

# GFS WORLD NEWSLETTER



**The GFS World Team**

## *From the World President:*

Greetings to all members around the world and those who may be interested in GFS (Girls Friendly Society). This edition will focus on our recent World Council with reflections from many of our World Team. I have inserted both versions of the theme for the next three years. One, of course, is a personal challenge to individual members or to GFS countries to focus on serving and living out our motto of “Bear One Another’s Burdens and so fulfil the law of Christ” (Galatians 6:2). The other, which I use on all my correspondence is a firm statement regarding the role of GFS. I was reminded at a GFS meeting in our diocese last week of the words of one of our past GFS Chaplains, who when we were planning events or programs usually asked “How will this grow the kingdom of God?”. It is a question we can always ask as we plan our GFS activities and programs at any level.

I will be very interested to hear how countries use the theme through the next three years and our Project Officers will be working on some suggestions for programs.

We thank the members of GFS in Wales (with assistance from England) for welcoming so many of us to Wales, to providing such a stimulating and friendly Council. From the many comment, videos and photos on Facebook I know that many are still pondering on our experiences. I know many of us continue to think of and pray for Alberta Bindi, the only delegate from Sierra Leone who continues to be stranded in London, unable to return to her home because of the Ebola virus situation.

I commend the new World Project to you which is highlighted in this newsletter. We are well able to raise the necessary funds to assist Japan in their wonderful work with Tsunami victims and hopefully we can find much more than has been requested. Our Vice-President, Glenys, will be looking after the project from the world team and we will be forwarding money to Japan as soon as we build up a useful amount to transfer. The world account in Australia is already open and details are in this newsletter.

As we celebrate our World Day of Prayer this month may our prayers include all in our troubled world. God bless each of you as you work in Our Lord’s ministry through GFS. **Val Gribble**

## *From the World Chaplain:*

And now our next World “theme” for the next three years (2014-17) is “You are called to serve through GFS”. As we seriously reflect on this theme word by word, I’m sure our ringing words in this theme would be “You, Called and Serve”.

The theme in itself is like challenging and encouraging each other and everyone of us to come back to ourselves and know ourselves well as to who we are as an individual person. It is knowing ourselves well and also knowing the kind of life background from which you/I are called to serve in different fields of life.

From time to time especially in the Old Testament we are told of who God is by His own name “I am who I am”. Likewise you/I must know who we are as who we are ourselves first because God calls you/me to serve Him through and by His divine love and grace.

Secondly, we also must reflect on the “call” is God’s call a personal and lifetime calling to service or a short term call for a specific ministry. For this we can always go back to the Scriptures - to see whom God had called them to his service. One of the famous examples of whom we often refer to is - “The Call of Jeremiah”. It is interesting to know whom God chooses and calls into His service. If you and I know and believe that God has called us to serve Him and our neighbours through the work of the GFS, then I think we should also reflect on what Jesus had said to his inner circle of disciples – (Mark 3: 14b). And the ringing words in this phrase for us to reflect on is “be with me”.

Knowing ourselves better, knowing our own calling from within and abiding in Him alone we shall serve God and our neighbours well through the life and work of GFS.

**Father Isaiah Masida, Popondetta,  
Papua New Guinea**

## GFS WORLD PROJECT 2014-2017

### Assisting Tsunami survivors, Japan

#### AIM:

Providing financial assistance to continue the Japanese GFS Outreach Project to the survivors of the great East Japan tsunami disaster.



#### BACKGROUND:

Three years have passed since a 9.0 magnitude earthquake followed by 39 meter high tsunami struck the north eastern region of Japan. As of March of 2014, the National Police have reported that 12,884 people have died and 2,640 people are still missing. Many survivors are still living in temporary housing that was set up by the government and they are still struggling to get their lives back.

The earthquake also destroyed the 1<sup>st</sup> Fukushima nuclear plant, causing a melt down. As a result, about 140,000 people had to leave their homes to escape the ill effects of radiation.

People around the world rallied to support the victims. The Japanese people themselves came together to help. The members of the Girls' Friendly Society in Japan, joined in the outreach effort of the Nippon Sei Ko Kai, the Anglican Church in Japan. The task is so overwhelming that they find themselves praying for guidance every moment of the way.

After careful evaluation of the survivors' needs, GFS/Japan launched two projects.

- 1) They provided sewing machines to women's groups in the affected areas.
- 2) They volunteer monthly at the Tsukishima Kids' Day.

#### OBJECTIVES for the next 3 years, 2014-17:

- 1) To evaluate the ongoing needs of the Sewing Machine Project and to supply sewing machines, fabric, thread, and other sewing notions where there is a critical need.
- 2) To assist the women of the Sewing Machine Project to market their handiwork.
- 3) To continue to support the monthly Tsukishima Kids' Day with refreshment and activities.

#### BUDGET:      \$US20,000      \$AUD21,420      £11,790      204070 JPY

Sewing machines, large industrial (3 machines)	\$4000 U
SD	
Sewing supplies (fabric, thread, etc.)	\$6000 USD
Activity supplies for Kids' Day	\$2000 USD
Refreshments for Kids' Day	\$1000 USD
Travel for Kids' Day	\$6000 USD
Communication (flyers, newsletter, postage, et al)	\$1000 USD

#### PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE:

Asako Yonamine, National President GFS Japan

GFS members in Japan are very grateful to the GFS World Council for accepting their proposal for assistance that will help them to continue their Outreach Project to the survivors of the great East Japan tsunami disaster. With your help, they will be able to support the women and children in the Tohoku Region to resume a more normal lifestyle.



# World Council Reflections

## From the World Team



**From the Deputy World President:** The word that comes to mind when I reflect on 21<sup>st</sup> GFS World council is kaleidoscope. When 180 members from 17 nations gather together to worship, fellowship, discuss, hear each other's stories and live daily lives for 10 days it's a colourful time.

**WORSHIP:** What a blessing each day started with the common bond of the Eucharist. As our Sri Lankan member commented it set 'the spirit of the day'. How wonderful to have the scriptures read in Welsh, Pidgin, Japanese and Korean; to be given the bread in Japanese; the singing of praises by so many voices; to take the cup from the Americans, Australian, Africans etc such diversity is international and a uniformity that is Anglican and in Christ.

To be present saying the Lord's Prayer when it is said in each native tongue – so profound! How is it we all finish at the same time!

To see the colourful costumes and banners of the different countries at our Opening and Closing Services, as we gathered in the Lord's house in Brecon and Swansea, is always an inspiring time. At our Opening Service Bishop John Davies spoke on the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm being a psalm about a journey, which was a good introduction to our 10 days together.

**WORLD PROJECT:** I believe each member who attends WC is touched in a deep way as we walk beside our sisters from other countries and hear their stories. And so it was when we heard the continuing story of the Japanese tsunami and the tragedy within their country. It was a privilege to see the work that GFS Japan has been doing to 'bear one another's burdens' and it was a unanimous decision to grant the World Project for the continuation of their work.

**HOSPITALITY:** Thank you to the Welsh team for their wonderful hospitality! Their generous hearts in giving of themselves, the patience they displayed in sometimes difficult circumstances, their caring attention to small details made our stay in Swansea a memorable one.

**FUTURE:** The next GFS World Council will be in the Western Australian capital city, Perth, in 2017. We look forward to welcoming you then and hope that (even though it will be winter!) you will experience the beauty of our city.

As we in Australia prepare to support Val Gribble as GFS World President and all the work ahead, may I encourage all members to pray the GFS World theme prayer: that the Lord may 'guide our footsteps' and 'make us worthy of our calling to service'. Blessings - **Kate Brewer**

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**From The World Youth Officer:** I was extremely lucky to attend World Council in Wales as Australia's Junior Delegate. Wales was my first World Council and my first real experience of GFS as a global body, and so there were many things to take in and learn. Having had a little bit of time to reflect after Council, I have come to realise how much I was challenged and changed from the experience. It provided me with many things to continue to think about and I have come away with so many new ideas to apply to my branch and diocese to see GFS grow and continue to train a generation of girls that strive to bring glory to God through living for others.

My highlight from Council was definitely the bonds that were formed between the young adults who attended council. For me this bond was demonstrated most clearly when we coordinated evening worship late in the conference. So many people made contributions and it was such a joyful event! We were able to spend a lot of time getting to know each other and sharing ideas, over the ten days and it was very inspiring to see so many young girls with a great passion to see GFS continue. As well as leading worship one evening and meeting as a group, we attended all regular council sessions and spent a lot of time exploring Swansea together. We are most excited about the contributions that we made at council and are excited to continue to work together to move GFS forward. A GFS World Youth Facebook group has been started to connect and encourage young people across the globe. This can be found at

<http://www.facebook.com/groups/GFSWorldYoungAdults/>





Please spread the word to those young adults you know in GFS and I will get in contact with them. I am also excited to report that at World Council a Youth Working Party was formed to develop a Youth Exchange Program and develop any other ideas we have to take to Perth 2017.

I have definitely come to appreciate just how important it is to support and encourage one another as sisters, it is such a joy to know that we do not labour alone but rather are surrounded by a family to spur us on when we need a hand. World Council plays such an important part in fostering this communication, but it should not be limited to this. Let us continue to speak to and encourage one another in between councils as we hold one another in prayer. God bless, **Tegan Hudson**

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**From the Assistant World Chaplain:** We come from so many places and bring with us so many stories, none more important, more amazing or more pressing than any other. For each of us has been given a gift by our creator to share in God's fullness. This does not mean our lives are not very different, yet all have a story worth sharing, all have a call worthy of following.

So we did at World Council. The preparation of so many years, the anticipation of so many as we arrived. The purpose Bendi Bus, had not, I'm sure, seen anything like it; but our local travelling companions were very friendly and ever so welcoming. That set the tone for the whole conference.



Once arrived and sorted to our very comfortable accommodation there were so many to catch up with, so many to meet and so many more to listen to. I had the privilege of leading the first in house service and spoke of Jesus's use of parable to help understanding. I mentioned that before we can try to even understand the parable we must first listen to the story. Then we were called to reflect on God's call to each of us.

Each of us had many opportunities to share our story in many ways over the days of Council. Some have shared that in reports, others as they speak from the heart to the floor, others choosing to do so in a much more private way. But share we did from morning, well into the night.

As part of the World team for the next three years I had the task of connecting with a number of other country members to canvas their thoughts on some organisational details mainly related to the way we communicate with and help others.

This allowed me to see the Council and it's working through others eyes. One of those was our delegate Anne, joining us for the first time from the Solomon Islands. As one who travels often to Papua New Guinea, I can only imagine what a different experience this must be. Anne shared with me that, what some of us might consider fairly routine and procedure can be very confronting, even frightening. Every day matters like the food we eat, the way we sleep to how we run our meetings and communicate are all confronting when the whole world gathers.

All the more mazing then how much has and continues to be achieved through GFS. Listening really helps, but it must be a listening with the best will to understand the other's sotry. We we in Australia have tried to listen, and the "to do" list for the next council continues to grow and we know there will be one to follow us, which is fantastic.

Each time we gather, greeting new members or reuniting older members we are reminded to take heed of what they experience. God has called each of us to serve in GFS. With prayers **The Revd Cheryl Selvage**

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**From the World Secretary and Webmaster:** For 10 days over 180 delegates from 17 countries came together for the 21<sup>st</sup> World Council in Swansea Wales. We were warmly greeted by Glenys and Wales GFS and they went out of their way to make us all welcome and enjoy our stay in their beautiful country.

The day out they organised was very special. We first



headed to the Senedd - Wales National Assembly- an amazing building. It was designed and built to the highest

environmental standard. The wood carved roof is amazing. We were met by AM Ann Jones, Chairwoman of the Children, Young people and Education committee, and Children's Commissioner for Wales Keith Towler. The Children's Commissioner talked to us about what they are doing in Wales to give children a voice. We had a quick look around Cardiff Bay. We then headed for St Fagans - the national history museum. It shows how the people of Wales lived in years past. Complete with cottages, animals, a church a castle a still working mill a black smith beautiful gardens a tea room and lots more a great place. Each bus then headed to a local parish for dinner. The entertainment each night was



great and the concert night was very funny. We had 3 guest speakers the Reverend Rose Hudson-Wilkins, Chaplain to the Speaker (House of Commons) and Chaplain to the Queen. The Right Reverend John Davies, Bishop of Swansea and Brecon and Lynne Tembey Worldwide President for Mothers Union. Three very inspiring people in their own right and all gave us something to think about how we can grow our faith and to keep looking to God as we serve him through our GFS ministry. A big highlight for me was hearing the Country reports. It is so inspiring to hear what is happening in GFS Worldwide. It was very touching hearing from Japan and how 3 years on they are still dealing with the after effects of the tsunami and how GFS in Japan are helping to rebuild lives. And I'm glad the world project will be Japan for the next three years so they are able to continue the amazing work they are doing.

The closing service was extra special as Australia will take on the role as host country and Val Gribble was commissioned as World President. I'm excited to be part of this team that Val has set up as they are an amazing group. Hopefully in the next three years GFS around the world can continue to grow and we can bring more people to know and love the Lord. I look forward to getting to know you all better and hearing what you are doing in your countries. See you all in Australia in 2017. **Tania Brown**

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**From the World Chaplain:** It has been a good week for all of us to meet together and I have been encouraged at our recent GFS 21<sup>st</sup> World Council at Swansea in Wales. I am sure that the week has also been a time of meeting up with good old friends, meeting new friends and strengthening the bond with each other, yet reflecting together on the work and ministry of the GFS worldwide alongside our theme for the conference "Inspirational Learning Together".

It was very encouraging to have the Bishop of Swansea and Brecon open our 21<sup>st</sup> World Council with the opening Mass at the Cathedral and to speak to us at a session during the week. It was a privilege to meet the Archbishop of Wales, The Rt Revd Barry Morgan, when he commissioned the new world

Team at the Closing Service. This, I think is a great honour to the delegates as a whole and secondly, it has signified that the Bishops do recognise and support the work of GFS in the Province of Wales and throughout the world in whatever way they can. The other thing that I felt enriched me was the use of different liturgies from all different countries which we have used to have such a variety of worship each morning. How wonderful it was to see every delegate from different participating countries taking the lead in their own liturgy while everyone participated in one way or the other and responding very well, although the choice of words and the layout of the liturgy from different countries was little different from each other in some way. However, the general feeling was like having the children of God around the altar with all different languages, who had come from the East, West, South and the North, from different tribes and nation as – all gathered in the presence of the Almighty One, giving Him thanks, praise and seeking His will for the work of GFS. This was very inspiring and a wonderful way to begin our weekdays as well as having different forms of Evening prayer to end the day.



Generally speaking as a first timer to the World Council, I think the whole preparation towards and during the Council was very good and those behind all this commitment deserve our thanks and acknowledgement. I thought the program for the daily activities were well spaced out and balanced, the participation and contribution of country reports made by every delegate was very encouraging while some were very challenging. However, I would think that every country must take on the challenge to encourage and inspire more junior delegates to attend such future Councils so they can have the sense of leadership and experience to take on the leadership role within their own branches or at the international level. In order to see the GFS ministry continue to grow, we must at some stage give way for the young ones to grow among us and take root. **Fr Isaiah Masida**

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**From one of the World Project Officers:** Wasn't it exciting to be a part of the World Council in Wales, 2014? I still think about it and have wonderful thoughts flooding back.

For me the highlight was to share in the joys and frustrations for each country that came along. The sharing



of reports from each country was my favourite part. During these times we were able to hear a snapshot of each country. The allocated times are usually not enough to hear all that is going on within a country but we do have a little opening. To hear the enthusiasm, the delight of each event, the excitement with which it was undertaken brings a written report alive. Some countries are achieving some amazing things but feel quite humble about their achievements. Some are facing similar struggles to that in my country.



I recall the importance of sensitively offering times for the families relocating due to the Tsunami in Japan, the Gribble Cup and visit by Glenys and David in PNG, the use of a hall so beautifully restored now in Sri Lanka, hearing of the ongoing work of GFS in the Philippines over so many years. We have been reminded of how we are “precious jewels” in GFS in Ghana, the workload of a NQS in Ireland to achieve quality standards, Sierra Leone gathering 150 at a camp, the hopes of South Africa to extend into 6 more countries (and a sense that they will achieve this), New Zealand’s continuing successful mentoring of girls going to further education, our first ever report from Solomon Islands (what a joy).

Zambians reminded us of the female struggle, USA gave us a film clip with voice of encouragement, England shared their highlights with exciting programs to reach out to girls



in need. Wales we saluted as the fruit of their labour was evident in our welcome. We saw the ongoing work of the Café Grace in Korea.

I now feel that I know of each country and how GFS works within their borders. Armed with this knowledge it is so much easier to share GFS not just from my own perspective but now with a much richer understanding of our world view of GFS. It is this growing understanding that enables me to reach out to my fellow GFS members, to hear their particular journey and to contemplate it within my GFS life. This is what I want others in my diocese and in Australia to hear about when I share my experiences from World Council.

In GFS love **Julie Smith**

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*From the other World Project Officer!*

**Reflections on World Council in Wales from Sarah Charlesworth, Wales Junior Delegate.** I asked Sarah to provide some thoughts in response to a few prompts about her



experience at Council. Thank you Sarah for sharing some of your favourite moments with our GFS friends from all over the world.

**Most interesting moments:** Listening to Japan’s very moving report on the tsunami disaster and learning of the help and support they have been able to offer. Also hearing about the great development of GFS in countries around the world who have little resources when we in Wales, sometimes still struggle.

**Most inspiring moment:** Listening to Revd Rose speak – what can we say?

**Things I will take away:** The need for us all to learn to listen to each other better and to understand the need for absolute clarity to enable good decision making. To take all the generous love shared between us back to our own countries and to use it as a catalyst for development in our own countries.

**Some general thoughts:** I always feel regenerated about GFS after a World Council but I am constantly concerned that the larger more developed countries can tend to “take over” if we are not careful in allowing everyone to ‘have their say’ and if we don’t take the time to understand every position.

It was fantastic to see the young people get on and work together in such a positive way. It bodes well for the society’s future! **Chris Rooney**

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## The new GFS Web Page

[www.gfsworld.org](http://www.gfsworld.org)

Do have a look at the new world webpage. It was presented at council and there is still much work to do to ensure all the information is correct. Some of the changes we cannot make until the Wales Council minutes are completed.

We have contracted a company in Australia to develop it and in the next couple of weeks the company’s work will be completed and our Webmaster – **Tania Brown** - will take over its maintenance.

We welcome comments and will certainly listen to any suggestions to improve the content. Many of the photos will be changed in the next few weeks and we will be adding links to websites of our GFS countries and useful links for GFS. Please promote it.

## Sad News, Good News and

### Financial Matters



Those who were at World Council would know that one of our concerns was that we did not have a World Treasurer to manage our funds. It is a fitting place here to remember in love Lyn Calvert from Melbourne, Australia, well known to so many from her attendance at many Councils. Lyn was to be the World Secretary and Treasurer, a role she would have filled superbly. Sadly Lyn found out last Christmas that she had terminal cancer of the kidney and she died on August 1, while we were at Council. We were able to remember Lyn and her family at that day's Eucharist and the Australian team is very grateful for the concern and prayers offered during this difficult time for us all. We remember Lyn with great love and thankfulness for all she has done for GFS at many levels and for her friendship to us all. May her soul rest in peace.

**And now to the Good News.** We now have a World Treasurer. Roslyn Lumsden, who together with her husband, Kevin, were at Council in Wales and have been to a number of Councils. Roslyn has offered her services as World Treasurer with the full support of Kevin and her offer has been gratefully received. Roslyn is the Treasurer for Brisbane GFS in Queensland, Australia, and manages their considerable portfolio with great skill. Here is Roslyn's biography:

*My G.F.S. life began in 1981 when I went along to be a "Mother helper" at our parish branch, St. Thomas' North Ipswich.*

*I have been married to Kevin for 42 years and have two children, daughter Marguerite and son Duane, both of whom have been G.F.S. members. Marguerite completed the training for Junior leader in her final years at secondary school. She is now working as a Psychologist in Toowoomba and Duane works as an E.T.A. at Greenslopes hospital.*

*I spent my early years in G.F.S. just sitting in the background and doing what was asked of me. Duane was three months old when I first started and Marguerite was ten years of age.*

*Now I am the proud grandmother to two beautiful children, Pierce and Georgia. I have just returned from attending my THIRD world council. Normally I like working in the background trying not to be noticed.*

*Several years ago I became the Brisbane G.F.S. Treasurer a position which I still have today. I am honoured that Val accepted my offer to be of assistance on the World team.*

**Diocese of Brisbane, Queensland, Australia**

**Contact: Email – [kevinroslyn58@optusnet.com.au](mailto:kevinroslyn58@optusnet.com.au)**



So a great thankyou to Ros and we now include her in the World Team. We will organise Ros's commissioning as World Treasurer at our GFS National Council in Tasmania in January 2015.

#### **The Australian World Account is open.**

Donations, Gifts or payment of fees, etc., can be made by telegraphic transfer to:

Account Name: World Council 2017  
ANZ Bank,  
Shop 67  
Whitfords City  
Cnr Marmion & Whitford Aves  
Hillarys WA 6025  
BSB 016 494  
Account Number 2804-22901

**Please ensure that you provide details of the payment with the deposit and also email Ros (email address above) with the details.**

# Prayer Thoughts

**Julie Smith** one of our Project Officers will be preparing *Prayer Thoughts* for each newsletter. If you have particular prayer requests please contact her (see her contact address on Page 11)



Japan at prayer before submitting their proposal at World Council

## Prayer thoughts for September

### Week beginning 22<sup>nd</sup> September

Creator God, you made our world. To us it is huge as we contemplate travelling around it. As we look back on our time in Wales for the World Council we give you thanks as we ponder the safe travel so many were able to enjoy. We bring before you Alberta who is still waiting to be able to fly back into her country, Sierra Leone. We bring our prayers for the country of Sierra Leone and Liberia currently in the grip of the effects of the rapid spread of the Ebola virus.

### Week beginning 29<sup>th</sup> September

Our prayers this week turn to our own special day to unite us in prayer throughout the world. As we celebrate St Michaels and all Angels day we contemplate these words from the book of common prayer “ *O EVERLASTING God, who hast ordained and constituted the services of Angels and men in a wonderful order: Mercifully grant that, as thy holy Angels always do thee service in heaven, so by thy appointment they may succour and defend us on earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.* ”

We give you thanks for the words to inspire us penned by New Zealand and we ask that we may indeed be inspired to grasp the great hope set before us.

## Prayer thoughts for October

We pray for our link countries throughout this month with a special focus on one of those countries this month.

### Week beginning 6<sup>th</sup> October

We pray for the pacific region countries. We give thanks for each one (Australia, New Zealand, PNG, Solomon Islands) who could be represented at World Council especially the Solomon Islands in their first full membership period. We give thanks for the work of the World Project that has begun to help the Solomon Islands to build up GFS and help in its spread to many more dioceses within the Melanesian province. In this work we also recognise the partnership between MU and GFS and praise God for the way this encourages growth in both organisations. We give thanks for the lives of young girls who can be given hope when they meet Jesus. We give thanks for Anne’s contribution to the Council and the many ideas she has taken back to inspire others.

### Week beginning 13<sup>th</sup> October

We pray for the African countries of South Africa, Liberia, Lesotho, Kenya, Tanzania, Sierra Leone and Uganda. We ask for guidance and support as Gertrude seeks to start GFS in Uganda and for the spread of groups with leaders keen and enthusiastic to learn about our society. We praise you for the offer from South Africa to host the 2020 world council with Thembeke Pama as their World President to come. We were inspired by the wide reach of GFS in these countries and bring before you their needs to adequately resource projects. We ask for outpouring of blessings as they seek to see the Southern African countries all with GFS groups flourishing.

For those who are living with the fear and devastation of the outbreak of the Ebola virus. We pray for medical intervention as it is needed, for speedy discoveries to assist and in time to prevent the spread. We pray for sufficient helpers to provide care. We pray for the fear to be replaced with hope and compassion.



**Week beginning 20<sup>th</sup> October**

We pray for the Asian countries of Japan, Sri Lanka, South Korea and Philippines this week. We rejoice as the Philippines once again were able to have two delegates to represent their country. We pray for the building up of GFS in the Philippines as they have “more workers for the harvest”. We give thanks for their wise stewardship of money kept from a very old world project and now to be released for use by them. We give thanks for May and Sarah and their faithfulness with their group meeting at the school.

**Week beginning 27<sup>th</sup> October**

This week our focus moves to the United Kingdom and their link country of Ghana. We give thanks for the successful hosting of World Council and the warmth of the welcome by the Welsh members and their team. We give thanks for all that was achieved during discussions, the reports shared to highlight each country, the inspirational words from guest speakers, the times of great fellowship through quiet times, worship together and sharing in meals. We pray for this continued bond of friendship to keep us connected and mindful of the needs of all our countries and GFS groups.

**Please add prayers for MU Worldwide in this week. Here is an extract from an email from the Worldwide President of MU, Mrs Lynne Tembey:**

The dates of our Provincial Presidents Conference is:

Monday 27th October - Monday 3rd November.

High Leigh Christian Conference Centre, Broxbourne, just outside London.

I would greatly value your prayers for this meeting and historic meeting to follow - Provincial Presidents and Mothers' Union Worldwide Trustee Board will meet together for 48hours, the first time I understand that this has happened in our history.

## **Prayer thoughts for November**

**Week beginning 4<sup>th</sup> November**

Lord you equip us with many gifts and skills and we ask that we might be ever mindful of our responsibility to use them to bless others. We thank you for the gifts you have given to each member of the World Team leading GFS worldwide. We pray especially for Val as she begins her time as World President. We ask that she will be given wisdom, patience, strength, a renewed vision for spreading your Gospel, time to sit quietly in contemplation and time to rise up in action. We look to put into practice the theme chosen that encourages us to consider our “service through GFS”.

**Week beginning 11<sup>th</sup> November**

As we go about our daily lives we are reminded that we belong to a society that has a motto that encourages us to consider the needs of others before our own as we live out a life imitating Christ's love for us. We give thanks for the youngest members of our groups who come for the first time to hear of God's word and to be encouraged to know more about God. We pray for all who are in this privileged position with young members. Grant them an abundance of skills to meet their needs.

**Week beginning 18<sup>th</sup> November**

We give thanks for the new world Project agreed on in Wales. Together with the Japanese GFS members we give our thanks for the provision of materials for sewing and Children's days made available from the Emergency Fund. We look forward with hope for the further blessings we can bring to assist in some small way for these victims of the Tsunami.

**Week beginning 25<sup>th</sup> November**

As we go into the season of Advent we look to our own expectations and preparations for the coming of Christ. We are reminded that Christ came to be our comforter, our shepherd, our guide, our guardian, our King, our Lord and our judge. We pray for all near to us who need to know of Christ in any of these ways – a comfort to the bereaved and sick, a guide to the lost and lonely, a King to rule over all nations with his justice and righteousness.

## Bits and Pieces

### Your Newsletter!

This is your newsletter to share news, events, resources, prayer points. This first edition for our term has been prepared by the world team but it is now over to you!

At Council world team members worked with each delegate responding to a number of questions about the newsletter. The majority have asked for a smaller newsletter, mainly because of the difficulty reading large documents on devices but also because of the cost of photocopying it where email is not possible.

From this response we would ask that articles are **no longer than 500 words with two only photos.**

Tegan Hudson will be wanting to hear from the youth so that you are well represented in the newsletter.

The newsletter will be printed in September, December, March and June each year. **The deadline for the December edition is 15 November.** Please send all articles to the World President – [valgribble1@bigpond.com](mailto:valgribble1@bigpond.com) by the required date.

### New beginnings

Since returning from World Council we have been contacted by interested people in Uganda who would like to begin GFS in, at this stage, one particular parish. And so we welcome Gertude Nakintu who is working hard to commence a branch and then to promote GFS through their diocese. And we also hear that Tanzania is interested in introducing GFS to their dioceses. Please remember these countries as they work towards using GFS in Our Lords ministry.

### World Day of Prayer Offerings

It has been the custom for the offertory taken at the World Day of Prayer services to be forwarded to the GFS World account to forward the work of GFS. We would encourage countries to remind their dioceses and branches of this custom and in time to forward the monies to the World Treasurer (see page 7)

### Resources

Many countries are asking for branch and diocesan programs and training resources. These are often too large to include in newsletters but we would like to set up these documents on our web site. Many of our developing countries have few resources and would welcome any assistance other countries can give. Send documents to the World President and they will be distributed to other countries and will also be considered for placement on the website. This is all part of living out both our motto and our theme for this term of *Serving through GFS*.

### Celebrations

There is one branch of GFS in Canada – in Bona Vista parish in Newfoundland. The 12 members still meet regularly and they will celebrate 120 years of GFS on 4 November 2014. Please pray for them and send them congratulations. Their President is Enid Russell – [russellenid@gmail.com](mailto:russellenid@gmail.com)

### GFS Chaplains

The World Chaplains would like to keep in touch with your country chaplains. Would each country leader please send the name and email address of their chaplain so we can begin communication.



## World Contacts



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### **GFS World theme Prayer 2014-2017**

Gracious Lord, guide our footsteps of faith that we might walk in your grace and wisdom as we act to serve you. Rekindle afresh in us our spiritual gifts that we might transform ourselves and others, serving the whole body of Christ through GFS. Make us worthy of our calling to service, through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN

