

## A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE METHODIST GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL FREETOWN SIERRA LEONE

The Methodist Girls' High School was founded on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 1880 by the Wesleyan Missionary Society with the Rev. James Taylor, a Sierra Leonean, as its first acting principal. Later a principal, Mrs. E. H. C. Weymouth, was sent from England.

The school moved from the city, Freetown, to its present site, at Wilberforce in 1932. Since then the student population has exploded to some 2,500+ girls ranging in age from 11 to 19 years.

The first permanent Sierra Leonean principal was an alumna, Mrs. Fashu Collier whose indefatigable effort and excellent management, maintained high academic standards and discipline. After 28 years, she was succeeded by Mrs. Hannah Kwalley another alumna who continued the good work.

The civil war in the 1990's disrupted the smooth running of the school but we are proud to say, that Mrs. Ayo Gilpin-Jackson who took over was able to maintain a steady progress. Later the school was divided into Junior Secondary and Senior Secondary Schools because of **lack of adequate classroom space** and two shifts were started.

There are currently two principals, Mrs. Daisy McEwen at the SSS and Mrs. Mary Jambai in JSS (Acting Principal).

There are Alumnae Associations in Freetown, Sierra Leone founded in 1905, in London, England, founded in 1980; and then the New York/New Jersey Branch and the Washington branch founded in 1985.

Since then there are branches in Atlanta, Georgia; Dallas, Texas and Ontario, Canada.

These branches have supported their alma mater by providing Scholarships for needy students; educational and library materials and Teacher/staff financial support.

Together they have improved the physical structure by providing a Staff Room, school desks, classrooms and a Computer Room aptly named, **The Fashu Collier Computer Room**.