Mr. Chairman and distinguished members of the Executive Council, SNEC Chairman and Members, our omnidisciplinary External Auditor, beloved Associates, partners, friends, colleague members of Staff, Students, Fellow Brothers and Sisters, I count it a great privilege and also an opportunity to give a brief account of the work entrusted to us by the Lord and you.

Succinctly Ward Gasque, professor at the University of British Columbia says “The University is perhaps the most strategic mission field in the world today. The future of the church and society will be determined, in large part, by what happens there in the next 25 years.” And Charles Malik, former President of UN General Assembly has also said, “Universities directly or indirectly dominate the world. Their influence is so pervasive and total, that whatever problem afflicts them is bound to have far-reaching repercussions.” thus Ward Gasque again adds “You as a college, polytechnic or university student not only live in this strategic mission field, but you are one of the key missionaries sent to it! And for that matter, we, the Associates to the Market place. In fact, when we talk about “engaging the campus and engaging the marketplace” we are really talking about a missionary strategy of intentionally communicating and demonstrating the Gospel on your campus and in the marketplace. This is our mandate and we seek with the help of God to do this. It is in this spirit that we strategically work in the University world and beyond.

This is the forty seventh (47TH) year; GHAFES has forty (40) Fellowships in twenty one (23) institutions. We have many leading Christian professionals and clergymen across the nations who trace their formative Christian years to GHAFES. So we have every cause to praise God for what He has done so far with this ministry.
Mr. Chairman, I will present my report covering 2012 and beyond along the lines of IFES’ six (6) priority areas, namely:

- Communicating the good news of Jesus Christ
- Strengthening Leadership and *Formación*
- Promoting student-graduate integration
- Building sustainable indigenous support
- Addressing current global issues
- Engaging the University

The IFES Living Stones vision was borne out of deep reflections from all stakeholders of the Ministry. The vision is leading to a **Need for a paradigm shift in**

- *Emphasis on quality over quantity*
- *Emphasis on depth over spread*

**Communicating the Good News of Jesus Christ**

The SNEC Chairman shared on the activities leading to achieving this priority on our campuses. On the national level, this has been our Mission activities like SICE, STICS and engaging the marketplace.

**SICE 2012 (STUDENT –IN-CHURCH-EVANGELISM)**

Immediately, following the Annual Conference was SICE 2012. On the 9th of June, 2012, 72 students and 9 staff left Accra to Dambai in the Krachi East District. Students were grouped into teams of at least 3 and distributed to 16 villages where they stayed for almost 3 weeks. These teams were involved in a myriad of activities geared towards opening the eyes of the communities to the Light of the World, JESUS. Activities embarked on included, Dawn Broadcasting, House to House evangelism, One on One evangelism, Out-door / Open air crusade, Visitation to Churches, Community Prayer Network, Teaching various subjects in the schools, All forms of Counseling, Children Services and Programmes. Other activities included Medical Outreach, Clean – Ups and Distribution of used clothing. Just like every other year, the Christian Medical Fellowships of KNUST and Korle-Bu joined the rest of the participants at SICE 2012 to reach out to eight communities with medical services.

At the end of the programme, 1244 souls gave their lives to Christ, 30 people rededicated their lives to Christ, a Community Youth Bible Club was formed in one of the Villages and the local council of leaders in communities was strengthened.

We are filled with joy for the countless lifes that are being transformed each and every year. Students always come back from SICE with a testimony to give for how their lives have been changed by simply ministering to those in the deprived communities.
May God bless staff, associates, IVCF team, World Vision, Krachi East District and all who contributed in one way or the other for the success of SICE 2012.

Some of our students and a cross section of children in their SICE community

**Strengthening Leadership and Formacion**

Mr. Chairman, we have ensured that staff members organize Leadership Training programmes for the leaders of each fellowship, annually. We also give them room to practise leadership on-the-job. Our fellowship programs consist of doctrine, expository preaching and training in areas of Bible usage, and prayer and other motivational preaching. We have encouraged this over the years in order to produce students who are rooted in scripture. We strive to prepare all final years adequately for the market place and Church. Staff Members have been visiting the campuses to give support through preaching, counselling, mentoring, and ensuring that the vision and mission of the Ministry are maintained. Below are some of the major leadership trainings embarked on:

**NLTS 2013**

The import of NLTS program focuses on the character of the person, understanding the mission and vision of GHAFES, developing leadership skills in members and addressing current felt needs. Seminars provided Biblical Knowledge on current issues, leadership skills development and a discussion forum. We replicate these at zonal and campus levels to let it reach the grassroots.

NLTS 2013 can be marked as a history making conference. Not only was the venue taken out of the capital city, Accra but also NLTS was organized in January instead of the usual December. Again, the conference had two main expositors, Rev. (Mrs.) Juliana Larthe and Mr. Chistiaan Adu Boakye. Working with the theme: Living and leading like Christ with an emphasis on the leader as a steward, servant and sheperherd, participants were empowered to live and lead like Christ. The total participation for students was 190 which represented 63.3% of the total expected number of delegates. Staff present was 18 with a surprising great turnout of 52 associates during the mentoring session. Below is a testimony from one of the delegates at NLTS 2012:

“I have learnt that to be a shepherd, one must introduce the followers to Jesus as the ultimate leader and not himself/herself. In humility, I have come to understand that I need to be humble if I...
need to identify with my followers and this I will do by introducing them to the word of God”

-FREDA BOAKYE AMEYAW
(UCF VVU, OYIBI)

LOCAL LEADERSHIP TRAINING SEMINARS
At the local front, our hard working training secretaries and assistants undertook LOCAL LEADERSHIP TRAINING SEMINARS to equip student leaders with the knowhow and skills to be effective Christian leaders. In all, 574 student leaders were trained during the year under review. Some topics treated includes Introduction to GHAFES, Balance program planning, Effective leadership, Influence through character, competence and care, Principles of Effective Communication in Leadership, My Worship, My Studies, My Leadership, Managing Conflicts in Leadership, How to Study and Characteristics of a Healthy Fellowship.

Below is a comment from one of the students.
“I’ve learnt how to engage in effective communication through verbal and non-verbal means. As a good leader, I need to be a good listener and also find out about feedback from the people am leading”

FINALIST INTEGRITY CONFERENCE
During the year under review, a finalist Integrity Conference was organized for all finalist in the respective zones. These seminars were aimed at empowering finalist to remain steadfast to their calling as Christian graduates as they stepped into various market places. Working with the theme “The Graduate with a Difference”, several topics were handled to meet the objective set. Topics included the Transformational Leadership, This is my Story: A True life story on Integrity, Being Salt and Light in the market place, Tips and techniques on writing an Excellent & Attractive Cover Letter & CV, The Role of the Young Associate in the GHAFES Ministry, and Financial Management and Integrity. In all a total number of 437 finalists were trained all over the nation. We are very hopeful, GHAFES is bequeathing graduates with unwavering integrity to the nation.

Below are a few comments from some participants.

- *The seminar was very good and enlightened. I was really blessed especially knowing that God is interested in how I manage my finance and also the importance of investments.*
  Schandorf Michael (IHCF-KNUST):

- “*The seminar has taught and challenged me to have a strong value system and I have resolved to work diligently at it.*”

Finalist @Accra Zone Finalist Integrity Conference
MINISTRY INITIATIVES

Special programs were organized by the various zones to further meet the growing needs of students. The Accra Zone organised the Prayer Therapy to equip prayer secretaries of the fellowship to re-shape their prayer theology and also to pray for the ministry. 45 students were in attendance. The Kumasi Zone also organised the following special programs; Zonal Bible Study Workshop, Peace and Prosperity Conference which was towards ensuring a peaceful and successful election 2012, Faith and Health and the Fundraising Dinner for Associates in Kumasi. The Northern Zone again organised a zonal SICE program for its students due to their unfavourable academic calendar. 25 students participated in this program.

ZONAL RALLIES

Zonal Rallies are also run to give students who are unable to attend National Conferences the opportunity for them to reconnect with their colleagues within the Zone. We get Associates present for about three (3) mentoring sessions which provide lifelong disciples and mentees. One of the privileges this affords is to have lawyer friends, pharmacy brethren, teachers, engineers and what have you. Life becomes a lot easier when you are networked in this way. The Accra Zone was able to rally together a total of 311 participants made up of 298 students and 13 Associates at Ho Polytechinc. The main theme was “The student’s role in Religious, Ethnicity, and Political diversity in championing National Unity.” This is what a student had to say, “The seminar I attended helped me to understand that no matter my busy schedules I still have to ensure a personal devotional life. The speaker did well to answer most questions that were on my mind as he shared his personal life experience with me.” John Nyarkor IPS
Zonal Rally @ Accra Zone

Promoting Student-Graduate Integration

One of the means by which we have tried to promote student graduate integration is to involve our Associates at every level of our ministry. Every staff and almost all Council Members are Associates. They are the speakers at our Local Leadership Trainings, Zonal Rallies, Finalists Training, National Leadership Trainings and Conferences. Final year students are being encouraged to be present at our Associates’ Fellowship meetings. Over the past few years, we pioneered Mentoring sessions at our NLTS and they are now being replicated at our zonal rallies. This has served as bridging the gap between students and associates. At campus levels, associates are patrons and speakers at fellowship meetings. Below are some program statistics of activities;

ASSOCIATES FELLOWSHIP MEETING
I must say, rallying associates for fellowship has been quite a herculean task. I am however glad to inform the house that, during the year under review, quite a good number of associates met to fellowship in each of the zones. Altogether, a total number of 151 esteemed associates met in all four zones to fellowship, reconnect and also discuss the following issues: “The Role of the Associate in Ethnic, Religious and Political Diversity in Championing National Unity”, “The Changing Phase of Youth Ministry: the Role of Stakeholders” the reality of Life in the Market Place, Integrity in the Market Place and Being Salt and Light in the Marketplace. Amongst speakers at these meetings was the Very Rev. Walter Pimpong, (Executive Director of International Needs Ghana), Elder Amos Kevin-Annan (Deputy Youth Director of the Church of Pentecost), Dr Paul Nsiah and Dr. (Mrs.) Joselyne Yakubu

Below are comments by some associates “I have decided to become abreast with post-modernism concepts so as to know how to reach out to the younger generation for Christ. This should not make me compromise my stand as a Christian”.

“I always miss the fellowship we had in GHAFES while on campus. Therefore I am glad when we meet like this as associates. I owe my leadership skills and training to GHAFES and I will testify about this anywhere I go” Mr. Robert Mensah (Manager, Eusbett Hotel –Sunyani)
Building Sustainable Indigenous Support

Over the past few years, the growing wave of indigenous generosity is phenomenal. It confirms the fact that it is the indigenes who own the ministry. Five core things Stakeholders give include; their Time-like the Executive Council, the various committees who also avail their expertise and intellect, their Money-almost all of us, their Goods-making available their personal effects, their Voice (speak for us) and their Influence across the marketplace, institutions and Church. And we know that people give to people first, whatever second. Permit me to single out those who give their money especially and acknowledge a few.

The following individuals, Churches and organizations are the top 20 donors of the ministry for the year 2012 in order.

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These Associates and key partners support this ministry because they believe in our cause. I doff my cap for them and all our consistent and faithful partners. The top 20 donors gave us thirty six per cent (36%) of all our local donations in 2012 which is also thirty two per cent (32%) of our income.
for that year. Local donation amounted to fifty nine per cent (59%) as against fifty four per cent (54%) of the previous year of our total donations. There is still a vast window of opportunity that we hope to reach in the coming years, trusting God.

**Addressing Current Global and National Issues**

At all National programmes and Associates meetings, global and National issues are Biblically and relevantly addressed. Issacharism Conference is a Christian response to national and global issues.

**ISSACHARISM 2012**

The Annual Student’s Conference, ‘ISSACHARISM 2012 came on at the Mensah Sarbah Hall, University of Ghana-Legon, from the 1st -5th June under the theme “Understand the Times: Be a Living Legacy”. About 324 participants from the various fellowships across the nation gathered to worship, fellowship, listen and be challenged on how to understand the times we find ourselves and be equipped on making the maximum impact in our Society/environment, just as the men of Issachar in 1Chronicles 12:32.

The clarion call, of ISSACHARISM CONFERENCE, was to engage students to be like the “men of Issachar who understood the times and knew what Israel should do” (1 Chronicles 12:32) This was achieved through various sessions which included main Bible Expositions, Bible Study, Plenary and Seminar sessions. We are grateful to God that the conference was a success. It is God alone who knows the destinies that have been affected and the chain reactions of students that have been ignited. Comments received through our evaluation assured us that God used the Issacharism Conference 2012 to impact our future leaders.

The main Speaker, Mr Baba Mahama speaking @ Issacharism Conference 2012
Engaging the University

Challenged again and again by the Executive Council Chairman about the need to engage the University, students embarked on several initiatives to engage their campuses and make Jesus known. The Chairman has shared on these and trusting that we will all take a cue and go and do likewise.

Tom Peters says “chaos and uncertainty are market opportunities for the wise!” because ‘Leaders are not always the first to see the need for change, but they are the first to act. And once they move away from the pack, they are positioned to lead’. This is what we are seeking to do in this drive to engage the University as it recently also happened in University of Ghana campus and shared in our first quarter Newsletter.

An intervention of our Accra Zone Training Secretary, Isaac Mensah-Newton, led to the pulling down of an obscene banner which was hanged at the front entrance of the Legon Hall, University of Ghana, on Saturday 16th January, 2013. He happened to have chanced upon the banner on his way to the Legon Hall Chapel to run a leadership seminar for the Fellowship’s Executives. Disgusted by the nudity portrayed on the banner, he took shots and showed them to the Executives at the seminar challenging them to rise against such acts of impunity and gross disrespect for the female gender, who are constantly portrayed as sex objects on such banners and posters all across campus. This prompted a quick reaction from a few lady-executives who marched up to the offices of the hall master to register their displeasure at such an obscene banner. Their action immediately led to the removal of the banner.
We thank God for the collective bravery and wise decisions of these individuals that brought about the removal of the obscene banner. It’s our hope and prayer that our Christian students all across tertiary campuses in the country will exhibit such acts of bravery and responsibility, especially in the preaching of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

**Conclusion**

I cannot end without extending my heartfelt appreciation to our precious associates and all for your selfless sacrifices you make every day for this ministry.  
May God continue to sustain and strengthen the efforts of our students as they continue to work for the transformation of our society through the power of God.

**Know Christ... We are still committed to raising people of Integrity.**