



Founded by  
Mrs. Elizabeth Townsend  
May 1874 and established  
1 January 1875

**MOTTO**  
*'Bear one another's burdens; so as to fulfil the law of Christ.' Gal 6:2*

**WORLD EXECUTIVE TEAM**

- President: Ms Thembeka Pama
- Vice President: Lay Canon Val Gribble
- Treasurer: Ms Nokwanda Benya
- Coordinator: Ms Bekiwe Gijana
- Secretary: Ms Pumeza Magona
- Youth Officer: Ms Kundai Matikiti

Contact details:

Organizational Enquiries:  
[gfsworldpres2020@gmail.com](mailto:gfsworldpres2020@gmail.com)

Newsletter information – strictly email:  
[gfsworldsec2020@gmail.com](mailto:gfsworldsec2020@gmail.com)

World Council 2020 Enquiries:  
[gfsworldsec2020@gmail.com](mailto:gfsworldsec2020@gmail.com)

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



**From World President: Thembeka Pama**

On 1 January 2020, the Girls Friendly Society will be celebrating 145 years of existence.



My appreciation to all GFS branches for the support that they afforded the GFS World office from the beginning of this year to date. Thank you for the work well done in growing the Kingdom of God serving through GFS.

GFS Worldwide condemns abuse of Women and Children and will continue to be in support against Gender Based Violence and demand justice for survivors. GFS Orange Day Campaign which aimed at raising awareness and mobilizing action to eliminate violence against abuse of women and children continues. Care of Creation awareness to curb Climate Change continues. GFS Prayers of Hope booklet is being circulated worldwide. The relationship between GFS Worldwide and organizations with which we share same values is becoming stronger day by day. We are seeing unity in action.

I welcome all new GFS branches together with revitalized GFS Philippines under the leadership of Karen Bacoco.

Condolences to all bereaved in this term.

World Council Hosting preparations are progressing well. Dates to be noted:

- **09 January 2020**  
Application to become Host Country in 2023 Short/Long Term World Project



2020-2023)

- **31 March 2020**  
Final World Council 2020 Conference Fee payment
- **9 July 2020**  
World Council 2020 begins

Much love, Thembeke

**World Council Discussion Paper:**  
Please discuss this within your country and come to World Council with some positive ideas for the future. The specific discussion points are in bold and underlined.

## **DISCUSSION PAPER FOR WORLD COUNCIL 2020 REGARDING FINANCING OF FUTURE WORLD COUNCILS AND PROJECTS.**

Prepared by Canon Val Gribble, GFS World Vice-President

Thembeke was instructed in the minutes of the 2017 World Council to bring a new discussion paper to the next World Council to discuss future funding. Thembeke and I have agreed that a discussion paper should be circulated to give time for countries to consider our future financial situation and bring our decisions and thoughts to world council. This is an extract from the 2017 World Council Minutes to remind us of the discussions and commitments made in July 2017

### **“Unaudited Statement of Income and Expenditure – 2014-30/5/17**

*GFS Australia Ltd presented an unaudited statement for the above period to explain the current status of the world funds. The World President made the following observations:*

*1. Australia has contributed 74% of the total funds received in the above period (excluding*

*the return of the Philippines Project money) and she was not able to comment as to whether GFS Australia could continue this level of funding.*

*2, The Travel Fund for grants to attend World Council were extremely low due to the increasing number of countries belonging to GFS World Council.*

*3, The only income for general funds was from the World Fee of one hundred English pounds each three years.*

*There was much discussion in country groups with many comments and suggestions put forward.*

*If there is no Travel Fund, few would be able to attend from developing countries.*

*Propose a World Project for building up Travel Fund.*

*Keep all finances in Australia to receive the best interest.*

*Open a World President’s Travel Fund.*

*Limited grants to be made available for Travel Fund at discretion of World President.*

*Raise fees*

*Every country (including Developing countries) to give monies to Travel fund each year.*

*Seek sponsors from link countries for travel.*

*Use World Day of Prayer funds for world funds, not just for World Project.*

*Add extra fee to World Council registrations.*

*Partner with other countries to collaborate on giving to world funds.*

*Excess monies after full subscription to World Project could be used for World Travel fund.*



*England committed to three fundraising events during the next three years for the Travel Fund and one for the World Project. Korea committed \$US500 for the next three years.*

*No firm decisions were made but the incoming World President will consider these suggestions/comments and bring a new paper to the 2020 World Council."*

There has been wonderful growth in African countries under Thembeke's leadership. But the growth has been only in the African continent and we are not aware of any other countries commencing a GFS ministry in the last two years.

Below is a list of our current GFS countries, ones marked with a \* will be (or may be) applying for membership of the GFS World Council in 2020.

\*Angola Australia, Cameroon, Canada, \*DC Congo, \*Dominican Republic, England, Ghana, Honduras, Ireland, Japan, Kenya, Korea, Liberia, \*Malawi, Melanesia, Mozambique, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, South Africa, \*South Sudan, Sri Lanka, \*Swaziland, \*Tanzania, Uganda, USA, Wales, Zambia, \*Zimbabwe.

This would make 32 GFS countries. 17 in the African continent (we are blessed with this number) and 15 spread around the world. Of the 15 outside the African continent 6 countries would be considered developing countries and would normally apply for assistance for travel to World Council.

The only certain income is the membership fee which is paid at every World Council. (Invoices will be forwarded by the World Treasurer in January 2020). Membership fee is 100 English pounds for members of World Council and 75 English pounds for those

countries who are applying for membership in 2020.

Therefore, the maximum income that can be expected from membership fees in the next three years is:

8 x 75 English pounds = £600

24 x 100 English pounds = £2400

Total £3000

Here are some currency conversions (as at June 2019)

£75 = \$AUD137, \$US95, Rand 1390

£100 = \$AUD182, \$US126, Rand 1845, PNG Kina K430, Japanese Yen 13,690, Euro 113, Korean Won 150,127.

All countries should budget to bring the full membership fee to South Africa.

Last Council a budget was approved for the management of World matters for the current term. This included setting up an account/ledger for the World President's Travel. With the exception of telephone and data expenses (which are very high in South Africa) the expenses are relatively close to the budgeted amount at this stage. However, if the same amount is budgeted each three years using the General funds which have built up over the years, it will all be used in the next three terms.

**Discussion point: What are alternative ways that the administration of the World Council can be funded into the future?**

**Travel Fund:** Currently the World Team is considering the requests for a Travel grant. There was less than \$AUD200 left in the Travel Fund after the 2017 World Council. Because GFS Australia made a substantial and unexpected profit on World Council in 2017, they were able to distribute various monies and gave a grant of \$AUD17,000 to the World



Travel Fund. Dioceses in Australia have contributed another \$AUD7000 making \$AUD24,000 available. There have been only five countries who have made donations to the World Travel Fund in the current term. A recent valued gift of \$US10,000 from the USA has made it possible to consider grants to the 19 countries who have applied. (14 applied in 2017) But then it will all be used. So, the future of the Travel Fund (considering the World Council in 2023 is in the USA) is very grim unless more countries contribute to the fund or agree to fund their own delegates to travel to World Council.

**Discussion point: How do we continue to fund delegates from developing countries to attend World Council considering that 20 countries may be requesting funds to attend World Council in 2023 – in the USA?**

**Discussion point: Is it time to reconsider the structure of GFS Worldwide and whether World Councils are held every three years?**

**Pat Franklin Fund – Australia.** I am unable to comment on future funding from this Fund. This is a fund set up in memory of Pat Franklin, a well-known member of GFS Australia, and is available for assistance not just for World Council. This fund is administered by GFS in the Diocese of Melbourne. This Council they have assisted with the payment of all or part of conference fees for 24 people.

**Interest rate:** I note that one of the statements in the extract from the minutes is that monies be held in Australia because of the excellent interest rate. That is now a thing of the past. Australia's national interest rate is below 1% and the fund in which GFS monies have been held (within the Diocese of Rockhampton, Queensland) now attract very

little interest. This is much the same situation around the developed countries of the world.

**World Project:** The good news is that the World Project for Sri Lanka has been well supported and you have all received the reports of the wonderful things that are happening in Sri Lanka. However, the monies raised have come mainly from the “western countries” and it is hoped that the offertories from the World Days of Prayer over the last three years will be brought to council by other countries. The new project applications do state that in future years when a project is fully funded it will be closed and then perhaps ongoing fundraising for the project can be redirected to the Travel Fund or to the general expenses of World Council. The World Projects are a highlight of our GFS commitment and have brought so much benefit and blessings to so many different countries. It has certainly built up GFS in Sri Lanka.

**Discussion point: Are members happy with the changes made to the World Project criteria or should further changes be made before they are accepted into the Rules of Management?**

#### **Funding sources**

The gifts to the various world funds are mainly from developed/western countries and even some of these give very little. This is not a criticism but an honest observation. There may be many and varied reasons why funding is not possible. As members of World Council each country commits to the obligations of being a member and these obligations should be discussed at all levels of management in each country.

**Closing statement:**



As Christians we are commanded by Our Lord to be good stewards, good stewards of our money, good stewards of our talents and good stewards of our resources. At many recent world councils, we have touched on stewardship but always seem to put the real discussion off to the next council as if it is just too hard to make decisions. I believe that in 2020 we need to have positive discussion, about our stewardship and our future as GFS World Council. That may lead to big changes in our structure as well as our stewardship.

**Final discussion point: Do we value our membership of World Council and if so, are we willing to discuss change – perhaps change of structure, change of attitude, change of commitment.**

May we all pray through the coming months for Our Lord to bless our discussions and to strengthen us to make good decisions. Please come to World Council with firm ideas to a way forward.

***GFS-USA*** enjoyed the month-long visit from World President, Thembeke Pama, this past summer. She was able to visit both coasts of the USA, from New York to California! Thembeke shared her message of spreading GFS to our communities by visiting the Bishop of the Diocese of Los Angeles, giving homilies in California and Pennsylvania, attending worship at the cathedral in Philadelphia, and visiting GFS members and leaders at many branches.

We were most honored by Thembeke's attendance at the GFS-USA National Assembly meeting. She shared information about GFS-World at our business meetings and spent time with the president of ECW-USA (similar to Mother's Union).



We loved showing Thembeke our country - beaches, theme parks, churches and big cities- and spending time with her in our homes.

We will long remember this visit and the words of encouragement that Thembeke gave us, especially Galatians 6:9 Let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we will reap if we do not grow weary.



***Liberia***

The Holy Trinity Cathedral, one of the GFS branches in the Diocese of Liberia held its 3rd Girls' Summer Camp from August 18 to September 1, 2019, at the Bromley Episcopal Mission School Campus in Virginia, Montserrado County, Liberia.

There was a total of 16 girls in attendance. Activities included presentations on Leadership, Self-esteem, Personal Hygiene, which were done by 3 of the girls that had attended the 2 previous camps. There was also a presentation on Obedience by one of the Trinity Youths.

There were also discussions on "The Little Things That Matter".....saying good morning, thank you, please, etc.; "You Are the Architect of Your Day" and the "ACTS of PRAYER".

Trainings on rug making using fanti scraps, crocheting, corn and short breads which the girls made themselves after



being given the recipes, cookies and making fried pepper sauce.

A closing Thanksgiving service was held on Sunday at the

Cathedral where Campers were given certificates of participation and certificates of honor/awards for outstanding performances during the camp. Trainers and Facilitators were also presented certificates. All thanks to God first and to Sis. Deroe Weeks and her team for the effort.

The St. Thomas Episcopal Church GFS Branch conducted a Retreat for its members. During this time, they taught etiquette, Hygiene, and "Why a girl should be a member of the GFS." They also had their annual program on July 21, 2019. Lastly, they conducted a (1) One-month vacation and enrichment program in collaboration with their Parish. Thanks to Mot. Lovette Sie and her team for great job.

The Diocese of Liberia is now gearing up for the GFS World Day of Prayer on September 29, 2019. We are also having series of meetings to plan for activities for the girls and the Eco Project.

Let me take this time to thank The World President, Ms. Thembeke Pama for staying in touch with us. Our President is abroad and the President, Sis. Thelma E. Duncan Sawyer and the Secretary, Ms. Quiennetta B. Clement and other Officers and Members for keeping the bond.

Amidst the trying times- i.e., the home going of GFS- Liberia Sponsor and former President, God is still good.



We attended the **wedding** of our Assistant Diocesan Secretary, **Judith Potter Weah** on Saturday, December 7, 2019.

Our Diocesan Secretary, **Quinnetta Blessing Clement** graduated on Wednesday, December 11, 2019 with a BSc. in Engineering.



Additionally, GFS-Liberia attended and participated in an honoring program for one of our sponsors, **Amelia A. Ward**. **She** was honored by the women of Liberia for:

- Her enormous dedicated services. She worked with the Government of Liberia and she can proudly say I went through the rank and file as a Clerk, junior professional, Assistant Director, Director, Assistant Minister and Minister proper.
- She is the first female Minister of Planning & Minister of Commerce & Industry. It was under her leadership the Ministry of Gender & Development was conceived, developed and birthed.
- Her administrative and professional services over the years.
- Her outstanding leading, guiding and improving women's issues across the country.
- Her tireless, selfless and devoted service to God. She served as former Chair of the Planning and Development Board of the Episcopal Church of Liberia, former St. Stephen Episcopal Church Women President, GFS supportive sponsor, former Vestry Lady, former Junior/People's Warden and current chair for the Welfare Committee at St. Stephen Episcopal Church and former chair, Women Aglow Prison Ministry.
- She is indeed a daughter of Zion, A woman of substance, a courageous and, devoted Christian, an Intercessor, a widow and a wonderful mother to many.



One of GFS- Liberia dormant branches has been re-awakened. The St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Harper City, Maryland County have had several weekly activities since the last 6 months and they climaxed their activities with an Admission Service of **25 girls** and **8 sponsors** and **installation of new corps of officers**. They are under the kind supervision of our first female Archdeacon, **Venerable Saide A. Williams (GFS Sponsor)**

Another dormant branch, **the Church of the Good Shepherd** had its re-awakening activities and climaxed it with an Admission Service of **28 girls** and **1 sponsor** and **installation of new corps of officers**. Over **50 GFSers** were in attendance. The Acting Diocesan **President, Thelma E. Duncan Sawyer** and other sponsors are been very supportive. Sponsor). We can't thank. To God be the glory for everything.



On the other hand, **Sister Elaine T. Dunn** was a GFSer for over 30 years. She was the wife of the former Chief of Protocol, Republic of Liberia. She was an Executive Secretary at various institutions such as; Bank, National Constitution Commission and the Ministry of Justice, Republic of Liberia. She was a partner and the Managing Director of United Travel Services (UWTS); eminent Lay Reader; President, Advisory Council of the ECWL; Patriot; Administrator; Prominent Liberian and Mentor; Humanitarian; septuagenarian; Disciplinarian and mentor; Devout Christian and a dedicated public servant, Republic of Liberia.

**Sister Esther H. Page**, former Diocesan President of the GFS of the Republic of Liberia. Sis. Page worked hard in shaping



the personality of the girls and young women.

She organized a weeklong Vacation Camp for the purpose of providing life skills and Bible Studies; workshops and Retreats; and led the GFS to do hospital visitation; visitations to dormant Branches and the like. Additionally, she served as President of Trinity Cathedral Women for about 6 years, Program Chairperson for the Advisory Council, ECWL; former National Forum for African Women Educationist (FAWE); personnel at the Liberia Electricity Corporation; worked with the Ministry of Education in the counties; Comptroller at the University of Liberia for over 5 years, and Associate Vice President for Fiscal Affairs, University of Liberia. Sister Page will be buried on January 11, 2020.

Sincerely yours,  
Georgiana for GFS Liberia

### GFS PNG

October was the month for the Australian Support Team to visit PNG. Cheryl, Sue



and Val spent 10 days in PNG providing workshops in children's ministry, sewing classes in Port

Moresby, admission services for new members in both dioceses, leadership training in Popondota and celebrating the World Day of Prayer with hundreds of members again in Popondota.

GFS is now flourishing in Port Moresby Diocese and Mary Bagu, the Provincial Coordinator has just visited a third diocese, Aipo Rongo, for a week's awareness and training program. We are very hopeful that a branch will open there next year.

GFS is growing rapidly in Popondota with 20 branches operating.



GFS in Port Moresby diocese will adopt the name of GBFS (in line with South Africa) as they now have many male members.

15 more were admitted while we were in Port Moresby.



They are conducting the GFS Feeding Program in Port Moresby for homeless and hungry children and youth. It is too dangerous for girls to visit some of the areas where these children congregate. It is a very sad situation. The program was initiated by the young male members, many of whom are unemployed and a few university or college students. They are to be commended on the hard work they do to raise funds and to keep the program going.



GFS Australia conducted a process to choose the Senior Delegate to World Council as there is no yet a Provincial structure. Girika Sanata, the Coordinator of GFS in Port Moresby has been chosen and she

was commissioned at the World Day of Prayer in Popondota.

Like other countries GFS PNG now waits for the visa process to commence to attend World Council.



all those who are suffering the effects. Please remember all those also who will put their lives in danger to assist and save others. Remember families whose lives will be changed as a result of these events happening all around our country and world.

We are also readying ourselves to come to World Council in SA. We are looking forward to having a strong contingent of members joining together with our sisters and brothers from all over the World. As an executive we have begun considering what might be brought before us all for decision making as GFS World and have undertaken to pray for all those who will prepare for our arrival as well as those who will travel.

**Celebrations!**

We have produced a useful card for our members with our vision and purpose brightly displayed. Dioceses are using them to share in various ways. One diocese in the far north of Queensland, shared theirs at Synod to explain where they were focusing their efforts and just what GFS was doing.

Our next charge is to delve into the governance issues that need to be changed to produce a more useful and manageable way to oversee GFS in Australia. We have reviewed the role of Junior Delegate with a shorter time commitment and this has made it far more attractive to younger members. We have revamped our Annual meetings to include a greater input from members and scrapped the longer midterm conference that was previously held.

We have much to be celebrating!

Some of our recent celebrations have included -

Sydney Diocese

Camden branch celebrated 50 years of GFS – 50 years of bringing girls and their families to a meaningful relationship with Christ. They meet with teddy (girls 4 – 7) right up to their seniors (up to 17 years old). With plenty of blue balloons and a hall full of past and present members, the celebrations were led by their faithful leader, Neidra Hill to remember this important milestone in the life of their branch. Our National Chaplain, Right Reverend Sonia was also present to share some thoughts on the importance of GFS in the lives of so many.



## Tasmania

On Saturday, 17th August GFS Southern Townsend met together for lunch to remember 35 years since a small group of women (4 of them in fact) who started a group for those who had previously belonged to GFS and were interested in making an adult group. With Betty Dean as the leader this group has flourished under her care and love and kept up a circle of friendship. Thank you, Betty, for a job well done!

## Perth

A new group for young women has started out with a few meetings already. We have had past members and current members come along and recently we had a Tapas

and Tampons night to collect items for the charity “Share the Dignity” who distribute sanitary products to women who are homeless or in need through circumstances such as fleeing from domestic violence. We had 14 women come along and enjoy some yummy food and cost of entry was a donation to the charity.

We are still looking forward to our extra special Ball – Blessed to be a Blessing Ball to be held at the splendid Duxton Hotel in Perth. The ball is an opportunity for the community to come together and celebrate our unsung heroes, we know the work they do often goes unnoticed but we see it every day and we value and appreciate them.

## Orange Days

Here’s a few fun facts that may help if you are thinking about sharing oranges on the day.

The orange was never a wild tree, it was produced by the Chinese by cultivating together the pomelo and the mandarin. From China it spread to India. *(We could consider our efforts as cultivating a better world for all)*

Contrary to what most of us think, this fruit was not named for its color. Instead, the word orange comes from a transliteration of the sanskrit naranga. Which comes from the Tamil naru. Which means “fragrant.” *(We could consider we are spreading the fragrance of compassion and understanding)*

It’s thought that the reason oranges have long been associated with fertility (and therefore, weddings) is because this lush evergreen tree can simultaneously produce flowers, fruit and foliage.

*(We could consider we are promoting the opportunity for every women and girl to reach their full potential)*



Oranges and orange blossoms are a symbol of love, used traditionally in wedding bouquets. *(We could consider we are spreading God's love for all creation when we allow all to be loved as God intended)*

Recently Brisbane GFS took their day to remember our commitment to Orange Day as pledged at our last World Council in Perth.

As a world group we undertook to actively promote awareness to women suffering domestic violence. Here in Brisbane this is a matter close to our heart in GFS. We have a long history in being actively involved with assisting those who are seeking a new start, away from domestic violence.

GFS Brisbane has been involved with The Women's Hostel for many years in fact owning the premises until more recent years. When compliance with government legislation of standards became too difficult in the old home, GFS Brisbane decided it was time to sell up and offer a considerable percentage of the funds to another diocesan body to assist with the completion of purpose-built accommodation.

GFS Brisbane continues to have a lasting connection with this facility, regularly supporting the residents with comfort items and for this 25<sup>th</sup> date meeting we decided to invite Felicity Lewis (QCT – Joint Churches Domestic Violence Commission) who spoke to us about the problems of Domestic Violence and shared her story. GFS Council members had worn orange today to highlight the fight against domestic violence and had brought supplies to be given to the Anglican “Home away from Homelessness”. So, we collected household items and filled orange hampers ready to be distributed. Later this month a group of GFS members will join at the Home to celebrate the opening of the Children's play area., Called “Play and Grow.”

### *GFS Sri Lanka*

#### Easter Day bombings

On April 21, 2019, three churches in Sri Lanka (2 Catholic, 1 Protestant) and 3 luxury hotels in the capital Colombo were targeted in a series of coordinated terrorist suicide bombings. 259 persons were killed and over 500 injured. A state of emergency was declared and strict security measures enforced. All Catholic and other Christian Services were cancelled and Churches were closed for almost 3 weeks. Most social media was temporary blocked to curtail the spread of false information and ease tensions. The economy suffered.

Now, 4 months later, the emergency has been lifted and normalcy slowly returns to public life, giving hope to the Tourism industry that was badly affected.

Our thanks to GFS worldwide for the love, concern & prayers showered upon our GFS and our country during this time.

### MARCH - AUGUST 2019 Highlights

- \* Fund Raising /Community: The March Market (Annual Sale). Free eye screening was provided to the community by "Vision Care"



- \* Community: Hospital visit - Packs of infants' clothes were distributed free of charge to pregnant women who attend a clinic at the Government Divisional Hospital in Padukka, a town 1- & 1/2-hours' drive from Colombo city
- \* Community: Free Medical Camp - Scheduled to be held in the Southern Province in May 2019 had to be cancelled. Medicines collected were donated to 4 Anglican Churches that conduct medical clinics.
- \* Environment: Green Project: Distribution of plants - This is held regularly.
- \* Membership: Junior GFS - A new group "Star Sapphires" was formed for girls 8 - 15 years. Interesting programs were organized for the "Star Sapphires" and the "Pink Pearls" that included an educative talk, games, fun and fellowship.



- Upcoming Programs: \* Craft Competition
- \* Beach Clean Up \*Christmas programs

New Hostel: Preliminary work and discussion continue.

### WORLD PROJECT: "EEP"

"English for Employment Prospects"

#### Field Visits in 2019

Galle - March 30 - 31, July 28, Sep 1

Dickoya - April 4, May 9-10, July 6, July 30

Additional programs conducted by GFS Sri Lanka for each EEP batch / GFS group

Motivational programs on Personality development (Personal growth, self-confidence, leadership, skills development, effective communication etc.)

Good Grooming - "You are wonderfully made" (based on Psalm 139: 14)

A strong foundation - "Build your Life on Christ" (based on Matthew 7: 24 - 27)

Awareness - Environment, Plastic Pollution of the World's waterways

Speech Contest organized for Colombo and Batticaloa EEP batches

This was held on Feb. 19, 2019. The girls chose a topic out of three assigned topics and delivered their speeches with an ease and confidence that showed how much the EEP Course had been of use to them. They were very different to the uncertain girls with a fear of the English language, just a few months before.



#### GFS Dickoya Regional Office

The Office was ceremonially opened and blessed by the Archdeacon of Nuwara Eliya on July 6, 2019. A short Service was held. Over 40 attended.

#### Certificate Award Ceremony for successful participants of the EEP Course



A grand ceremony was held in the GFS Hall on July 27, 2019. The Chief Guest was Rt Rev Dhiloraj Canagasabey, Bishop of Colombo and the Guest of Honour was Lay Canon Val Gribble, GFS World Vice President. The Founder of the American College of Higher Education that conducts the English course was a special guest.



Traditional dancers and drummers led the Chief Guest in procession and the girls of our Junior GFS provided the Guard of Honour. Two cultural items were presented, speeches were made and the Bishop gave away the Certificates. A power point presentation educated members and guests about the manner in which the project is conducted, its workings, challenges and successes.

#### Prizes to Winners of Speech Contest

The three girls placed first, second and third of the Speech Contest held in Feb 2019 were awarded valuable prizes (a tab and two watches, sponsored by GFS Sri Lanka).

The winner of the 1<sup>st</sup> prize gave a most moving speech, displaying her new found self-confidence and proficiency in English. She thanked the GFS profusely for conducting such a Course and said she was grateful to God for leading her to the GFS. This was a great inspiration and encouragement to us as we continue with this project.

#### Visit of GFS World Vice President, Lay Canon Val Gribble (July 26 - 31)

##### World Project Field Visits:

1. Galle (Southern Province) - Ms Gribble met the Archdeacon of Galle, visited 2 churches and addressed GFS groups
2. Dickoya (Central Province) - She visited the Regional Office and addressed the GFS group and the girls participating in the EEP Project
3. Kurunegala (North Western Province) - She met Rt Rev Keerthisiri Fernando, Bishop of Kurunegala, to discuss the implementation of the World Project in the Kurunegala Diocese.

We are thankful to Ms Gribble for visiting Sri Lanka and glad that she was able to

see first-hand the work carried out in connection with the World Project and also understand the many obstacles before us and the challenges we face.

**STATUS TO DATE**

- First & Second Batch - Colombo (Western) & Batticaloa (Eastern) completed / Certificates awarded
- Third Batch - The Hatton Batch (Central) commenced on July 20, 2019
- Fourth Batch - The Galle Batch (Southern) will commence soon
- Fifth Batch - Applications called from Bandarawela & Badulla in Uva Province (South-East)
- Sixth Batch - Applications called from Kurunegala (North Western Province)
- Seventh Batch - Hopefully in Nuwara Eliya (Central Province)



**Jeanne Withanage  
President, GFS Sri Lanka**

*GFS Philippines*

St. Stephen's High School GFS

Activities



**INDUCTION OF GFS MEMBERS**

Induction of new GFS Members happened in November last year Rev. Dr. Patrick

Tanhuanco conducted it together with Mrs. May Tanhuanco.



Rev. Dr. Tanhuanco is the appointed GFS Philippines Chaplain while Mrs. May Tanhuanco is the Coordinator.

*Greetings from Ireland*

This has been a busy summer for GFS in Ireland and from our last report in May. We have completed Charity Trustee training for our Central President and Vice Presidents, completed our Strategic Plan for the next 3 years and held 3 Regional Trainings.

The Regional Trainings were based on the theme of "Building on Sure Foundations" where sessions covered included: promoting and celebrating GFS; an overview of our policies and procedures and their compliance with statutory and best practice guidelines throughout Ireland; attracting, retaining and valuing our leaders and helpers; protecting our mental health within a Christian context; finishing with a session on topical issues. We are mindful that while GFS is a youth organization that we need to support, nurture, resource and empower our leaders and helpers.

We have also chosen our Junior Delegate for World Council and she is Alison Bailey, a lifelong member of GFS within Cashel, Ferns & Ossory Diocese, her photo is attached to this report. The interview panel

were very impressed and encouraged with the high caliber of the members willing to put themselves forward for consideration for this role. Well done to all of the Dioceses for helping these young women in their life journeys to now.

At the time of writing this report, I am looking forward to visiting with our World Wide President, Ms Thembeke Pama and the leaders and members of GBFS in South Africa. It is a wonderful opportunity for both of our countries to grow and develop our friendship and love in Christ.

Yours in Christ

**Alison Jackson**  
**GFS All Ireland President**

**GFS DRC**

The conference of the daughters of GFS of the archdeaconates at St Paul's Cathedral.



Speaker: Pastor Fernand Kalombo  
Theme: values and anti-values of the young girl.



Moderator: Ms. Geneviève Masengo under the supervision of President Ursule Tshama



**Enrolment of new members – Northern Diocese of Zambia**

*News from Zimbabwe*

On Saturdays we do visit the less privileged and the elderly to clean their homes and we do bring and share lunch.

We do it with girls aged between the ages of 5&12 we need to catch them young teach them the spirit of sharing and being loving and caring to others. Unfortunately, the lady whose house we cleaned passed away in August this year and the girls were so sad.

Before leaving the homes, we visit we pray and leave a Bible verse for them to read.

**Mrs Miriam Dangare**



## **GIFTS AND DONATIONS TO GFS WORLDWIDE CAUSES**

For any gifts to the GFS World Emergency Fund please send to GFS Australia who hold the funds in this term. Account details below:

Account Name: GFS World Account  
Banking Institution: ANZ Bank  
Address: Shop 67, Whitford City, Cnr Marmion & Whitford Avenues  
Hillarys – WA 6025  
Code: BSB 016 494  
Account Number: 392526836  
Swift Number: ANZBAU3M

For all other gifts and payments (World Project, World Travel, World President's Travel, etc.) please send to GFS South Africa

Account Name: GFS World Council  
Bank: First National Bank  
Branch: Balfour Park  
Branch Code: 250655  
Account Number: 62720797953  
Swift Code: FIRZAJJ  
Branch Address: Shop 229 Balfour Park Shopping Centre,  
Highlands North,  
2192

