

GFS WORLD NEWSLETTER

Edition 5
9/15



**The World Team
plus Treasurer Ros Lumsden**

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From the President

Greetings to everyone from Australia as we look at celebrating Spring in our part of the hemisphere. That means climbing temperatures in my city and winter has well and truly gone (well our few days of winter that is !!) But the winter rains did not come and our land is parched again. We can cope in the city but so difficult with the ongoing drought for our farmers and the small towns that service our rural areas. It is also a great challenge to our church as the drought areas cannot afford to meet the costs of a permanent priest in so many parishes and we struggle to look at new ways of being church and supporting the people of our diocese.

There are great stories and photos of GFS Serving in this newsletter. Thank you to those who have taken the theme on board. We are doing great things as we follow our Lord through GFS and others need to hear the stories.

I have just returned from Brisbane, our capital city where I worked with a Bishop who knows Papua New Guinea very well, briefing a Pilgrimage group of 22 from my own Diocese (our Bishop and his wife and our Registrar and his wife), Waiapu Diocese in New Zealand and Norwich diocese in the UK. All of us are strong supporters of PNG. It was a delight to meet these people and to encourage them as they set off on a very hectic schedule. They will all be in Popondota diocese when our GFS team is there and I hope to fly up for three days. It was also an opportunity to talk about GFS. Very few of the UK and NZ people knew about GFS!!!! However one of the UK participants used to live in Great Yarmouth and talked about the success of the housing project in this town and how GFS filled a much needed gap.

I am again overwhelmed with the commencement of GFS in yet another country, this time the Dominican Republic in the Caribbean. Once again thank you to Delores for working so hard to encourage these new countries in her part of the world. We have such an important matter to consider and pray about over the next two years as we look at ways we can support these new countries to be represented at our World Council in Perth.

Please remember Tegan Hudson and whoever is able to travel with her as they visit Sri Lanka in November to further plans for the Youth Exchange, another exciting program coming up.

In September I look forward to visiting the World Project in Japan with Asako and then travelling together to Korea to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the commencement of GFS in that country. Please remember us all in prayer during this time (15 to 23 September). May God bless each of you as you serve through GFS.

Val

FROM THE WORLD CHAPLAIN

GFS IN PNG MINISTER AND SERVE IN A PRISON CAMP

The Jewish law was that it was perfectly legal to help someone who was in actual need or in danger of his/her life on the Sabbath. If Jesus postponed those who were desperately in need for his urgent attention during his earthly ministry until the next day and on the Sabbath Day, then one could have criticised him. However, Jesus has set us an example and insisted that the needy and suffering must not be continued unserved until the next day, if it could be helped on the very same day.

On Sunday 19 July, five (5) truckloads of our GFS members in the Anglican Province of Papua New Guinea, especially in the diocese of Popondota for the very first time visited the Popondetta Provincial Prison Camp at Biru according to their diocesan yearly program for this year.

Our hundred and twenty plus GFS members and six MU members from the Eroro Parish visited the inmates with food offerings (vegetables), toiletry items (soap etc) and with everyone bringing with them a pot of food to serve lunch for the inmates after the church Fellowship.

The ministry focused first of all on an hour of praise and worship, the Ministry of the Word and the celebration of the Holy Communion for the Anglican inmates. Surprisingly not, an Anglican priest who also was serving in prison was the given the opportunity to lead the sing along in the church fellowship.



Male inmates taking part in the fellowship



Nutritious food & nuts prepared for the Inmates lunch by GFSs members

the female and the male inmates.

The inmates in return caught our GFS members by surprise by serving them boiled rice and tinned protein which was their everyday diet. What a joy and a way to spend the Sabbath Day by having fellowship and sharing lunch with those who have less freedom and have no choice of meals behind the bars.

This was then followed by another hour given to serve lunch for the inmates. However, this next hour of outdoor fellowship took the Melanesian approach which turned out to be a real great feast between both parties. Every GFS member had to serve whatever she cooked and brought for the inmates' lunch. The lunch was served and shared between



Toiletries given to inmates



What else do we need to do as GFS to serve when we know for certain of those in need living and around us? I suppose we need to express our concern as quickly as possible to whoever it is. It can be very simple as one may think the best. There are many ways of saying "I Care". For some of us, it may mean praying for them, sharing food and money with them and for others, it may mean just to send a note or a card to wish them well.

Yes, there is an infinite variety of ways of serving through GFS, but the message is that caring must be communicated or that it shall lose its value. This is because, caring needs to be made visible like what Jesus always did and taught, taking every risk to make every person whole and have the sense of belonging to a wider family of God.

With love
FATHER ISIAH MASIDA

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FAREWELL AUSTIN BRIGGS, GFS AUSTRALIA

Many of you who attend World Council would know Aus who died very suddenly of a heart attack very recently. This is part of the message I sent to the funeral on behalf of GFS Worldwide.

I first met Aus when his loving wife, Lesley, was commissioned as the National chair of GFS in Townsville in 2002. Lesley's family were all present and formally gave their support to Lesley as she took on this three year commitment. I know that Aus fulfilled that commitment well and truly.

The GFS World Council is held around the world every three years and since then Aus and Lesley have often joined the Australian group at various places around the world. Only a year ago we met together in Wales and celebrated Aus's 70th birthday. Many of our Australian husbands travel with us to World Council and as members are able to join in each part of Council, whether it is the often tedious business sessions, the outings as we discovered new parts of the world, or the rather hilarious concert. Aus was always a willing part of this event and happy to be involved in our usually raucous item which was usually planned by Lesley.

In the last week so many lovely tributes have come from all over the world as those who attend world council remember Aus with love and with such happy memories. Each GFS country would like me to relay our love and our prayers to Lesley and to her family. And particularly would like me to say how much Aus was respected by so many members and how much he will be missed at future world councils.

We say farewell and give thanks for you, Aus and all you have done and been for GFS as Lesley's husband, as a member of GFS Australia and as a member of our World Council. May your soul rest in peace.



This photo shows how I like to remember Aus. Full of fun (with the help of Phil Wadeson) as Australia presented their item last year in Wales. We will miss you, Aus.

(Val Gribble)

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EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

WORLD COUNCIL - PERTH – AUSTRALIA

10 TO 21 JULY 2017

To help with our planning we would like some idea of those considering coming to the next World Council in July 2017

The Conference Centre we are planning to use has a maximum of 243 beds and other alternatives for any more people are not close by. There are no single rooms – accommodation is in groups within various cottages. There are no accommodation facilities for couples. All male attendants will be accommodated in one cottage.

We are considering limiting numbers with a quota to each country. Only those who are GFS members within their country will be accepted (including both male and female) We will be looking for a good representation from our younger members and your country President/Chairman has been asked to provide an estimation of the number of younger members. The minimum age will be 15. At this stage costings are very limited. We will endeavour to hold this Council with a cost of around \$AUD1100 per head but cannot guarantee any figure at this stage. Please complete the form below and email back to valgribble1@bigpond.com or taniabrown.gfs@gmail.com by 30 September 2015.

.....

I am considering attending the GFS World Council in Perth, WA in July 2017.

COUNTRY:

TITLE:NAME:.....

MALE FEMALE (Please circle)

AGE GROUP: 15-20 21-30 31-40 41-50 51-60 61-70 71 – 80 (Please circle)

If other accommodation could be booked within a reasonable radius of the Conference Centre would you want to pay extra to book into this accommodation YES NO (Please circle)



GFS Wales Junior Delegate

Name: Sarah Charlesworth

Age: 18



1. What do you do with yourself?

I have just finished school and will be starting uni in September. I have a part time job as a Waitress in a hotel.

2. How did you first become involved with GFS?

Mum was a branch leader in Brecon and both my sisters went so I was anxious to start as soon as possible. I was never happy being left behind!

3. What is your current involvement with GFS?

I help out at Brecon branch, am involved in wider GFS activities through Wales and attended last World Council as the Junior Delegate for Wales.

4. What does GFS mean to you and why are you still so involved?

GFS means a lot to me as it always an opportunity to meet new people and make friends. It's now important for giving other girls that opportunity and keep in touch with friends I've made over the years.

5. How did World Council in Wales impact you?

World Council reinforced for me the importance of GFS. All countries run GFS differently, but it means the same for everyone, and we all work towards the same goal of worldwide fellowship.

6. If you could give one piece of encouragement to other GFS members across the world, what would it be?

Use the values of your own country to help influence the worldwide fellowship of GFS.

GETTING READY FOR WORLD COUNCIL 2017

Less than 2 years to go (10-21 July 2017) and how quickly the time will fly. A few weeks ago I flew to Perth to start preliminary plans for Council.

We won't spoil the surprise of the program at this time but we have begun preparations, have lots of ideas and suggestions.



Kate Brewer, our Deputy World President, Noeleen Stewart, the GFS Worker for Perth Diocese and our GFS Australia National Treasurer and myself visited all sorts of places (and had fun in between). Our photo is at Guildford Grammar, an Anglican school, not too far from Swanleigh where we will hold council. Our Opening Service will be in the city at St George's Cathedral but the closing service will be in the beautiful chapel at Guildford and Thembeke will be asked to help plan the service. So many people were so kind to us and offered assistance and good discounts – always important.

Many years ago, I think in the USA every country was asked to bring a piece of material from their own country. These were later made into a lovely altar cloth. This time you will be asked to attach photo/s to your piece of material which will describe how your country has used the theme "Serving Through GFS" during the three year term. And you will be taking the material back but with something else on the back. We will keep that a surprise at the moment. So please start thinking of an A3 size piece of material (whatever it is made from) that is very particular to your country.

I encourage those who have funds for the World Travel Fund to send as soon as possible. We now have five new countries who may need support, as well as many others who need everyone's generosity. Perhaps some of those countries who have benefited from the World Travel Fund and the Pat Franklin Fund over many years may be able now to make a small donation or partly fund their delegate. Look closely in your country for any grants that might be available.

If you are thinking of attending World Council please complete the form that is in this newsletter or may have already been sent to you. We may have to put a limit on numbers from some countries.

Hope to see many in Perth, Australia in July 2017. *(Val Gribble)*

Resources for Prayer and Story telling for children

Ideas for creative prayer and creative storytelling ideas for children from Flame Creative Children's Ministry

Flame Creative Children's Ministry is a UK website which has some great ideas to help make prayer time more meaningful and engaging for children and young people. Have a look at their page called "Creative Prayer". Many of their ideas don't require a lot of special resources and with some creativity, I am sure people could come up with alternative options, for some activities. Have a look at some of their great prayer ideas at these two links.

<http://flamecreativekids.blogspot.co.uk/p/creative-prayer.html>

<http://flamecreativekids.blogspot.co.uk/search/label/family>

You might also find useful their "Creative Storytelling" ideas, to tell great Biblical stories in new and interesting ways.

<http://flamecreativekids.blogspot.co.uk/p/creative-storytelling.html>

The Flame Creative Children's Ministry website also has lots of ideas that can be used during our different church seasons.

Looking for some free Christian drama scripts for use with your group or in church?

Have a look at "Dramatix" website. <http://www.dramatix.org.nz/>

Most scripts are for plays that take approximately 7- 10 minutes and are based around key events, such as Fathers' Day, Christmas or Easter while others pick up general biblical themes. You also search the Dramatix website by Scripture Index which shows you scripts that align specifically with Biblical references. The vast majority of the scripts published on Dramatix's website are free, however small donations for using these scripts are gratefully accepted. For more information on Dramatix see their FAQ page <http://www.dramatix.org.nz/faqs>



GFS WALES

Greetings from sunny (well sometimes!) Wales. The weather at the end of July wasn't as good as last year but we are enjoying some pleasant days. I was privileged to be in St. David's Cathedral at the end of June when Glenys was ordained as a priest. It was a moving service with great music from the choir and congregation. The sermon spoke not just to those being ordained but to all who worship together as we all have a part to play in the ministry and life of the church. Our branches have finished now for the summer break and will resume again in September. Brecon branch spent some time this last term learning about GFS from its beginnings with Mary Townsend to the worldwide organisation it is today. As well as the history they enjoyed doing craft activities associated with the GFS prayer, our motto and GFS today. I think the favourite activity was decorating bear biscuits – see pictures below!



One of the biggest agricultural shows in Europe is held in Llanelwedd near Builth Wells in mid Wales just up the road from where I live. This four day show celebrates our agricultural heritage and attracts visitors from around the world. The churches in Wales (Cytun) have a tent where people can come together for spiritual and physical refreshment. Part of this are children's activities and GFS helped out on one day. Rachel Matthews, our Development Worker joined Hannah, Katie, Sarah and myself for the day. We had a steady flow of young people through to make paper plate cows! These looked great when finished even if they didn't look much like any of the cows in the main ring!

With love and best wishes from all in Wales.
Catriona Charlesworth

GFS GHANA

GFS Ghana is still organizing members in all the dioceses. The only problem is that there is power problem, therefore giving us network problems. Apart from that we are managing. The pictures above is a program GFS organized for young people in the country to entice more members.

Last week GFS Ghana was at Anglican Sunday school camp. We performed a lot of dances, choreography to entertain the guest and children.

All the dioceses and the branches are preparing for the world day of prayer. We are doing this with our mothers - mothers union. Greetings to all world members, may the good Lord bless us all.

Thank you

Christine Adjei Glover

GFS SRI LANKA

SERVING OUR COMMUNITY



The GFS conducted a medical clinic on July 31, 2015 in the Poonugala Division of Hallgolla Estate, Yatiyantota. Fr Cyril Roche leads us in prayer at St. Silas' Chapel before commencing the clinic Thank you Fr Cyril Roche for all your help and making it possible for us to conduct this clinic.

We then went down to the Tamil Maha Vidyalaya (school) to begin the clinic. A big crowd was waiting for us. We quickly set up our GFS board and got down to work. The patients were first "registered" They kept coming and coming and coming!

This clinic was made possible due to the silent, committed and dedicated work of people unknown, unsung. THANK YOU to those who donated medicine for this clinic ... your gifts were well used.

We had a successful clinic thank God! Thanks to the doctor and pharmacist who freely gave of their time and professional service, those who donated the medicines and all who helped to organize this clinic. May God bless the people of that area!

GFS IRELAND

Olein's Funeral Service. GFS formed a guard of honour as Olein was taken in and out of St. Catherine's Church, Tullamore and flanked the hearse as it moved away. I was privileged to be invited to speak about Olein, our 14th Central President. A dedicated warm and caring lady, Olein gave 'her all' for our Society. She requested in recent years

that we "please keep GFS strong for the future". Throughout her illness her faith sustained her and she was an inspiration to others. She is greatly missed but we trust that she is with the Saints, by that beautiful river that flows by the throne of God.



Girls from Kilmore, Elphin + Ardagh Dioceses at their Fun Day.

After May Central Council in Armagh Mary Hinchliff, Maeve Hannon and Florence Higgins were presented with Past Central Presidents Brooches during a Service of Holy Communion in St Patrick's Cathedral; the theme being "Give Thanks". As Olein and Emila Corrigan were unable to be present Emila travelled to Esker Rí Nursing Home where she and Olein received their brooches during a similar Service. Both memorable occasions were led by our chaplain Rev'd Tanya Woods. Beth Mayes' presentation will be at a later date.

Rev'ds Glenys and David Payne holidayed privately in Ireland and it was nice that they were able to meet up with some members that were in Wales in 2014. World Council memories were shared and fellowship was most enjoyable.

Michelle, our Junior Delegate was kindly invited to Wales for a weekend at Easter. Thank you to Glenys and her team for organizing this exciting trip. Michelle writes:

It was a pleasure to be invited back to Wales for a retreat weekend in Llangasty. It was a memorable weekend filled with friendship, faith and some fabulous memories. We discussed World Council in Swansea, the Youth Exchange Project, and the future of GFS in Ireland, England and Wales. I enjoyed time discovering Wales and just belonging and being together. I have plans to keep the connection of our three countries alive by helping organise a return weekend with hopes of developing ideas and plans for the Girls Friendly Society. Big thanks to GFS in Wales for inviting me and having me there. I feel that the weekend has been a step in direction of remembering and building on connections made at World Council 2014 which in turn will lead to great things for GFS World be it through, World Projects, World Councils and the Youth Exchange Project. I am excited for the future of GFS as well as being so involved in GFS right now! Love and blessings, Michelle.

We warmly welcome Uganda and Swaziland to the GFS World family and look forward to other countries following suit. Good wishes to all members as they begin the 2015 - 2016 season. **Sylvia Quinn.**

GFS KOREA

Greetings from GFS Korea!! As it was mentioned in the previous newsletter we are busy preparing our **50th Anniversary celebration in September** and excited by a piece of good news that **we are having Val Gribble and Asako Yonamine (the president of GFS Japan) in our celebration.** They are arriving together on Friday 18 September in Seoul and leaving on Monday 21 September 2015. We do hope they enjoy staying in Seoul during their visits.

Café Grace was renovated in June and finally settled into a new site. Due to demolition of National Tax Service (NTS) annex, the café's neighbouring building, café Grace was relocated a couple of times for its safety during the demolition process in the last two months. There will be a brief ceremony to celebrate

The President of GFS Korea after the renovations



its reopening on Monday 17th August.

Our chaplain the Revd. Stephen Si-Kyung Yoo met the chaplain of GFS USA, the Revd. Rowena Kemp, at the 78th General Convention, which was held from 25th June

to 3rd July 2015, in Salt Lake City, the USA.

Five churches that are struggling to become self-supporting were selected as the beneficiaries of our annual bazaar held last April: two in Seoul Diocese, two in Daejeon Diocese and one in Busan Diocese. Two

churches in Daejeon Diocese received the KRW1,000,000 each when two board members of GFS Korea and our chaplain attended the Daejeon Diocese's 50th Anniversary Eucharist on 30th May.

Daejeon Diocese's 50th Anniversary Eucharist'



In July, we ran 'GFS Playschool 2015', a summer programme, two days a week at the Seoul Seobu Hana Centre, affiliated to Gayang 7 Social Welfare

Centre in Seoul. This year, it was organized and developed by the members of GFS Seoul Cathedral, particularly for North Korean defectors' children who are attending afterschool programmes at Hana Centres, governmental organisations that provide support North Korean defectors, in Seoul. This programme aims to help the children improve their confidence and become more interested in learning English. Every lesson comprised of two main activities: sing a children's song in English and making things. Although a couple of problems occurred while the programme was operated, for instance, a need to modify the level of lessons, many of the children who attended said that they enjoyed the lessons a lot and wished to have more lessons.

GFS Seoul Cathedral started selling notepads and ceramic mugs featuring artworks of beautiful Sts. Mary & Nicholas' Seoul Cathedral (Seoul Cathedral) in the Gift Shop in the Seoul Cathedral. Those new items will be wonderful souvenirs for visitors to the Seoul Cathedral



GFS NEW ZEALAND

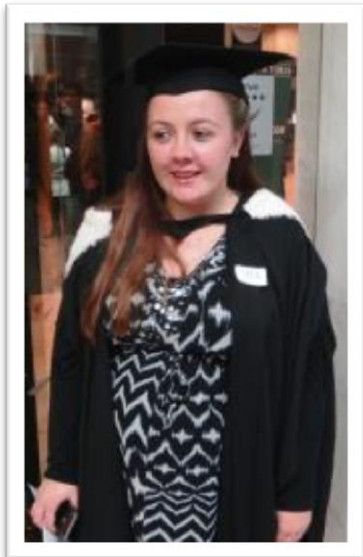
GFS NZ sends greeting to everyone, worldwide. There has been no news from us for a while. We have been busy and there is lots going on but I have been distracted. Apologies for the silence.

We are delighted to report six GFS students achieved their goals and graduated this year. They are all employed or are gaining further qualifications. Most girls are new New Zealanders and many are refugees. They need all the encouragement and support we can give them and we are delighted to be able to help.

Tram and Vong, ex Mana College students completed their degrees at Victoria in three years. Tram completed her Bachelor of Commerce at the end of 2014 (majors in accounting & finance; minor in commercial law). Vong completed her Bachelor in Business (majors in marketing and international business). They are both now employed.

Heather graduated as a nurse and is working in an Accident and Emergency Department in a local hospital. It is difficult for nursing graduates to find employment in hospitals and her excellent assessment after completing a placement at Wellington Hospital A&E was helpful in her finding permanent employment. She loves her job and I am sure she will be an excellent nurse. Maria passed her one year introductory course at FashionTech and was accepted into the Diploma Course at the end of 2015. Her fees were paid over two years which will give her the qualifications she needs to work in the fashion industry, where she will be employed creating garments.

Janne received news from Mari who is now working as a vet. She completed her course after five years of study and graduated in May 2015.



Aleena completed her degree in Early Childhood

Education and Philippa Grimes attended her graduation in December 2015. She is Mana College's first GFS Student to graduate.

She demonstrated courage and determination to succeed after a disappointing start to university life.



Aleena with her family

Davina, originally from Cambodia, worked as an intern during the summer holidays in a major accountancy firm and looks forward to employment there when she finishes her four year degree at the end of 2015.

All GFS scholarships are awarded for a maximum of three years. Some students may take longer to graduate if their courses are longer than three years.

Georgina completed a successful year in 2014 studying sports physiology and decided against further study during 2015. She was attempting to combine work and extramural study which was probably unsustainable. She was uncertain about doing further study and thanked Philippa for her support

It is always good to receive news of students who are now working. Sonia who completed her Midwifery Course at AUT in 2013, is enjoying life in Auckland and her career as a midwife. She came to New Zealand from Afghanistan where she experienced hardship and loss.

Five applications for The Pacifika Scholarship were received in October 2014 and three girls were shortlisted for the interviews which were held at Victoria University. The GFS Scholarship was awarded to a student from Aotea College who will take Anthropology and Pacific Studies. The award was presented to Emma at an afternoon tea with the Principal, Kate Gainsford, Winnie Laban (VUW) and Sylvia Cavanagh.

Seventeen students received GFS funds for 2015 and they are studying at Victoria, Whitireia, Otago, Massey and Canterbury. Their choice of courses include midwifery, engineering, fashion, dance, commerce, humanities, biological science, computer science and sports science.

Each GFS Council Member managed the relationship with a school and arranged the selection process, attended prize giving and kept in touch with the student through their course of study. This arrangement has proved successful. We also support three young women who have been cared for through Child Youth and Family.

It is a great privilege to help these young women and it is humbling to understand how hard they work in spite of the pressures they face.

God works in mysterious way.

Janet Waite **PRESIDENT GFS NEW Zealand**

GFS JAPAN

GFS Japan President Asako Yonamine

Praise the Lord. With the help of the World GFS, we were able to continue and expand our projects which supported those who are still trying to recover from the 2011 Tohoku Earthquake and Tsunami. Here is a brief report of our activities.

1. Sewing Machines Support Program

GFS Japan continue to support the “Odatte-Bariide” women’s group in Ishinomaki.

FY2014

13~14 NOV. We paid a visit to the Odatte Bariide in Ishinomaki.

Rev.Kanzaki, Ms.Sato, Ms.Murata, and Ms. Mizutani, members of GFS Japan asked them to make more Japanese crafts using used Kimono and other Japanese local fabrics to sell to other GFS members in Japan and other countries.

- a. The Ladies of Odate Bariide requested for more sewing machines.
- b. On 9 December 2014, GFS Japan sent them two more sewing machines worth JPY128,980.

FY2015

- c. GFS Japan bought many crafts and sold them in their respective parishes



2. Tsukishima Kid’s Day

To help those families who relocated to Tokyo for fear of nuclear contamination from the nuclear plant accidents at Fukushima, the GFS and the other members of the Tsukishima Seikokai in Tokyo opened the parish grounds once a month to these families for them to get together and exchange information.

The GFS members to play with the children while the adults chatted and relaxed.

The following is a report of those days.

24 AUG 2014	BBQ
28 SEP	Kid’s Day
26 OCT	Kid’s Day
23 NOV	Infant Blessings (Japanese Ceremony 753)
23 DEC	Christmas
25 JAN 2015	Kid’s Day
22 FEB	Kid’s Day
22 MAR	Kid’s Day
26 APR	Kid’s Day
24 MAY	Kid’s Day
28 JUN	Kid’s Day
29 JUL	BBQ

3. Kid's Refresh Camp

Recovery from the Earthquake and Tsunami is slowly happening but many families are still suffering from the horrors they faced at that time. All of them are trying to recover and reestablish their lives and they are slowly but surely finding themselves standing on their own two feet.

GFS Japan invited some children from Fukushima for a few days spring break in Okinawa. We wanted them to enjoy the beauty of nature in the southern island of Okinawa with the hope that they will go back home relaxed and refreshed.



a. Kid's Refresh Camp in Okinawa

25 MAR ~1 APR 2015 10 children from Fukushima and 5 GFS leaders from the Tokyo Diocese visited Okinawa and they stayed at Yagaji, Okinawa. They played at the beach, studied about the horrors of war at the Okinawa Peace Memorial, visited other historical places, and had fellowship with the church members in Okinawa

If you want to know more details, please follow to Facebook address below.



<https://m.facebook.com/gfsjapan.kidsrefreshcamp> Photos of Refresh Camp <http://1drv.ms/1c2dmpG>

※ The parents of these children expressed their heartfelt gratitude to GFS Japan for the wonderful time their children had in Okinawa.



GFS SIERRA LEONE

GFS Sierra Leone is still on low key as a result of precautionary measures for prevention of the spread of Ebola. New infection cases have reduced considerably, but we have not yet achieved zero infection rate. Single digit new cases are occasionally reported here and there. Campaign against complacency has been mounted, and although schools have reopened, public gatherings are still prohibited under the public health emergency. Thanks to God, we have not lost any member to Ebola.

We have only been holding executive meetings and branch thanksgiving services, but we are trying to revive and are

planning a Diocesan Seminar scheduled for 08 August. Meanwhile, our membership continues to grow. Between August and October this year, we will inaugurate two new GFS and three new BFS Branches. We hope the situation will return to normal soon so that we will implement some of our programmes leading to the 50th anniversary of GFS in Sierra Leone next year. (Alberta Bindi)

Email – From Alberta

Thank you very much Val for the July Chat. We thank God for the expansion of GFS and we join others in welcoming Swaziland, Lesotho and Honduras and hope meet with Doreen, Winnie and Connie in Perth, by God's grace. Thanks also for requesting our expression of interest for participation at 2017 World Council. We will try to communicate our response against the stated deadline.

GFS Sierra Leone is happy to report that the state of health emergency has been lifted, except for the handling of the sick and observance of safe burial procedures. We commenced our usual activities with our bi-annual Diocesan Seminar last Saturday, 08 August, followed by the inauguration of a BFS branch the next day. In September and October, we will be inaugurating both GFS and BFS branches respectively in 2 rural Parishes outside the Capital.

We congratulate Korea on their 50th Anniversary celebrations. We in Sierra Leone are planning for ours next October.

- pictures of GFS, Christ Church in Freetown trying to revive their branch activities; doing arts and craft during meetings.



St Philip's branch launching their 40th anniversary

Branches at their Thanksgiving Service 2015



GFS IN THE USA

GFS in the United States has been very active during our summer months recruiting and reaching out beyond our borders to Providence IX of the Episcopal Church, our Latin American sisters in Honduras and the Dominican Republic who will be joining the GFS family in September. We are so excited and welcome them into our family of Christ. This all came about when eight members of GFS travel with me to the Episcopal Church General Convention and the Episcopal Church Women, (similar to Mother's Union) at their Triennial meeting in Salt Lake City, Utah where GFS/USA told their story and we certainly did. We opened the hearts of many women and clergy as we told our story about how GFS has influenced the lives of our members. The five youth that were with us exhibited, what the GFS spirit was all about every single day. They were amazing! The GFS girls hit the ground running upon their arrival in Salt Lake City and were prepared to serve in whatever capacity they were needed. Along with the wide variety of duties they were assigned during the Triennial meetings, it was not going to be all work and no play! They were able to squeeze in a tour of Temple Square where they learned a bit about the Mormon faith as well as touring the Tabernacle, home of the famous Mormon Tabernacle Choir and the Conference Center with its 21,000 seat auditorium and 4 acre rooftop garden. They even found our Motto "Bear Ye One Another's Burdens" on one of the walls in the temple. Now that we are back home and settling down after vacations "Holiday", we are more than ready to begin the GFS year and this is how we will do it.

We Serve

Members of Girls' Friendly Society strive to respond to human need by serving others and seeking to transform unjust structures of society, particularly for women and children. Our wonderful, creative and talented leaders always have an eye out for projects that can serve the community and are within the capabilities of our members.



At right, a GFS member decorates flip flops for the **Soles for Souls** ministry, providing shoes and clothing for those in need

Service work teaches skills

Above, lifetime member, Vivian Evans from the Diocese of New York shows a young member how to mend clothing for the **Working Wardrobes** organization. Through service, girls learn life skills such as being able to maintain their clothing

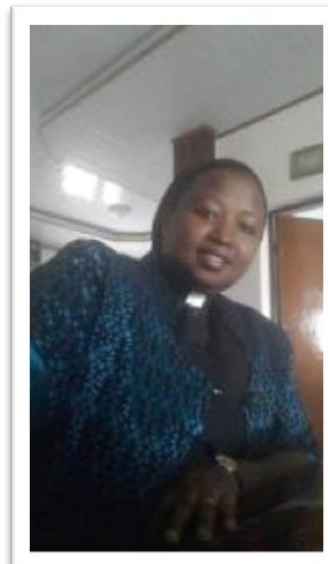
THIS IS GFS/USA AND MORE....

RWANDA

In the middle of this year, Helen Petering (a member of the Australian GFS Executive and a wonderful musician visited Rwanda

with a group of missionaries from her parish in Melbourne. Helen's Mum, Elizabeth, who has also been to many World Councils was also part of the group.

Both spoke about GFS and particularly to The Revd Winnie Muvunyi (wife of the Bishop of the Diocese they visited). From here Winnie took up the challenge and so quickly has introduced GFS and as you see already has her executive in a GFS T shirt. Thembeke has offered to assist Winnie and her members as they establish GFS in Rwanda. So we welcome you and hope to meet some of you in Perth in 2017.



Shila Mutesa. President, The Revd Winnie Muvunyi, The whole group, The Pioneering Committee.



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ZAMBIA



Mrs Alison Ray has recently visited Zambia with her own team and to spend time at the School for Orphans she has founded in Lusaka. Beatrice was able to meet with Alison to discuss the formation of a GFS group at the school. We hope this will be a most productive partnership. If you would like to read the newsletter of "Our Rainbow House" please click on

<http://ourrainbowhouse.org.au/august-2015-newsletter/>

[August 2015 Newsletter](#) This is an exciting partnership. Please pray for Beatrice and Alison as they develop our work together.

Prayer thoughts for September 2015

Week beginning 1 September

Heavenly Father we pray for our world. We pray for all the countries who are unable to live in peace with their neighbours. We pray for our near neighbours. We pray for understanding of our differences, patience as we seek to mend wrongs and love to be the measure of our dealings with each other.

Week beginning 7 Sept

We bring before you all who are unwell and in need of healing – in mind, body and spirit. We pray for members of our GFS family who are particularly not well. We pray for those who grieve and mourn for the special members of our GFS family who are not with us now. We think especially of Lesley Briggs (Australia) as she mourns the loss of her beloved husband, Austin. We give thanks for all who we fondly remember from their examples to us.

Week beginning 14th September

We pray for new beginnings. As many start a new school year we pray for their anxieties as they face changes. We pray for those who teach and give thanks for their God given gifts to do this. We bring before you all the areas of our own lives that need a new beginning. Help us to cast off the ways that hinder and hold us back and limit us from living a life devoted to seeking you in all that we do.

Week beginning 21st September

We pray for the World team. We lift before you Val as she leads as World President and remember her husband, Paul as he continues with treatment. We pray for strength to continue with the task before her and Kate to assist, and for wisdom that comes from always seeking God's guidance. We pray for the treasurer and secretary who work away often unseen and yet a vital part of the team to ensure smooth and effective running of the organisation at the world level. We give thanks for the guidance and constant direction to see God as given by our world chaplain and assistant.

Week beginning 28th September

We pray for fathers as some celebrate "Father's Day" in September. We often focus on the roles of women and girls within our organisation but we lift before you at this time the men who support and bring a new element to GFS. We give thanks and pray for those who are husbands supporting wives who serve in GFS. We thank you for the contribution of our own fathers in our family. We sing praises of our Heavenly Father who shows us what it is to nurture those younger with loving care.



Prayer thoughts for October, 2015



We pray for our link countries.

Week beginning 5th October

We pray for the United Kingdom (England, Wales and Ireland) and their link country of Ghana. We also remember our sisters in the USA. We pray for all in leadership, in small groups and within each country- presidents, chairman and all with executive responsibilities.

WE pray especially for Honduras, Dominican Republic and Puerto Rico as they begin their GFS journey and for those who will be mentoring to them. We pray for the 138 years of GFS in USA. We bring before you Adele Ray who continues to be an inspiration to all who have the privilege of meeting with her. We pray for her continued good health.

Week beginning 12th October

We pray for the south pacific region with Australia, New Zealand, Solomon Islands and PNG.

We pray for Val as she visits PNG in the coming weeks and for a fruitful time with the people of PNG. We thank you for the progress being made in the plans for World Council.



Week beginning 19th October

We pray for the region with the countries of Sri Lanka, Philippines, South Korea and Japan.

We give thanks for all the work that is happening in these countries. We give thanks for the use of the GFS Hall in Sri Lanka that enables many programs to be held to gather together Christian women. As the world project continues, we give thanks for the work of GFS in Japan to bring hope to the survivors of the Tsunami. We urge everyone to continue to consider how they might also support the project.

Week beginning 26th October

We pray for the African countries of South Africa, Liberia, Lesotho, Kenya, Tanzania, Sierra Leone, Uganda, Zambia and Rwanda.

We pray for Thembeke as she continues to work to bring the good news of GFS to many. We give thanks for the excitement of so many more coming to know Jesus each day. We pray for the new countries and seek wise leadership to help them grow into thriving countries of GFS members.

Prayer thoughts for November, 2015

Week beginning 2nd November

We pray for the youngest in our society. We pray for the newest countries to join in with GFS. We pray for those who are leading these groups, for the responsibilities to establish good structures and wise counsel as they make decisions.

We pray for the youngest children who come in all their excitement to be nurtured into a life of Christian living. We pray for those who are entrusted with the responsibility to build relationships, to share with these children as they discover all that is good in God.

Week beginning 9th November

We pray for an increase in numbers to be involved in GFS in the age group from late teens to early adult. We pray for wise programs to fully engage them, to allow for their growth and nurturing in the Christian faith. We pray for them to find mentors to help them along life's journey.

Week beginning 16th November

We pray for the Youth exchange program and those who are planning and seeking the way forward with this program. We pray for clarity of vision to continue to bring this program into fruition. We especially pray for Tegan Hudson (Youth Officer) as she fits all the many elements of her life to find time to devote to this project. We give thanks for her enthusiasm and constantly seeking God to be her guide and strength.

Week beginning 23rd November

We pray especially for the Youth who are travelling to Sri Lanka on the 26th to meet together and learn from each other and especially those in Sri Lanka. We pray for blessings on their time together, for their hosts in Sri Lanka and all who will meet with them. We pray for safety in travelling.

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CUT OFF FOR NEXT NEWSLETTER

15 NOVEMBER 2015

Please keep articles to 400 words in WORD not pdf with two photos maximum sent separately to article. You would see that some articles in this edition are too long and that means we have condensed the photos and they are not so attractive. We have not published all the photos we received.

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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 t

Donations, Gifts or payment of fees,
etc., can be made by telegraphic
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Account Name: GFS World Account

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