

**The World President's Address
at the Closing Service of the 25th GFS World Council.
Cathedral of Christ the Living Saviour, Colombo
July 9, 2026**

As we, the members of the Girls Friendly Society, gather here this morning, after 8 days of non-stop activity, we remember the verse: "The old has passed away; behold, all things have become new." (2 Corinthians 5:17).

These words beautifully capture the essence of this moment - a time to reflect on our past accomplishments and to embrace the new season God has prepared for us.

Over the past three years, we have witnessed God's faithfulness, experienced His guidance and celebrated countless victories together.

As the GFS, we offered what we had, and God transformed it into something big.

Dear members, you were the hands that held the GFS up, you were the voices that praised God all day! It was your commitment and dedication that kept our organization alive and thriving, inspiring others to serve and grow in faith.

We have grown in faith and in love, unity, and service, empowering each other.

We must consider these accomplishments as not just milestones but evidence of God's grace at work among us. We also remember that our efforts are not merely for ourselves but for the glory of God and the advancement of His kingdom here on earth.

As we celebrate our achievements, we also recognize that this is a new season.

Today marks a fresh chapter in our journey - a time to dream bigger, serve deeper and follow God's purpose with renewed passion.

As we look to the future, let us all remember that our mission remains the same : to grow, to serve and to spread the love of Christ.

Let us remain rooted in faith, steadfast in prayer and very ambitious in our dreams. We are called to continue reaching for the stars, knowing that with God, the impossible is possible.

Today, as we commission our new leadership team for the next three years, we wish them God's richest blessings. May you lead with wisdom and humility, committed to serving our Lord Jesus Christ and His people.

We trust that God will continue to guide and empower them as they carry our beloved organization forward.

May we all continue to work together for peace, harmony, and a brighter tomorrow, as we serve God and man through the ministry of the Girls' Friendly Society.

Jeanne Withanage