BIBLE SOCIETY OF LIBERIA

2024 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

The Bible Society of Liberia convened its 6th Annual General Meeting (AGM) on November 9, 2024, at the Monrovia Christian Fellowship, on 9th Street, Sinkor, Monrovia. The 2024 AGM highlighted the importance of partnerships, reviewed the organization's progress, and outlined a roadmap for future impact. This significant gathering brought together church leaders, delegates, stakeholders, and members of the Bible Society to reflect on the organization's achievements, address prevailing challenges, and deliberate on strategies for advancing its mission.

Opening Session

The meeting began with a Musical Prelude, creating a reflective and worshipful atmosphere. This was followed by the Call to Order, officially signaling the commencement of proceedings. The devotional session was led by Rev. Dr. Joseph N. Bannah, Co-chair of the Bible Society Board. In his message, Rev. Dr. Bannah encouraged attendees to remain steadfast in their faith and dedication to advancing the work of the Bible Society.

Welcome Statement

Dr. Rosalyn Teahjay, Treasurer of the Board of Directors, delivered a warm and inspiring Welcome Statement. She acknowledged the presence of delegates, partners, and stakeholders, expressing gratitude for their unwavering support of the Society's mission. She emphasized the AGM as a vital platform to unite in purpose and renew efforts toward disseminating God's Word throughout Liberia.

This segment was followed by a vibrant Praise and Worship session, during which attendees joined in heartfelt expressions of gratitude and devotion. The spiritual connection fostered a sense of unity and shared purpose.

Keynote Address

Pastor Fayiah S. Tamba, Church Relations Officer of the Bible Society, introduced the keynote speaker, describing him as a passionate servant of God dedicated to the advancement of the gospel and the church in Liberia. The keynote address was delivered by Rev. Dr. Hilary G. Paul, Sr., Bishop of the Open Bible Church in Liberia.

In his address, Rev. Dr. Paul emphasized the power of partnership as a tool for overcoming challenges, building resilience, and fostering strategic planning. He encouraged self-reliance and rejected the "receiving mentality," urging the audience to view challenges as opportunities for growth while celebrating African culture and languages. He stressed the importance of:

· Resilience — staying steadfast in the face of opposition.

· Unity in ministry — working collaboratively beyond personal comfort zones.

· Strategic planning — engaging in intentional, cooperative efforts to maximize the impact of the gospel.

Recommendations

Rev. Dr. Paul proposed several actionable initiatives to strengthen the mission and outreach of the Bible Society of Liberia, including:

Ø Organizing an annual Bible Walk to raise awareness.

Ø Launching a Bible-focused evangelistic crusade.

Ø Partnering with local churches for regular outreach programs.

Ø Hosting an annual retreat for spiritual renewal and strategic planning.

Ø Holding song services to promote the Scriptures.

Ø Collaborating with national leaders to integrate the Bible into public discourse and policies.

These recommendations aim to mobilize resources, foster unity, and enhance the Society's nationwide impact.

Group Discussions

Following the keynote address, attendees were divided into more than 15 groups, each comprising at least ten members, to discuss the address. Each group responded to three core questions:

1. What are the challenges confronting partnerships in Bible Society-related churches and institutions?

2. What should the Bible Society do to foster stronger partnerships among its churches and institutions?

3. What strategies should the Bible Society adopt to strengthen partnerships with the national government? The groups recorded their responses on flip charts and submitted them to Bible Society staff for review.

Business Session

Rev. Dr. Jerry P. Kulah, Chairperson of the Bible Society Board of Directors, chaired the Business Session and recognized BSL partners in Bomi, Nimba, Grand Bassa, and Margibi counties.

ü Minutes from the 2022 AGM were read by Mr. Paul F. Stevens, General Secretary of the Bible Society. After the reading, Mr. Tamba Johnson inquired about the status of the Constitution, which the BSL Management had previously promised to publish on its website. In response, Mr. Stevens confirmed that the document had been published and encouraged everyone to access it. The Business Session Agenda was then read by Rev. Dr. Jerry P. Kulah, after which a motion for its adoption was raised by Mr. Tamba Johnson and seconded by another participant.

ü Audited Financial Reports (2022/2023) were presented by Crowe's staff member, Mr. Timothy Verdier, who highlighted the organization's commitment to transparency and fiscal responsibility. One notable matter arose from the financial report. Mr. Verdier congratulated the BSL Management on significant improvements in financial practices. He reported that between 2016 and 2024, Crowe had identified 42 management issues. By the end of December 2023, 38 of these issues had been resolved, leaving only four outstanding. This demonstrated significant progress in addressing management concerns.

During the session, Pastor Jacob G. Wilson of the Emmanuel Temple Assembly of God Church in Jacob Town raised a concern regarding the frequent featuring of the Kissi Guest Choir at Bible Society events. He suggested engaging various traditional choirs from partner churches to ensure inclusivity. Both Rev. Dr. Kulah and Rev. Dr. Bannah assured attendees that this recommendation would be implemented in the next AGM.

Closing and Refreshments

The meeting concluded with a Closing Prayer by Sis. Jenneh Momo, a Board Member. Following the prayer, refreshments were served, providing an opportunity for fellowship and networking among attendees.