



Dear Friends in GFS

Well the 'Heat is on!' as we say! Not only have we had one of the hottest summers you could wish for but it is less than a year now to our World Council!

As lovely as it is to have fine weather, for some of us it can be difficult. Sadly when we have hot weather in this country there is also a lot of humidity which affects those with arthritis greatly. Needless to say my arthritis has been really bad this year! It was our intention to travel to Japan and Sri Lanka later in the year but it would be too great a risk with my health and I need to keep my strength for next year!!

As our theme says 'I can do all things through Christ!' but we have to know our limitations. We are very good as Christians in taking quote's like this out of context and applying them to everyday life. When Paul wrote this in his letter to the Phillipians Ch.4:13 he was in prison and was hungry and in pain but he knew his limitations and was grateful for whatever he could do in Christ's name and we must do the same.

In my letter this time last year I mentioned how lovely it is to see GFS vibrant in so many corners of the world. It is encouraging to see GFS activities, meetings and celebrations on internet media sites like face book. I also wrote that technology is progressing so rapidly that many of us can't keep up with it. Sadly how true that is! I must apologise to many of you for not replying to your emails straight away but please be assured I do read them and take them on board.

Many have asked numerous questions about World Council in Wales. Information will be sent out very soon, we're as anxious to get this information out as you are. All in good time!

May God Bless you all and 'Thank you' for all you do in the name of GFS.

Yours in Christ

World Council Wales 2014

Fri 25 Jul - Mon 04 Aug Swansea University Singleton Park, Swansea, SA2 8PP

In our trip called life, God is the destination, Jesus is the road to God, and the Holy Spirit is the GPS to guide us. We do run into road construction that can detour us, but we must get past the detours and back on the main road to get to our destination.

~ Paul Hoffman

GFS ZAMBIA UPDATE

1. INTRODUCTION OF A GFS BRANCH

We have embarked on a deliberate programme to introduce GFS in the distance rural areas, last month we again travelled to the Southern Province, Choma which is about 700 Km from Lusaka then we moved 80Km from the main road to get to Mapanza an Anglican Missionary centre then 4Km to the remotest to a place called Masonsa.

The GFS through their tailoring project again dressed the altar and the Priests' uniform as the church could not afford to buy them; the place is in the remote their Sunday collection in church ranges from US\$4.00 to US\$5 (ZMK20.00).



The GFS members who travelled to Masonsa to introduce GFS doing self introduction

A Total of 55 members were enrolled as GFS members signaling the start of a GFS branch in the Parish, however the place has a lot of women and young girls who need help, especially the girls who are vulnerable to be married off at an early age as young as 12 – 15 years this is due to lack of exposure and not going further in education due to lack of sponsorship to further their education.

The GFS Executive Committee also felt that it imperative that two ladies are identified to do a tailoring course as way of empowering women who will in turn come and train others.



Performing a sketch appealing for help against early marriages



Fun time Leaders dancing with the members



The GFS President addressing the congregation before the altar



The Priest and altar well dresses were dressed with materials donated by GFS.



The GFS members ready to be enrolled as GFS members

2. SPONSORSHIP OF LADIES FROM MISOLO EASTERN PROVINCE

Finally the GFS pledge to train two ladies from Misolo where they travelled in September, 2012 with the evangelical team became a reality when two ladies reported for training. The GFS will spend about ZMK5, 000 (US\$1,000) in tuition and other requirements to complete the course.



The GFS President briefing the GFS sponsored students



The students receiving the materials for their training

3. INCOME GENERATING ACTIVITY

During the last GFS Executive meeting it was decided the Income Generating Activity of rearing chickens that was stopped should start to this effect a meeting was arranged with the church council on how best this can be revamped. The meeting further agreed to put measures in place to ensure there was no repeat of what had transpired of misappropriation of funds. The chicken rearing will commence in August, 2013.



GFS members and Church council members during the meeting



The GFS National President, Training Officer and the Treasurer after the meeting behind the GFS chicken Run

4. WORKING WITH OTHER WOMEN ORGANISATIONS WITHIN THE CHURCH

The Girls Friendly Society was invited by the St Veronica to partner with them to find ways on how to assist the rural women to be self reliant. To this effect The GFS National President, the National Treasurer was on hand to check how best GFS can come in and work with the rural women, we attended a very success St Veronica Conference in Sinjela in Lusaka rural about 80Km from Lusaka the Capital city. St Veronica has appreciated the work of the Girls Friendly Society, when two of their members who are also Leaders in the Girls Friendly Society were identified and have been sponsored to undergo a Tailoring Course as Trainers and will be able to train others in the village when they complete in December, 2013.



Part of the St Veronica members listening to the conference Proceedings



The GFS National Treasurer, The President, Beatrice & a MU member at the shelter used as a church and where we spent 3 nights



A church being built to replace the shelter the challenge is Money to have it completed



A Young man took advantage of the conference to cash in to have our phones charged he brought a generator (No electricity)



The church choir the girls and women earmarked to be enrolled in the GFS.



Part of the other group during a church service & a make shift altar

Compiled by: Beatrice Zulu

EXCITING NEWS!

Val Gribble has been assisting Glenys in searching out links for GFS countries that have not been in contact for many years.

Firstly we now know that GFS is still active in Canada, the only branch is in Bonavista parish in Newfoundland. There are 12 members and they will celebrate their 120th anniversary on 5 November 2014. The President is Mrs Enid Russell and her email address is russellenid@gmail.com

We made this contact through the Parish Priest of their parish.

And with Kate Botengan's help we have re-established contact with The Philippines. Judy Tan has been an active member of GFS for many, many years and there is a small group which still meets in her parish. She has sent a long email to Glenys, David and Val full of memories and history. We are hoping she may be able to attend the World Council in Wales.

Her email address is gojudyt@yahoo.com

Kate is returning to live in The Philippines in the near future and will endeavour, with Judy, to revive GFS.

We are still trying to make contact with GFS in Nigeria, Guyana, Lesotho and the West Indies. If anyone has any contact addresses or information please let Glenys or Val know.

Greetings from GFS Ireland.

The weather in Ireland was certainly glorious over the summer months which made a change from many past years when rain was the daily Weather Forecast. The beautiful sunshine and heat has been a blessing for farmers, who got a lot of work done. Children enjoyed outdoor activities, Fashion Stores were able to sell off summer stock, houses were painted and in general people are in good humour. At the moment we are experiencing broken weather which hopefully will be short lived and not pose a problem for corn growers.

In the last issue I mentioned that our Chaplain, Rev'd Janice was resigning. After May Central Council which was held in Church House, Armagh, she led the usual Service of Holy Communion in St. Patrick's Cathedral. This was followed by a lovely meal prepared by Armagh Diocese. A presentation was made to Rev'd Janice, with a few words of appreciation for her dedication to our Society.

GFS Ireland had a Service Broadcasted on RTE TV and RTE Radio on 11th August. This was pre-recorded on 16th June in the Studios. We used in part the GFS World Day of Prayer Service compiled by Ireland in 2010, and Rev'd Janice very kindly led the Service. Rev'd David Oxley was the Musical Director and he put everyone involved through their 'singing' paces during the two practices. Thirty one members varying in age represented our Country. There was a party in 'Oak House' following the recording, with most members attending. This whole experience was interesting, enjoyable and educational. Everyone agreed that this was a lovely finale to Rev'd Janice's time with us. Once again we wish her every blessing in whatever way she feels guided in her Ministry in future years.

Well done to GFS Korea for compiling the 2013 World Day of Prayer Service. The theme is "Unity and Reconciliation". GFS in Korea does a lot to help persecuted women and children from North Korea seeking help in South Korea.

In May GFS Ireland went on Facebook. We look ahead to generous interaction, and in so doing we trust everyone will use the site respectfully. It is also necessary to emphasise that personal pages are not connected.

At the moment two Training Days are being organised for Leaders and Helpers – One in Abbeylaxey in Co. Laois, and the other in Enniskillen in Co. Fermanagh. The venues are chosen geographically with the hope that most Leaders will get attending one place. The theme is "Together for GFS". It is most important that every member feels and knows that she is an important 'cog in the GFS wheel', and that she is aware of the 'workings of this same wheel', and together everyone can do a lot for the organisation in these challenging times - bringing to mind Romans, Chapter 12; verse 5. *"We, being many, are one body in Christ, and everyone members one of another"*.

Congratulations to Alison Burnside, a former Junior Delegate from Armagh Diocese on her marriage to Arnold Jackson. Some members of Alison's local GFS Branch sang beautifully at this lovely wedding.

I hope members everywhere have enjoyed the summer break and that they are looking forward to re-grouping in the new season.

Sylvia Quinn.



Presentation to Rev'd Janice.



Alison with most of the girls who sang at her wedding.



The group involved in the broadcast Service in the Studios afterwards.

Greetings from New Zealand

I always enjoy sharing good news!

Last week we received a report from Sylvia, a GFS Council Member who manages the girls who have English as their second language.

“I have just had coffee with one of my students who has just completed her BA in Education. She is such a success story - I feel very proud for her as she has achieved so much against the odds. She will do her teaching certificate next year and plans to head back to Samoa to teach. She will be a role model for the young people of her village.”

It is always wonderful to receive happy news especially when success was hard won.

Rebekah also graduated this year and is now studying to become a nurse. She plans to do aid work overseas and hopes to work for the Red Cross. She was an excellent student who has a good degree in Asian Studies. She works long hours as a waitress to pay for her rent and living costs. We wish her well and we will keep in touch.

We are mentoring fifteen girls this year and they come from many different countries including

China, Samoa, Laos, Afghanistan as well as NZ born. Their career choices are varied and include teaching, nursing, midwifery, business courses and laboratory science

The most important factor in making the programme work is our ability to keep in touch with each student. Even when there are difficulties and disappointments we know there is hope. Those who persevere do well even if they change courses and plans. The difference between school life and tertiary study is not to be underestimated and GFS seems to fit the role of mentoring well.

I was delighted to be invited to Melbourne for the GFS Australia's Mid Term Conference. New Zealand is a link country with Australia.

A privilege to learn about GFS in Australia and a lot of fun meeting up with friends I had not seen since World Conference in Korea Thank you Julie and Barbara for being great hosts.



Rebekah's Graduation photo

With love and prayers

Janet

GFS Wales

Greetings from sunny Wales! We've enjoyed some lovely weather this summer.

Our branches are having their summer break until September. Activities such as tree recognition in the Churchyard, knitting squares for baby blankets, making cards for various occasions, and playing games outdoors have kept the girls busy and enjoying themselves.

The leaders met for an overnight stay in Coleg Trefeca which is near Brecon. It is a special place in which to enjoy fellowship and where many people feel close to God. We met to discuss our plans for World Council in Swansea which is now less than a year away. In some ways this is a frightening thought but we are looking forward to meeting our world wide GFS friends.

Our Junior Delegate from 2011, Hannah Charlesworth recently attended an Afternoon Party at Bishopthorpe Palace, the home of the Archbishop of York. He had invited representatives of the organisations and charities of which he is patron to attend. He used the opportunity to thank those involved especially as many are volunteers. One thing he said is very apt in our GFS work - "Keep going for God and serving others in all you do."



Hannah with Joy Lauezzari Director of GFS Platform and the Archbishop of York

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Lauren and Scott Kitwood on the birth of their baby boy Branigan.
Lauren was the Australian Junior Delegate in Ireland.

Greetings from Korea

We continuously try to increase branches, especially in the Diocese of Daejeon and Pusan, and juniors as well. In April, we visited two parish churches in Daegu and Cheju, belong to Pusan Diocese. Hope we could establish branches in those churches soon.

GFS Korea began a program named 'GFS Play School' for children in our church in April as a 3 months session. The program consists of math and English for age 5 to 13. We included children of North Korean Women defectors, and boys. It originally planned to aim nurturing GFS juniors.



Martha Ahn, math teacher, is beaming in the second, and Naomi Han, former World Secretary is talking to somebody in the back. Naomi also teach English in the GFS Play School

Annual Bazaar held in April for raising funds

Agatha Kim, who is the president of Seoul Diocese GFS, expressed that our Lord presented into us by preparing 'Cloud Tent'. Meaning is that the weather was cooperating to block out the burning sun with Clouds. Our concern was whether it is rainy or strong sunny day since we don't have tents. Besides, it was a success to cover GFS expenses such as scholarship, programs and the Project.



Many meetings and events of diocesan and provincial level in May

We had the 3rd mother-children excursion held at Yongsan Family Park in Seoul. We made new friends from women defectors from N. Korea. A young lady who is wearing a cap and sunglasses, caring baby stroller is one of them. She is a singer and student. We had a chance to learn N.Korean song from her. Hope to sing at the next World Council. Our new Chaplain (Rev. Stephen Ryu) is in the second left to right. Presented the 2nd grant to three students. We could add one more student than last year. We will try to increase students on a scholarship.



Provincial Secretary the Rev. Abraham K. Kim presented the certificate of scholarship for Myungsook Dong.

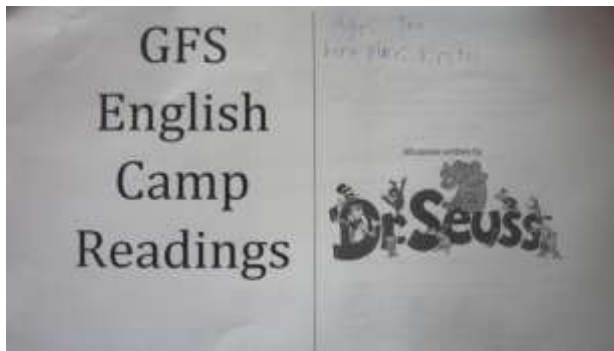
One of our proposal came true for Women defectors from N.K. by helping and supporting legal advice. Human rights lawyer JaeChul Kim helped one woman who was rooked and lost a lot of money by another N.K. defector.



Lawyer Kim went on giving lecture to the group of N. Korean defectors. He felt sorry for them and he willingly shared his knowledge with them. He is one of our board members and he will continue to educate the law and legislation for daily life for women defectors from N. Korea. That is very useful knowledge not only for the N. Korean defectors but also for us. So we are going to join them.

English Camp was held on July 26 and 27 at Chongpyung Castle Lake Pension. Students of GFS Play School and 2 children of N. K. women defectors enjoyed camp in English by Ms. Alyssa Abraham who is doing internship with GFS. Alyssa is from George Washington University, USA and has interests in Women defectors from N.K... We were fortunate to have her as an intern and she worked at café grace for 8 weeks.





NEWS FROM PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Earlier this year members of GFS in the Diocese of Popondota held their annual meeting to elect a new executive to serve for another three years. Mary Bagu was elected to a second and last term as President, Jezebel Sangai as Vice-President, Bothilda Enos as Secretary and Ilma Eupu as Treasurer. GFS in Popondota diocese is in the process of appointing Deanery Coordinators to assist with the promotion of GFS. Two of the coordinators were commissioned after the annual meeting. Val Gribble travelled to Popondetta to chair the annual meeting.

At the commissioning service Wilma Moi from Port Moresby was admitted as a lone member of GFS, being the only member in Port Moresby Diocese. Wilma reported on her visit to the Diocese of Dogura Synod to talk about GFS and the Sunday School program supported by GFS Australia. As a result of her visit the Bishop of Dogura has invited GFS Australia to commence a GFS ministry in his diocese and to begin to introduce the Sunday School program and train teachers.

In October four women are travelling by boat from Dogura diocese to Popondetta to attend a Train the Trainer program conducted by GFS Australia to enable them to go back to their diocese and commence two trial branches of GFS and train other Sunday School teachers. Please pray for the Australian team and all those who will participate from 8 to 18 October.



New executive

Back: Fr Isaiah Masida
 2nd row: Bothilda Enos, Ilma Eupu,
 Jezebel Sangai, Mary Bagu
 Front row: Rebecca Pondo, Deanery coordinator
 Kokoda, Betty Neville, Deanery coordinator Asi.



Wilma Moi being admitted to GFS
 by the chaplain Fr Isaiah Masida

Greetings from GFS in Australia

It is winter in Australia – for some it means cold, frosty mornings, plenty of scarves, gloves, woolly jumpers and coats and staying indoors as much as possible. It wasn't a deterrent however for 60 people to gather in Melbourne, a wintery southern city in June.

We held our Midterm Conference in June and were delighted to have 60 members gather together with great expectations of meeting with old and new friends again. We began on Friday night with some time to get to know each other before closing with prayer for some well earned sleep for the weary travellers.

Saturday saw us encouraged by Anne Kennedy as she spoke to us and reminded us of the treasures we have along the way of life's journey that shape us and guide us, mostly when we aren't expecting it or even aware of it.

We had workshops that covered topics such as crafty card making, musical sing along times, history understanding for writing it up to pass onto others, puppets to play with, what is MU all about?, and how to make the most of children's story books.

We have the usual problems trying to understand insurance and what it all entails but tried to understand a little better with this session. Val gave us a report of PNG and their recent visitors. We had an update on the Solomon Islands and progress with the World Project (slow progress for now). We spent time updating everyone on matters related to World council both in Wales and looking forward to Perth, 2017. It is exciting to see such a large group from Australia contemplating travelling to Wales for world council.

One of our highlights was to have invited Janet Waite from New Zealand to be with us for the weekend. Janet spoke about the work on GFS in New Zealand. This is very different to that in Australia, but none the less meeting the needs of girls in a way that is vitally important. It is often easy to think our way of "doing GFS" is the only way possible. How wrong we can be!

Our dioceses all had time to share a little of what they had been doing since we last met in January 2012. This is when I felt quite in awe of all that has been achieved around our country. We have had people honoured for their steady commitment to a GFS branch for over 30 years, a new ministry taking a caravan out to remote areas to bring a holiday program for kids, Townsend groups that work together to raise large amounts of money for many causes, new groups starting and sadly some that have closed. But all have a passion and commitment to reach out and share the good news of God to as many as possible in many different ways.

Our special joy on Sunday was to welcome a new Junior Delegate who will represent Australia at the world council meeting in Wales. Tegan Hudson is a delightful young Christian lady currently studying radiography at University and a member of Sydney GFS. We commissioned her along with a support group of family and GFS friends. We sadly farewelled our Lauren and thanked her for her time as Junior Delegate. She is now focussing on her own "junior" due any day now.



A gaggle of previous, present and future junior delegates in our midst –
 L – R – Anne Kennedy(also our guest speaker), Rev. Sonia Roulston., Chris Rooney, Leanne Kapetanovski,
 Karen Winsemius Seated – Lauren Kitwood, Tegan Hudson
 All of us gathered as one big group – GFS friends together (below)





Our National Chaplain, Reverend Cheryl Selvage, handcrafted a beautiful stole – with the colours and feel of our landscape of this country – lush green, rich browns, blue of the sea and sky. Embroidered over it are hands symbolic of the small hands of children we minister with, and the Aboriginal touch of leaving hand marks. We were able to commission this stole for use by Cheryl and all who follow in this role.



Welcome to Tegan Hudson – our wonderful new Junior Delegate pictured with her parents at her commissioning.