

WEST AFRICA AREA REPORT 2017/18

The Lord has been faithful to us within this one year and we are grateful to Him. This report covers the activities of the West Africa Area in 2017. We tried to base our activities on the theme of the 13th World Assembly, 'Chosen People: Called to Proclaim.'



Proclaiming through Worship: The Area President shared the World President's 'Call to Worship' with Unit Presidents and other officers, to be shared with members and pray for the Federation. The Area President proclaimed God's Word to members in the congregations and upon invitation

to women's group programmes.

Conventions were organized for the women in Togo. There were biblical teaching, intercessory prayers for the political situation in the country and Africa. We believe in God intervening to save Africa from political, economic and social hardships. In Ghana young widows were taken through Bible study, worship and prayer every fourth night to encourage and strengthen them in the Lord. Liberia women met daily in prayer and studying the Word of God. They prayed especially for those who have gone through various types of disasters.



World Day of Prayer was celebrated by all Units with the theme: 'All God's Creation is very Good.' (Genesis 1:1-31) Participation was quite good. Prayers were said for all nations having natural disasters, fighting and suffering of women and children. The theme was used to encourage the women to always appreciate God's creation by keeping our environment clean and tidy, bringing light to our families, showing love to people, both friends and enemies and to stop being destructive to what God had created.

International Meeting of the World Day of Prayer was held in Brazil from August 20 to 27, 2017 and was attended by representatives from Nigeria, Ghana and Cote D'Ivoire.

Proclaiming through Relationships:

There have been good relationships amongst the members and officers of the West Africa Area through interactions such as sharing tit bits from the Word of God and various communications in preparation towards the forthcoming Area Seminar. Members have been positively engaged in praying for each other and our countries for peace, economic stability and during disasters.

200 women from 21 African countries including Cote D'Ivoire, Liberia and Sierra Leone, from the United Methodist Women gathered in Maputo, Mozambique on 16 – 22 October 2017, for an international seminar for Christian Women Leaders. It was a time of refreshment, sharing of challenges, encouragement, bond of friendship and fellowship.

Proclaiming through Social Action:

There was Women's Empowerment by Togo Unit through education on knowing the rights of women and recognizing domestic violence and taking the appropriate action. The Fight against widowhood ceremonies that undermine the dignity of women and widow inheritance were also

WEST AFRICA AREA ANNUAL REPORTS 2017/18 FROM JEMIMA AMANOR AREA PRESIDENT 2016 - 2021

discussed. They carried out Income Generation Activities to empower women to sustainably provide for themselves and their children and to eradicate poverty from amongst them. Both Christian and non-Christian women benefitted from the workshops.

In Ghana Unit special Church service was organised for about 205 elderly persons, widows, invalids and less privileged people after which they had dinner and parcels of clothing and food items were donated to all of them. The beneficiaries expressed their joy of the care given by the women of the Church. A group of widows were empowered with skills training that allowed them to earn income to take care of their needs and that of their children. The women's fellowship visited the prisons, shared the Word of God and made presentations of personal hygiene items and food items costing about USD1,000.00.

Liberia Unit focused on addressing the immediate needs of girls and young women. There was increase in scholarship for girls so that more of them will be able to complete their education. Programmes for the West Africa Area enabled spiritual growth and empowerment of the women.

Cote D'Ivoire Unit elected a new President in March 2017. She is Mrs Marcelline BEDA. The Unit also has a National Convention on Methodist Women on 5th November 2017 with the theme: 'The Contribution of the Methodist Woman in the fight against poverty in the Home, the Church and the Nation.' (Luke 13: 6-9) There were lots of lessons learned by the 1053 women participants.

On the 22nd of April 2018, Nigeria Unit lost an active member of the Federation, Mrs Olufunmilayo Adetifewa Adegbite. She was the wife of the Diocesan Bishop of Ikeja Diocese of Methodist Church of Nigeria. May her soul rest in peace. Our condolences were sent to the sisters of Nigeria and the Bishop of Ikeja.

Women's Work Sunday and National Day of Women are celebrated in Ghana, Nigeria and Cote D'Ivoire to remember the work of women in the Church and Society. Women are commended and given gifts.

Women are constructing/ supporting in the construction of Churches in communities in Ghana and Cote D'Ivoire. There were also donations to prison inmates and hospitals. The women were involved in evangelism drive in the rural communities. Two Local Churches were started with 61 people who gave their lives to Christ.

**From: Rev Jemima Amanor
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