizabeth Hancock	Junior

There were forty-four non-Sierra Leonean observers. Then followed the reports from three countries – Australia, Barbados and England.

The chairman asked the house if there were any questions or areas to be clarified. Since there was none, she expressed her gratitude to the delegates.

### **Financial Accounts for 1984/87**

John Perkins, Treasurer of the Welsh Council, presented a report, for the period 1 December 1984-30 November 1987. She reported that in March 1985, the balance of World Fund (£6,518) was transferred to the GFS Welsh Council from GFS Japan. Total amount received, including fees, funds raised, dues etc was £82,537.34. The balance transferred to a holding account for the World Council in Sierra Leone 1990 was £10,703 (including £3,176 as World Travel monies). The Treasurer also reported that the sum of £758.40 has been withheld as a contingency reserve.

### **Tuesday 31 July**

The Holy Eucharist was celebrated by the Rev C Southerton and the theme for the day was "Jesus the Light".

### **World Council 2**

#### **The Minutes of the last World Council meeting in Wales 1987**

The Minutes Book which had been in use since 1972 was handed over to Mrs Subuola Thompson by Mrs D Fowler. The latter asked if there were comments to be made with regards to the minutes which had been previously circulated. Since there was none, the acceptance was moved and seconded. The jacket in which the minute's book was secured was displayed to participants. Later both the book and jacket were handed to Mrs Alice-Maude Newstead, the Secretary to the World Council.

### **Country Reports:**

Reports were heard from Lesotho, New Zealand and Nigeria. The two first apologised for their failure to get their reports printed. Mrs Thompson wanted to know from Nigeria whether there was any possibility of establishing the GFS in other Dioceses. Mrs Modu in her reply said that it would depend on their activities, since they were being watched.

\That of the Philippines came next, after which a bag was presented to Mrs S Thompson and lovely markers made from country cloth distributed. It was suggested that the stole for Bishop P E S Thompson be given to him in person. After a few words of appreciation from Mrs Thompson, Mrs Henrietta Johnson was asked to read the report from Sierra Leone. In the absence of any question affecting the report, the Chairman requested that the account book be handed over to Mrs Esther Allen. The meeting then had a short break.

### **World Council 3**

**Mrs Subuola Thompson acknowledged the presence of Mrs Tamiko Sakamoto who had been ill since she arrived in Freetown. Prayers were offered on her behalf. The report from Transkei included that of the GFS World Council Project for 1991 and the Chicken Project. Those members who had been involved in organising the project were commended for their good work. Reports from the United State of America, Wales, Ghana and the Gambia followed, and the Chairman prayed that the GFS would spread throughout the last two countries.**

The Secretary of the World Council was asked to receive the greetings that had come in late from Anglican Church in Wales; The Bishop of St Asaph in the province of the Church of Wales; The Bishop of Lincoln; Diocese of Los Angeles, California, USA; Diocese of Newcastle, New South Wales. Participants then retired for lunch.

The Afternoon session which started at 3.30pm provided an opportunity to discuss issues facing young people in the world under the theme "Bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord." Eph 6:4 and the Animator was Mrs Sylvia Savage. In order to help members in their various groups, she identified areas that should be given serious consideration.

10 The responsibility of the home in Christian upbringing.

The Church's role

The contribution of the state.

Current concerns for children.

Certain questions were asked to be answered giving appropriate biblical references where necessary:

- 1) What is Christian discipline and instruction in your estimation?
- 2) Give examples of some of the ways parents can combine their everyday activities with their Christian living.
- 3) Do you believe that members of the GFS should be taught to make the spirit take effective control in their lives?  
If so, give some examples of activities. If not, what would you suggest?
- 4) Should GFS activities be geared towards reducing social evils in the society? Give reasons for your answers.

Participants were divided into 6 groups in all, and the leaders

Group 1	Miss Laura Detor
Group 2	Mrs Umeyo Iwai
Group 3	Mrs Kathleen Linnegan
Group 4	Miss Patricia Franklin
Group 5	Mrs Henrietta Johnson
Group 6	Mrs Jean Riggs.

After dinner, participants listened to a talk on "Our Heritage" by Professor Maghalley Fyle.

He introduced participants to a background history of Sierra Leone from the days of the settlers to the present time. He informed participants that the Krio language which is used in every part of the country is made up of different languages. Most of the cultural background, traditions and believes are similar to that of the Yorobas in Nigeria. For example

- (A) The Comojaday, is the ceremony in which a newborn baby is named and shown to neighbours and friends.
- (B) They believe in the power of the ancestors. Many people talk to the dead during some festive season e.g., Christmas Day and New Year's Day.

Other language groups are the Mendes in the south and east and the Temnes in the north. These two groups form about forty percent of the population. The Limba speaking people have also become prominent through political attainment.

The culture of each tribe has developed to meet the economic and social needs of the people. For example, the practice of growing rice, which is the staple food of the country. Harvest time is the time of happiness and institutions related to puberty and marriage bustle with activity. Young

people are secluded in preparation for adulthood, learning the laws of society, how to hunt and serve in the environment. Many of the trainees of the Society marry after graduation. The family concept is different from that of other areas of the World. Now you would find a cluster of houses, built with thatched roof. There is normally an individual who is the deceased. The chief's house has a large veranda where he sits to pronounce his verdicts. He is usually a dictator and the head of the organisation. Men may marry two wives and the children grow up to recognise two mothers – the biological one and the social one. Culture plays an important part in our lives. He then wished members a happy stay in Sierra Leone. The applause from the participants at the end of the talk showed their appreciation.

### **Wednesday 1 August**

The Revd F Harada was the celebrant at the Holy Eucharist, the theme for the day being "Jesus the way". Passages were read from Col` , 15-23, John 14:1-6 and Palm 23.

### **Delegates Conference 1**

It was agreed that a birthday message be sent to Her Majesty the Queen Mother, and also thanking her for her greetings to the World Council. A greeting card was later signed by delegates.

### **World Council 1993.**

It was reported that New Zealand had offered to host the next World Council in 1993. Transkei had offered to host it, but that of New Zealand took precedence. Transkei could come up in 1996, provided there was no other offer, but England indicated her desire to host. As a result, it was agreed that the offers made by Transkei and England be accepted, whilst waiting for a final decision to be taken at the next World Council in 1993.

Mrs Joy Parkin, the delegates from New Zealand declared that her archbishop has GFS at heart. She remarked that because the long distance and the high cost of ticket had not prevented her from attending the Conference, countries in other parts of the world were to be taken into consideration. Mrs Dilys Fowler explained that travelling World-wide is not a "must" but if the necessity arises, arrangements could be made to ease the situation.

### **GFS Prayer**

Members felt it was necessary to have a unified international GFS prayer that would be used in World Councils, World Day of Prayer and other general meetings, whilst different countries use their individual prayers for local activities.

A Special Committee of seven was formed to write out one and present to the house on Saturday 4 August. They were requested to take into consideration the existing Australian prayer.

### **World Project**

There were two possible projects – Kenya which had been previously presented and the Philippines. It was agreed that:

- 1) The Kenya project be shelved.
- 2) Dr Kate Botengan of the Philippines present a Project Paper at the next meeting.
- 3) World Council fund in future be used to finance a major and minor project.

Members agreed that it would be ideal for the World Projects to be presented before the Triennial Council meets.

### **GFS decisions over the years**

The Chairman observed that for many years decision have been taken by different World Councils, but no separate record is kept of them. The young members have no source from which a comprehensive list of what has been done in the past can be found.

It was suggested that Mrs Floris Bain was the most suited person to do it. She was asked to search the minutes from 1975 and extract the necessary information. She willingly agreed.

### **Keeping GFS Diocesan Membership Alive**

The problems of keeping up communication between the dioceses was raised. The present means of Communication is not good enough so that if the one person who acts as a link with dioceses is removed by death or other cause, there is a break in communication.

Dioceses are urged to have a Worldwide representative so that she the president and perhaps one other will keep up correspondence with other countries.

### **World Dues**

It was suggested that £15 for three ears per country was too small for World Dues and there was need for a change.

After some discussion, it was agreed that the dues be increased to £10 per year so as to make the fund healthy. Any country willing to pay more is welcome to do so.

### **GFS Links**

The Ghanaian delegate wanted to know if GFS had existing link relationships. She had a positive reply. The list was brought up-to-date and dioceses without links were brought into the system as follows:

Ghana joins in with Wales, Lesotho and Sri Lanka.

The Gambia to join with England, Barbados, Guyana and Transkei

Zambia to join with Ireland, Japan, Kenya and the Philippines.

### **Any other business**

It was felt by some delegates that there was a need to change the name of the Society in view of the fact that other meanings such as "God's Friendly Sons" and "Girls for Sale" have been given to the initials GFS.

However, the house felt that the name Girls Friendly Society should be retained.

### **Open Day and Exhibition**

At 3.30pm participants exhibited various items from their countries which were examined by visitors and GFS members. Gifts were exchanged.

Africana Night started at 7pm with Dinner, followed by a Fashion Show organised by a group of GFS members from Sierra Leone and produced by Mrs Fauda Akiwumi and Miss Lyni Jueli-Sheriff. It was a colourful evening with different types of African costumes worn by participants from all over the World. The program ended with Gumbay dance, typical amongst the Creoles. The music was attractive and moved a large number of participants to join the exercise.

### **Thursday 2 August**

Holy Communion was administered by the Rev. Prince Decker. The theme was "Jesus the Truth". Passages were read from Philippians 2:5-12 and John 14:1-6.

After breakfast buses departed with participants for shopping and sight=seeing. A small group of delegates had an audience with the President, Dr J S Momoh at State House. He showed his concern over some of the problems faced by women and young people all over the world.

3.30pm Discussion on the theme continued and attention was focussed on its actualisation in our lives.

The Animator introduced the second aspect of the theme and asked members to consider its practical application by following to instructions in the handout:

- 1) By way of role-play, demonstrate any new dimension of Christian living which might be beneficial to your community.
- 2) Give examples of programs stating the objectives you intend to undertake in the GFS that would bring out the Christian up-bringing we have been discussing.

The groups prepared for and presented role plays under the different sub-themes.

6.30pm Evening Prayer was led by members from Nigeria and the Philippines.

Scripture passages were taken from Isaiah 25:1-6 and 1 John 1:1-7.

7.00pm Buses departed for Lumley Beach on a beach outing. The sea view was fascinating and the temperature refreshing.

Dinner was served in one of the beach restaurants called The Venue. Background music added more to the impressive atmosphere. Soon it was time to return to the Hotel leaving the wonderful scenery behind.

### **Friday 3 August**

At about 7 am busses departed for Bo, a town which is situated in the southern province and is about 136 miles from Freetown. It was a very long coach journey, which gave members the opportunity to see some of the beautiful African countryside. On arrival in Bo, a short service was held at St Paul's Pro-Cathedral at which members of the United Church women, representing the fourteen churches in that town were present. At the service, an address was given by Bishop Michael Keioli, who also conducted the devotion.

Lunch was served at the Community Centre and GFS members of Bo entertained the group with singing and dancing. They were also seen at work with their craft. Mrs (Rev) Naomi Sam-kpa-dra, who coordinated the visit, had earlier introduced the different groups whilst the World Chairman introduced the GFS members. Hon Sam Kpakra gave a short message.

Buses departed for Freetown a little after 4pm.

Dinner concluded the day's activities.

### **Saturday 4 August**

The Holy Eucharist was administered by Rev J Thorold. The theme was "Jesus the Life", and passages were read from Co 3:1-4, John 14:1-6 and Psalm 4:1-8. After breakfast there was a change in the program.

A Delegates Conference took the place of the Workshop.

### **Delegates Conference 2**

The International Prayer that had been prepared by a Special Committee set up at the last meeting and chaired by Mrs Joy Parkin was presented to the house. Having been read out considered and amended, it now reads:

*God, our Father. We thank you for your goodness, love and mercy to all who belong to the Girls Friendly Society worldwide. Help us to bear one another's burdens, as members of one family in Jesus Christ. We ask for your blessings on our members, that we may grow in grace through your spirit.*

*Help us to know in our lives the joy of your everlasting love through Jesus Christ you Son our Lord.  
Amen.*

A motion for the acceptance of the prayer was moved by Mrs Parkin and seconded by Miss Anne Quinn. It was agreed that the above prayer be duplicated and distributed and also included in the order of service for the World Day of Prayer.

### **Philippine's Project**

Dr Kate Botengan reported on the project to be undertaken in the Philippines and outlined its objectives as follows:

- 1) To be able to train GFS Leaders.
- 2) To produce GFS Handbook.
- 3) To ensure the stability of GFS in the Philippines.

A prepared budget giving the estimate of the project as \$22,700 was presented. A delegate from Australia moved

*"the acceptance of the project as that for 1990/93"*

And was seconded by a delegate from Japan. This was unanimously accepted by the house.

### **Children's Charter**

During the discussion on the theme, the animator, Mrs Sylvia Savage had indicated that a meeting had been planned for the following September in the United States of America for discussing the plight of children in the world. Our possible contribution was considered at length and it was agreed that despite the fact that detailed information connected with the Charter was not available, yet the thought of arresting the plight of the children was most welcome and such a message was to be sent to the Conference of the Children's Charter. The message was:

*"The GFS World Council is pleased that their nations are considering the plight of the world's children. It would aim to support any resolution passed at the conference that is in the best interest of children. Bes wishes for a successful conference."*

It was decided that delegates were to go home, inform their members that we had sent such a resolution and try to find out the country's stand on the matter.

### **A message from the President of Sierra Leone**

Dr J S Momoh's message was read, and it was agreed that the reply be worded as follows:

*"To His Excellency the President, we the members of the GFS World Council, meeting in Freetown, wish to thank your Excellency for your kind message and the opportunity to meet you last Thursday."*

*It had been a pleasure to share in the life of your beautiful country and we appreciate your understanding of the needs of young women in the world and the work of the Girls Friendly Society. We wish you God's riches blessings."*

Mrs Subuola Thompson thanked delegates for participating so well and for the many presents given to her, the officers and the girls. Members then dispersed for lunch.

#### **Financial Statement – Sierra Leone.**

The Treasurer, Mrs Esther Allen presented an interim report showing the statement of overseas accounts 1987-90 as receipts and payments were expected from transactions which had not yet been recorded in the bank statement. The figures shown were as follows:

£	
Council fees	12,119.86
World Dues	618.10
World Travel Fund	4,887.97
World Project	1,929.08
World Fund	9,582.13
Interest Received	<u>2,676.13</u>
	31,813.59

Payments made then were £6.619.46

#### **International Nighty**

After lunch members were engaged in the preparation for the International night. This event followed dinner. Each country represented made a contribution for the entertainment of all present.

#### **Sunday 5 August**

Buses departed for St George's Cathedral at 8.45am to attend the Closing Service and Commissioning of the new World Chairman. The National Banners and dresses made the occasion very colourful. The Epistle was read by the World Chairman, Mrs Subuola Thompson and the Gospel by the World Chairman Elect Mrs Joy Parkin. The sermon was delivered by the Rt Revd Michael Nazir Ali, General Secretary of the Church Missionary Society in London.

The Intercessions were led by Mrs Priscilla Johnson delegate from Banjul.

The Rt Revd Prince E S Thompson, Bishop of the Diocese of Freetown was the celebrant; he also commissioned the new World Chairman.

The Service was followed by a farewell lunch at the hotel at 1pm.

The outgoing World Chairman thanked members for their contributions during the sessions and wished everyone a safe return home. She congratulated the new World Chairman and wished her a successful term of office. She also handed over to her a file of GFS World Council documents.

Immediately after lunch some delegates and observers left for their homes in different parts of the world. Others who had their return flights booked for various days during the following week stayed on to enjoy more of the beautiful scenery and the fellowship offered to them.

We thank you for coming.

Signed Joy M Parkin, 11 May 1993.