

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

# THE STAR FLASH

JULY 2025 #09

## THE WORLD GIRLS' FRIENDLY SOCIETY

A STAR DESIGNED BY  
DIVERSITY, STRENGTH AND  
UNITY JUST LIKE THE GFS





# WORLD COUNCIL 2026

MAKE IT  
MEMORABLE

# SRI LANKA

**REGISTRATIONS OPEN NOW!  
CONTACT YOUR COUNTRY LEADER**

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## WORLD TEAM 2023 - 2026

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**PRESIDENT** - JEANNE WITHANAGE  
SRI LANKA

**SECRETARY** - LYDIA KUGLER  
USA

**ASST. TREASURER** - CANON VAL GRIBBLE, ML  
AUSTRALIA

**PROJECT COORD.** - ROHINI RATNAM  
SRI LANKA

**MEMBER** - ROSHAN PERERA  
SRI LANKA

**YOUTH OFFICER** - SANDEEPANI JAYASINGHE  
SRI LANKA

**CHAPLAIN** - REV. NIROSHAN DE MEL  
SRI LANKA

**VICE PRESIDENT** - THEMBEKA PAMA  
SOUTH AFRICA

**TREASURER** - NIMALEE GAJASINGHE  
SRI LANKA

**PROJECT COORD.** - LOIS FRANKFORTER  
USA

**PROJECT COORD.** - ALISON JACKSON  
IRELAND

**MEMBER** - CHRISHANTHI EMMANUEL  
SRI LANKA

**WORLD COORD.** - HEPHZIBAH DAVID  
SRI LANKA

# Number 7

## A SYMBOL OF GOD'S PERFECT WORK

In the Bible, the number 7 holds a wonderful meaning, one filled with beauty, hope and the perfection of God's plan.

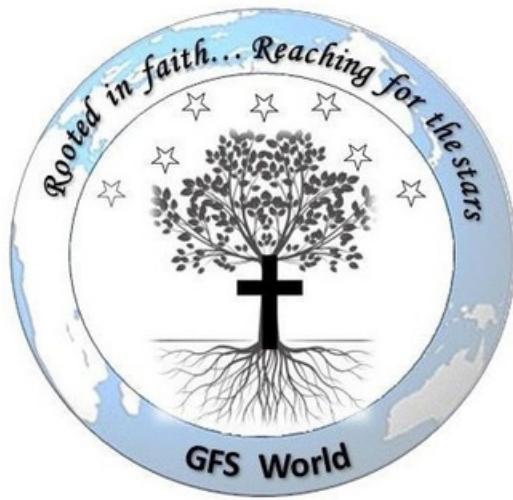
From the very beginning of Scripture, 7 represents completeness. God created the world in six days and rested on the seventh, setting the seventh day apart as holy. This was more than just the end of a workweek, it was the beginning of a rhythm of rest, worship, and connection with the Creator. That first Sabbath showed us that when God finishes something, it is whole and perfect.

Throughout the Bible, the number 7 continues to appear in moments that mark the fullness of God's work. Whether it's the seven pairs of clean animals on Noah's ark, the seven days of marching around Jericho, or the seven "I Am" statements from Jesus in the Gospel of John, each time 7 appears, it's a quiet reminder that God is present and active and that His work is complete.

In the book of Revelation, we see this even more clearly. Seven churches, seven seals, seven trumpets and seven bowls. These aren't random numbers. They show that God's plan for the world, even in its most difficult moments, is thoughtful, complete, and entirely under His control.

Jesus also taught us to forgive "seventy times seven," not so we'd keep count, but so we'd understand that true forgiveness has no limits just like God's love for us.

The numeral 7 reminds us that God doesn't do anything halfway. His work is perfect. His timing is complete and His promises will always be fulfilled, right down to the very last detail.



## GFS WORLD THEME & LOGO

2023- 2026

### STRONG FOUNDATION

“So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness”.

- Colossians 2 : 6 - 7

### THE SYMBOLISM OF THE LOGO

A healthy tree rooted in Christ (the Cross) with its branches reaching upward towards the (seven) stars.

#### Seven Stars

In the Bible, Number 7 symbolizes divine completeness, perfection and wholeness

# GFS WORLD GOALS 2023 - 2026

## Spiritual Development & Spreading the Good News

“For when I preach the Gospel, I cannot boast, since I am compelled to preach. Woe to me if I do not preach the Gospel”.  
- 1 Corinthians 9 : 16

I

### UN Sustainable Development Goal 3

#### Good Health & Well-Being

Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

#### Point 3.5

Strengthen the prevention and treatment of substance abuse, including narcotic drug abuse and harmful use of alcohol.

**“Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore, honour God with your bodies”.**  
- 1 Corinthians 6 : 19-20

II

### UN Sustainable Development Goal 4

#### Quality Education

Ensure inclusive & equitable quality education & promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.

#### Point 4.4

Substantially increase the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs & entrepreneurship.

**“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction”.**  
- Proverbs 1 : 7

III

## CONTINUING PROJECTS



UN Sustainable Development Goal 13

### CURBING OF CLIMATE CHANGE BY CARING FOR CREATION

Climate Action



UN Sustainable Development Goal 12

### THE GREENING PROJECT: FOOD GARDEN FOR FOOD SECURITY & ENVIRONMENTAL PRESERVATION

Responsible Consumption  
and Production



UN Sustainable Development Goal 5

### ENDING ABUSE OF WOMEN & CHILDREN

Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

Sri Lanka  
Serving with  
Purpose

Australia  
Honoring  
Lifelong  
Service

DRC  
Celebrating  
God's  
Faithfulness

Guyana Finding  
Hope Amidst  
Tragedy

PNG Rising  
in Service

Ireland's  
Residential  
Camp

Liberia's  
Period-Friendly  
Future

Mozambique  
Expanding the  
Ministry

USA  
Bearing One  
Another

Kenya's  
New  
Leadership

Cameroon  
Impacting  
Community

New Zealand  
Investing in  
Potential

Sierra Leone  
Empowering to  
the Next Level

GFS WORLD HIGHLIGHTS  
 BROUGHT TO YOU BY  
 THE STAR TREE!  
READ . SUPPORT . PRAY . LEARN . ENCOURAGE . SHARE

# GFS AUSTRALIA

We are very excited to welcome a new Life Member, a well-deserved honor to a much-loved member of GFS in North Queensland. Jennifer Buckby has been a powerhouse of action and instrumental in many initiatives in the Children's ministry in the diocese. Jennifer served as our Australian Chairman, and many may remember her from the World Council held in Australia in Cairns and Townsville.

Jennifer was awarded her certificate and badge at a special dinner held to commemorate the 150 years of GFS and the life of GFS within the diocese. Bishop Keith was able to present Jennifer with her certificate and badge (as pictured). We all applaud this honor and consider it a fitting way to recognise the contribution by Jennifer to GFS and children's ministry in general over her lifetime.

In April, Helen Petering and I travelled to the Northern Territory, to Darwin to join with the many stakeholders who support the work in the diocese. This is a small diocese with a small population, a large percentage of indigenous people and a large land area. Travel is expensive and difficult due to the wet season, cutting off roads and isolating people. But the work of spreading God's love continues despite their hardships. GFS is looking at ways to become involved with a special project (producing the Bible and children's books in indigenous languages is an important aspect we would like to consider how we can assist) and we left behind the idea of what GFS could do in the diocese.

We have launched details of our Get Together we are planning in January 2026. It has been a while since we met in person from around our country and this will be a time of fellowship and exploring more about putting our "faith into action" (our current theme).

**Julie Somerville**  
President – GFS Australia



JENNIFER BUCKBY WITH  
BISHOP KEITH AND HER  
PRESENTATION OF LIFE  
MEMBERSHIP.



JULIE AND HELEN ENJOYING A  
SUNSET ON MINDIL BEACH IN  
DARWIN.



NORTHERN TERRITORY – FROM THE MINISTRY TRAINING  
COLLEGE NUNGALINYA, WHERE THE STATIONS OF THE  
CROSS HAVE BEEN USED TO INSPIRE GARDENS, AN  
IMPORTANT ASPECT OF INDIGENOUS LIFE. THIS ONE  
DEPICTS THE EMPTY TOMB.

# GFS CAMEROON

We bring you greetings from GFS Cameroon and we remain grateful to God for behaving being a part of the bigger family of GFS Worldwide. We are thrilled to share with you all about our activities from April to June.

During the period under review, enrolment of new members was a highlight especially as it was the period of the episcopal visit to parishes. On May 4, 40 new members from the South West Archdeaconry were enrolled. On May 11, new members were enrolled from St. John's Parish Yaoundé and their new coordinator was inducted.

The Skill Acquisition Center continues to thrive and is useful to young women and girls in the community through training and doing business with the church in the sewing of vestments. We thank the Bishop of Gambia who has made the Center his favorite place to produce his episcopal vestments and also thank the Cathedral Women for trusting the Center to produce five sets of different colored altar linen.

The awareness of Gender Based Violence (Orange Day) is a monthly activity. Members are determined to continue until they witness change of mindsets and transformation in the family, church and community on gender-based issues.

On May 19, an online Diocesan training was held for Branch Coordinators, on the theme "Developing passion to fulfilling purpose through service". It was followed by a Branch Presidents and Coordinators meeting on May 20. We appreciate the Diocese and Clergy for their support and encouragement towards the GFS ministry. Our leaders at all levels are amazing and contribute greatly to the growth of the ministry. We now enjoy wonderful collaboration from the parents. Gfs Cameroon is growing tremendously. Glory to God!

May God bless GFS Worldwide and may we experience a brighter future after the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations this year.

**Dibo Elango Estelle Bedie**  
President - GFS Cameroon



# GFS DRC

The GFS DRC organized a thanksgiving service conducted by the Chaplain of the GFS on May 4, to mark the 150th anniversary of the world GFS and the 6th anniversary of the GFS of the DRC, on the theme of "The Blood of Jesus has saved us". The church was decorated in red, the symbol of the Blood of Jesus Christ, which unites us. Several activities followed, including competitions, theatre, fashion shows and conference debates.

We say thank you to the world president, Mama Jeanne, and the vice president, Mama Thembeka. Our Bishop Bertin Mwale Subi was absent from the diocese during the demonstration, but he sent us good wishes on this occasion. We also proceeded to the closing of the 3rd promotion on May 13 with 15 girls. We bless God for His support of this ministry and through this project, little by little, we will reach the stars!

**Judith Katebe**  
Secretary - GFS DRC



## GFS GUYANA

Greetings from my country Guyana to our GFS sisters. As I pen this letter I do so with a heavy heart, because for the past few months my country has been losing women to murder, suicide and homicide. Kidnapping of children is at its highest.

One case of the murder of a 11 year old child shook my country because of the circumstances surrounding her death and to date no investigation has been carried out to imprison her killers, but they are being protected by the government. As a GFS member and a mother of a girl child, I joined citizens to protest for justice for Adrianna Younge.

As my country prepares for National Elections, I ask you to keep us in prayers for peace and stability. The Girls' Friendly Society of Guyana continues to be on the back burner in our Diocese, yet we stand committed and try our best to work with our girls.

May God continue to bless our Society and I hope to see you all in Sri Lanka in 2026.

**Trinette Cosbert**  
President - GFS Guyana



11 YEAR OLD ADRIANNA YOUNGE.

# GFS IRELAND

Almost 100 younger members and 25 leaders from many branches enjoyed a GFS residential Camp at the end of April with the theme "Friendships - Bonds that last". Rosie, the craft and activity coordinator for the weekend event organised the girls into teams and each group was tasked to design the country flag for the GFS "team country" assigned. The campers enjoyed African drumming, Self Defence, Drama workshops, Craft sessions, karaoke evening, photographic scavenger hunt, campfire and worship sessions. The evaluation forms were filled with requests to have another Camp as soon as possible!

GFS Ireland enjoyed hosting our special visitors Dr. Kathleen Anangwe and Lucy Irungu from the Tujisiaidie Self-help Project in Nairobi in May. GFS Ireland agreed to partly finance the cost of the flights for the ladies, meeting our World GFS Goals and in a very memorable way, celebrating the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of World GFS.

Kathleen and Lucy visited many GFS Dioceses sharing news of the latest work on the Project, which focuses on mentoring and providing education and food to girls and women of all ages as the pathway to their empowerment.

We hope that Kathleen and Lucy have returned to Kenya with many stories and memories to treasure of their visit to GFS Ireland in 2025 and we look forward to keeping in contact with our link Mission partners.

Our Central Chaplain, Rev. Tanya Woods included some harmony pieces, which GFS members are busy practicing for the service to celebrate the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of World GFS. It will be recorded in the RTE Studios on August 3 and will be broadcast on RTE1 National TV on August 10. A link will be shared on our website.

Our theme for 2025-2026 is "Building Blocks of Hope - every little helps". The Procedures Committee is busy preparing the Bible Study Syllabus for the next season.

**Myra Moody**  
President – GFS Ireland



GFS IRELAND PICTURED AT DREWSTOWN HOUSE ON THE FINAL DAY OF ALL - IRELAND CAMP 2025 "FRIENDSHIPS - BONDS THAT LAST".



CENTRAL COUNCIL MEMBERS MEET DR KATHLEEN ANANGWE AND LUCY IRUNGU AT WESLEY HOUSE, DUBLIN.

MYRA MOODY, GFS  
IRELAND'S CENTRAL  
PRESIDENT WITH  
DR. KATHLEEN  
ANANGWE AND LUCY  
IRUNGU FROM THE  
TUJISAIIDIE PROJECT AT  
ST. CANICE'S  
CATHEDRAL, KILKENNY  
CITY.



# GFS KENYA

Greetings from GFS Kenya.

We hope and trust that all is well with you.

We held our elections this year and we are grateful to God that the entire process went smoothly. We now have new leaders on board, and we believe the GFS Ministry is set to rise to another level of impact and excellence.

Across all our branches, programs focusing on mentorship and other key topics have been actively running in line with our curriculum. We remain committed to raising and empowering girls holistically, spiritually, mentally, and socially to the glory of God.

Thank you for standing with us in this noble mission.

**Phoebe Atieno-Maina**  
President - GFS Kenya



# GFS LIBERIA

During the 2nd quarter of 2025, our Executive had its regular monthly meeting. GFS also observed the 25th of the month - GFS Orange Day, though in a modest way. We are trusting that more members will get involved in wearing Orange as our way of speaking out against SGBV.

From 9:00AM to 4:00PM on Saturday, May 31, 2025, GFS Liberia observed World Menstrual Hygiene Day under the theme "Together for a Period-Friendly World." This event brought together over 50 girls and women who fully participated in the discussion and Bible drill. We offered prayers for GFS countries who were challenged during the quarter.

We conducted one month training in Etiquette and Ethics. Topics treated were: Social Etiquette, Communication and Technology Etiquette, Personal Hygiene and Church Decorum. Dining Etiquette, Character and Professional Development and Career Development are pending for the next quarter.

Our Sponsors and Advisers received thoughtful Mother's Day greetings from our girls. The Sponsors congratulated our young members who are graduating from various universities with different disciplines and also others being promoted to various classes.

GFS Liberia joined the Zoom 3rd and 4th Leadership Development Session and participated in the Cathedral's Patronal Festival on June 14, 2025. Our Diocesan GFS made a donation to the Cathedral's work.

We have a pending workshop for all Sponsors and Advisers, GFS Youth Camp and outreach to branches in months of July and August 2025.

We wish to recognize the active participation of three of our branches, namely, St. Stephen, St. Augustine and St. Barnabas Episcopal Church branches. We pray that the others follow suit. To God be the glory.

**Georgiana Tucker Williams**  
National Coordinator - GFS Liberia



# WORLD YOUTH AFFAIRS

I am pleased to share a report on the three monthly Zoom programs we recently held for the GFS World Youth, which were part of a four-part series on the theme of Christian Leadership.

These sessions were held on the last Saturday of each month, and we made sure to run them at two different times so everyone could join, no matter where in the world they were. We were blessed to have participants from Australia, Liberia, Lesotho, Ireland, the USA, Melanesia, Cameroon and Sri Lanka.

Our first session, held on the 26th of April, was titled “Why Am I Here When I Want to Be There?” and led by Miriam Handunge. Miriam shared her personal testimony, reminding us to embrace the season of leadership we’re currently in. She encouraged us to trust that even if it feels like we’re off course, our journey right now isn’t a detour, it’s actually a vital part of God’s plan for us.

The second session, on the 31st of May, was “Why Forgive the Unforgivable?” with Sandra Vasanth. This was an interactive session where we explored forgiveness as an act of liberation in our leadership journeys. We reflected on how forgiving even what seems unforgivable allows us to lead from a place of healing rather than hurt.

Our most recent session, on the 28th of June, was called “Why Not This Way?” and was led by Daniel Thambirajah. This was especially fun because Daniel used improv theatre activities to help us explore what it means to let go of our need to control things and instead trust in God’s plan. We discovered together that there’s so much freedom in surrendering our own expectations.

Beyond these sessions, we’ve also taken some practical steps to strengthen our connections as a global youth fellowship. We created the GFS World Youth WhatsApp group to keep communication flowing easily, share updates, and simply stay in touch. And after each session, we’ve shared a feedback form which has given us some great ideas for future topics and activities, based directly on what young people are interested in and need support with.

Overall, it’s been a really encouraging few months seeing so many young leaders engage, learn and support each other across countries and cultures. Thank you to everyone who has been part of this, and I’m excited to see how we can keep growing together in the months ahead.

Thank You!

Sandeepani Jayasinghe  
GFS World Youth Officer

# GFS WORLD YOUTH SUMMIT

A Special Session for Youth Delegates & Observers

Happening at the GFS World Council 2026!

How does leading, learning, laughing, and making lifelong friends from around the world sound?

- Inspiring Guest Speakers
- Power-Packed Leadership Workshops
- Fun, Games & Creative Activities
- Global Friendships & Networking
- A Brand-New, Life Changing Experience!

## The GFS WORLD YOUTH SUMMIT is calling YOU!

This is where it all begins.

Come be part of a movement, a moment, and a memory you'll never forget!

The youth are the future of GFS – and the future is NOW!

So don't just attend the conference.

Experience the Summit.

Lead the future.

**JOIN US - LET'S MAKE HISTORY TOGETHER!**

# GFS MOZAMBIQUE

The GFS is one of the ecclesiastical groups active in the Diocese of Libombo. As a result of the recent restructuring of our Church, and still being a new and growing group, the GFS has been seeking to establish itself in the two districts, namely, Maputo and Umbeluzi, which make up the Diocese of Libombos.

On April 20, as part of Easter, the Parish of Sagrada Família de Boquisso presented several activities in the Church, with emphasis on dancing and different songs.

On May 18, 2025, we visited the Parish of São Evangelista de Infulene, where we went to formally implement the GFS and at the end of the mass, we had a meeting with Father Cláudio and the Coordinators, including the new coordinator who will join another coordinator in that parish, to together carry forward the work of this Ministry, in that Parish.

On May 25th we visited the Pastoral Zones of Sagrada Família de Boquisso, where we formally implemented the GFS. It is worth mentioning that this area had already been developing activities without the formal implementation of this Ministry. At the end of the mass, we had a meeting with the coordinator, the girls and a mother from the Mothers' Union group, who was chosen to work with the coordinator in this Ministry.

On June 22nd, we visited the Pastoral Zone of São Pedro e Paulo de Mumemo, with the aim of promoting and implementing the GFS in that area. We await the indication of the coordinators to work with the group in this Ministry.

There are challenges to include boys in this Ministry. We are reflecting on this, with faith that in the future boys will be part of this Ministry in the Diocese of Libombos.

**Veronica Pombe**  
President - GFS Mozambique



MAY 18TH

MAY 25TH



APRIL 20TH

# GFS NEW ZEALAND

The GFS Council continues to provide financial support and mentoring for young women from lower-socio economic backgrounds in Wellington, as they undertake tertiary study. This work is our exclusive focus in New Zealand and at this time of the year our students have been sitting exams, then taking a brief break from their studies before starting semester two. So, Council's recent focus has been to encourage our students to help them to believe in themselves and support their focus on exams.

Next quarter we'll be offering two of our students an opportunity to undertake a career assessment so they know which professional pathway after study will be likely to suit them best. These professional-grade assessments (the Career Decision Maker) have been gifted to GFS to support our work, by a FuturePath - a career development business in Auckland.

We also plan to gather our current students, mentors and GFS Council members together on 24 July for an evening to celebrate 150 years of GFS, which will provide our students with the chance to meet with each other and understand more about what GFS is all about. The students we work with in Aotearoa / NZ often do not have a connection with the Anglican church because most of the students we work with are selected in partnership with our NZ state schools. So, this event will be an opportunity for them to understand more about the mission of GFS worldwide and how what we do in New Zealand connects to God's generosity and grace.

As with all GFS work world-wide, GFS in Aotearoa/NZ is a living testimony to what groups of women motivated by God's love to help other women can achieve. Through having an inspired and dynamic vision and careful stewardship of resources much has been achieved here and there is much to celebrate together.

**Christine Mutch**  
President - GFS New Zealand



1. The big toe      6. Honey  
2. Venus      7. A sheep  
3. 007      8. July  
4. The skin      9. Anthophobia  
5. The Bible      10. Merida

ANSWERS  
Pg 22. TRIVIA

# GFS PNG

The Season has been challenging as we witness natural disasters and happenings in the World at a time such as this. May our faith in this Ministry remain steadfast as we stand in the gap through our Prayers for God's light to shine brighter in the darkest corner on planet Earth.

Popondetta Diocese: President Viviane continues to extend GFS boundaries with the challenges of hosting GFS events at Hetuna Advent, venue is an Anglican female religious community founded in 1964 by Sister Margaret CHN.

Kokopo NGI Diocese: President Mother Estella Tawasu from Good Shepherd Church continue to train youths in their Parish. We pray that their fundraising activities will be successful.

Port Moresby Diocese: Sunday School Children have been committed in this ministry as they happily participate in Bible study, craft activities and games. We now plan to admit new GFS members, and this news has been received with excitement.

GFS PNG will celebrate World Day of Prayer which will coincide with GFS 150 years and the handover ceremony in Popondetta from 20-21 September 2025. MBH and SSF Anglican ministry are invited to participate.

We wish to acknowledge our Consultants Canon Val Gribble and Rev. Cheryl Selvage including the GFS National Office, Australia for their continued assistance to GFS PNG by going that extra mile to meet travel, accommodation and transport costs to ensure the Coordinator and two Presidents from the Provinces would be able to attend this important GFS PNG event. It is our hope to rise-up and take ownership of our financial burden in future.

**Girika-Raga Sanata**  
National Coordinator - GFS PNG



GFS PRESIDENT VIVIANNE & GFS MEMBERS AFTER YOUTH MEETING.



GFS GIRLS WATERING PLANTS AT GFS HAUS ORO.



GFS PRESIDENT ESTELLA WITH YOUTHS AFTER ALTER SERVICE TRAINING.



GFS MOTHER CHAPLAIN PRAYING OVER SUNDAY SCHOOL CHILDREN.

# GFS SIERRA LEONE

Greetings from Freetown, Sierra Leone. On Sunday February 4, we inaugurated a new branch at St Peters and St. James Bathurst village.

On the March 8, we launched Orange Day celebrations. We listened to speakers on various topics, violence in the home by the Mothers Union, gender-based violence by the Ministry responsible for gender affairs, climate change and drug abuse. A lady who suffered from gender-based violence shared her story.

We visited a sick aged member and made donations toward her well-being.

The church of the Holy Trinity hosted a prayer and praise breakfast. Rev Muriel Williams from the UMC Mission prayed and gave a short exhortation on our theme from Galatians 6:9 - "And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season, we shall reap, if we faint not". A renowned medical practitioner gave a talk on cervical cancer, a disturbing concern in our society.

We thank God for taking us through this quarter. We continue to pray for the World President and her team as we reach for the stars.

The Diocesan GFS Sierra Leone joined members of the Aberdeen community to celebrate Orange day. The girls went in procession to St. Mathew's Parish Aberdeen Hall. Speakers from the Municipality, the Ministry of Gender, and Campaign for good governance made impactful speeches during the event. The theme for the program was "Empowerment to the next level".

On June 8 a new branch was inaugurated at St James Church, Port Loko City in the North of the Country.

Diocesan Africana Service was held on the June 29 at the Church of the Holy Spirit. A fund-raising competition was held during the service and lunch was on Sale after the service. All proceeds were towards the bakery and tailoring project.

**Helen Caesar**  
President - GFS Sierra Leone



A NEW BRANCH WAS INAUGURATED AT ST JAMES CHURCH, PORT LOKO CITY IN THE NORTH OF THE COUNTRY.



LAUNCHING OF ORANGE DAY.



FUND RAISING COMPETITION FOR THE BAKERY AND TAILORING PROJECT.

# GFS SRI LANKA

This quarter saw many meaningful activities take place and we give all glory and honour to God!

## *Spiritual Development & Spreading the Good News*

*Confirmation Services:* The GFS donated 44 Bibles to three churches.

*Quiet Morning - Preparation for the World Council, 27<sup>th</sup> June 2025:* The purpose was to enrich GFS members and staff spiritually and be refreshed, rooted, and empowered to glow for His glory as we work to host the World Council 2026. Rev. Niroshan de Mel, the World Chaplain, conducted a very interesting and practical session on “Understanding our behavioral type when working with teams”.

## *Responsible Consumption and Production*

*Home Gardening Project:* Forty beneficiaries from 4 churches in the Up country received 10 plants per beneficiary. An Instructor of Agriculture conducted a session.

## *Quality Education*

*Phase 2 - Making Herbal Soap and Shampoo:* On the 24<sup>th</sup> of April, at the Southern Regional Office, 13 ladies were taught to make herbal shampoo and fragrant soap. The ingredients were provided by the participants.

*Two computer laboratories in the South & Up Country*

*Christianity classes in the Regional Office, Hambantota*

## *Ending Abuse of Women and Children*

*Orange Day:* Orange day programs were held in 2 GFS branches in unique ways.

## *Climate Action*

*Celebrating World Environment Day: Craft Competition - 21<sup>st</sup> June 2025:* 71 girls from 18 teams of 8 churches participated in this event with great enthusiasm. Junior groups created a poster portraying Ruth in the barley field and senior groups made a creative model depicting Rebekah at the well.

*Beat Plastic Pollution:* 4 GFS branches conducted various interesting programs in line with this theme.

## *GFS Youth*

*The World Youth Leadership Program (Online):* Some of our girls took part in all 4 sessions conducted by GFS World and were blessed.

## **Rohini Ratnam**

**President - GFS Sri Lanka**



CRAFT COMPETITION.



QUIET MORNING.



HOME GARDENING PROJECT.

# GFS USA

Every three years, GFS USA holds its National Assembly that brings together girls, young women, and leaders from across the US in a new, inspiring location. In 2025, this meaningful gathering was hosted at a university in the Diocese of New York. This is a cherished opportunity for us to reconnect, renew our commitments, and celebrate the strength of our sisterhood, no matter where we call home.

We proudly welcomed participants from seven dioceses in the Episcopal Church in the US, from the creative energy of California on the West Coast to the historic richness of Western Massachusetts on the East Coast, and every spirited region in between. Their unique experiences and insights ignited enriching conversations and reaffirmed our shared mission of “Bearing Ye One Another's Burdens.”

As summer unfolds, many branches will observe a recess, until we reconvene in September with renewed energy and fresh perspectives. While we may take time to rest, our commitment to our awareness campaign endures. We must never take a break in reminding the world that violence should never occur. It continues to impact and violate girls and women worldwide, and our unified voices must remain steadfast in challenging this injustice.

In every workshop, panel discussion, and informal gathering, our conversations reaffirm that Love, Grow, and Service extend beyond meeting times and across all seasons.

The spirit of our National Assembly will carry us forward, strengthening our shared commitment to Love, Grow, and Serve. Though our sisters from Chicago and Honduras were absent, their presence was felt in our hearts and remembered throughout the assembly. As we embrace the next chapter, may our collective dedication inspire us to continue uplifting one another and expanding the reach of our mission, always loving, serving, and growing.

GFS USA is Generating Change, Forging Leaders, and Shaping the Future.

**Delores M. Alleyne,  
On behalf of Lisa-Jo Woods-Kriss  
President - GFS USA**





ATTENTION



GFS WORLD



2025

# PRESIDENT'S BROOCH DESIGN COMPETITION

## STEP 1

### Create Your Worksheet

Start by drawing an 8 cm circle or square.  
Your design must fit inside.

## STEP 2

### Chose Your Materials

The brooch can be metal, enamel or ceramic. It can include engraving and stones but the cost of making the brooch must be \$500.00 USD or less.

## STEP 3

### Create Your Design

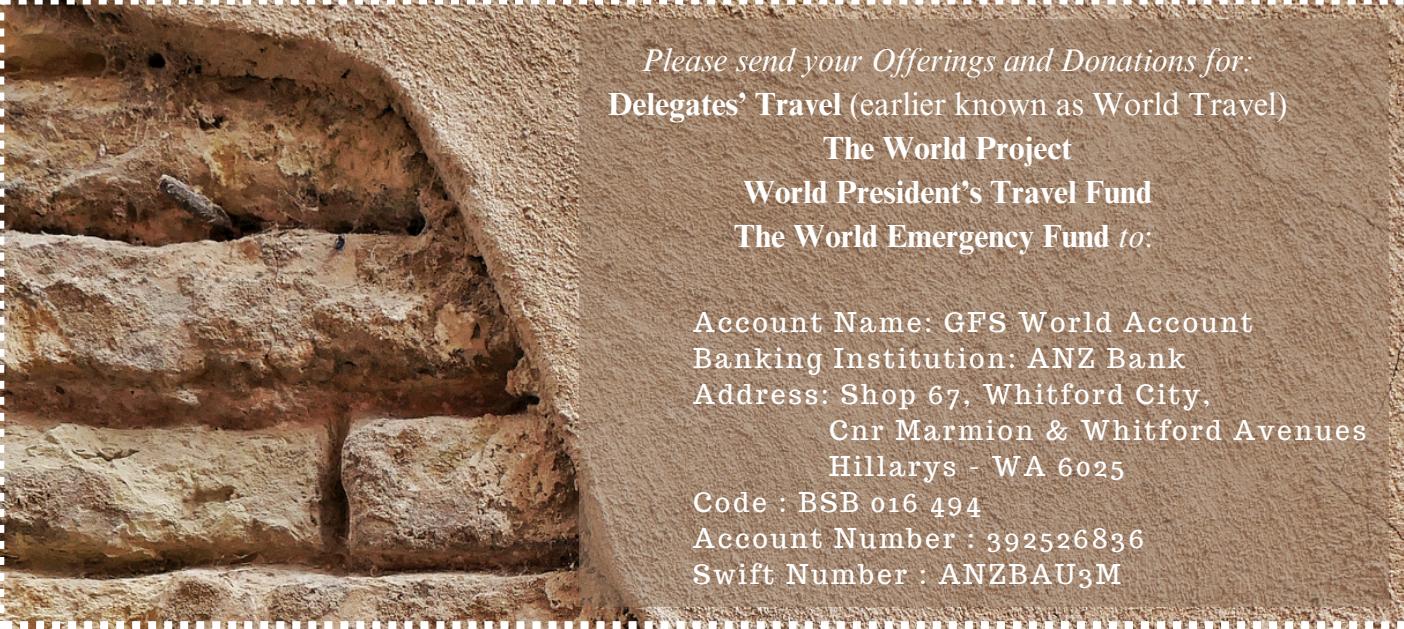
The brooch must include the words "WORLD" and "PRESIDENT" and either "GFS" or "GIRLS FRIENDLY SOCIETY"

## STEP 4

### Submit Your Design

Email your design by August 1, 2025 to  
[2023gfsworldpres@gmail.com](mailto:2023gfsworldpres@gmail.com)

GFS World reserves the right to modify the design selected if necessary due to issues in cost or ability to fabricate.



*Please send your Offerings and Donations for:  
Delegates' Travel (earlier known as World Travel)*

**The World Project**  
**World President's Travel Fund**  
**The World Emergency Fund to:**

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

Dear All,

Warm greetings to you.

As we prepare for the upcoming issue of our newsletter, we kindly remind everyone to pay close attention to the submission guidelines and ensure that articles are sent in the required format. This helps us organize everything more efficiently and stay on schedule.

Please also remember to submit your articles by the deadline. Your cooperation is truly appreciated and makes a big difference.

We sincerely thank the countries who sent in their articles for this issue, your contributions are deeply valued. For those who weren't able to submit this time, we completely understand and encourage you to take part in the next issue.

We're excited to let you know that this edition includes a trivia, so be sure to check it out and test your knowledge!

We're planning to release the newsletter on a set date, and we truly appreciate your continued support.

With warm regards,  
The GFS Newsletter Team

Cut off date for next issue of World Newsletter:

**7th October 2025**

for the next quarter (July 1 – Sepember 30, 2025)

Please send your news (**max 300 words**) in Word format  
and **3 separate jpeg or png pictures** to:  
**gfsworldnewsletter@gmail.com**

# How About a Trivia? .....

1. In human anatomy, what does the “hallux” refer to?
2. What is the only planet in our solar system to rotate clockwise on its axis?
3. What is James Bond's code name?
4. Weighing around eight pounds, this is the human body's largest organ?
5. According to Guinness World Records, what's the best-selling book of all time?
6. What is the only food that can never go bad?
7. What was the first animal to ever be cloned?
8. Which month of the year is National Ice Cream Month?
9. What is the fear of flowers called?
10. Which Disney princess has a Scottish accent?

Answers: See Pg. 16

## Talk To Us

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