



(GIRLS FRIENDLY SOCIETY) WORLDWIDE

(A ministry of the Anglican Church)
*Gal 6:2 - Bear one another's burdens, and in
this way you will fulfill the law of Christ*



From the World President

"Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit"(Gal 5: 25)
Dear GFS members and friends around the World.
Greetings to you in the name of our Lord.
I spent first few months of my term in establishing the systems of GFS World office, to familiarize myself in knowing all the countries GFS Presidents, also in

building partnerships with Organizations which we share same values. God is wonderful. I am now focusing on understanding how GFS operates in different countries which is a process. Thank you to national Presidents for the support that they afford me.

It is with great joy that the focus in this period is in protecting, holistically development and support of Campaigns which fight abuse of women and girls worldwide. While uplifting the girls to be on par with their counterparts it is in my interest to also nurture the boy child As I believe we cannot easily succeed in fighting Gender Based Violence if we leave boys to grow without values of respecting girls.

My sincere appreciation to all who and continuing painting the world with orange color and actually supplied the communities with oranges on each 25th day of each month in support of the Campaigns against Abuse of woman and girls. Taking action by raising awareness as we develop young leaders, it is also important for me that in our Parishes where our constituencies are, for GFS members to lead by coordinating all youth, working on programs/projects together as they are going to be leaders of tomorrow in the spirit of "Bearing each other's Burden "also in togetherness and in action.

We can only achieve these if we pray together living by the Holy Spirit and keeping in step with It.
It is important for me to share with the World how grateful I am that God has blessed me with support from GFS Worldwide , and Anglican Church of Southern Africa at large. During this time , I think of all those who live below the poverty line and it is my wish that we all share the bread that we eat as Jesus shared with His disciples.

Thank you for your donations. Blessed are those who give more than those who receive.

Happy Christmas to you all

For donations please use the GFS World Account banking details below.

Account Name: GFS World Council
Bank: First National Bank
Branch: Balfour Park
Branch Code: 250655
Account No: 62720797953
Swift Code: FIRNZAJJ
Bank Address:
Shop 229 Balfour Park Shopping
Centre. Highlands North. 2102

Ms Thembeka Pama

GFS World President

**GFS South Africa
GFS prepares for 2020**



The above Picture is members and leaders who attended a conference in Durban seen with the Bishop of Natal Bishop Dino Gabriel

St Andrews and St Annes GFS and BFS members in the diocese of Port Elizabeth wearing black and orange ribbons in support of fighting against abuse of women and children in 16days of Activism



Advent

Someone once said, Advent is the time when we are all called to be pregnant with Christ, along with Mary. In due course we will then give birth to the same Christ for

the world that God so much loves. But then I thought, how must it have been like for Mary to be pregnant with Jesus? She was a young maiden, soon to be married. How was it like for her to say to her friends who asked her who the father is? I have a feeling that saying "the Holy Spirit did this to me," would cut it as a convincing explanation. Imagine also what the neighbours would say. To top it all off, her fiancé, Joseph, contemplated breaking their engagement. Only an angelic intervention stopped him.

The challenge I wish to leave you with this Advent is: to imagine ourselves – collectively and individually – called to be like Mary. Imagine ourselves – collectively and individually – about to give birth to the Christ-reality in our world. Imagine ourselves about to give birth to a Christ reality that is vulnerable, child-like, perhaps a reality to be born under poverty, insecurity, oppression, slavery, corruption, and many other challenges. Imagine ourselves witnessing the angels in this very world singing the song that they sang for the shepherd in Bethlehem: "Glory to God in the highest and peace on earth among people who have the pleasure of God!" Imagine ourselves hearing this song that

connects God's presence and glory clubbing together with peaceful fellowship among people of the world TODAY, even NOW! Imagine ourselves, like Mary, about to give birth to the Christ-reality.

Of course, as young boys and girl, our friends may think us crazy and as people who have lost their minds. Of course we will be asked who “fathered” this imagination? I pray that we are able to respond and say, “the Holy Spirit is behind this imagination, as is about to make it real through me, and through us!” Imagine ourselves as Mary, imagine hearing the song anew and afresh: “Glory to God in the highest and peace on earth among people who have the pleasure of God!”

Wishing you a fruitful Advent, and a Happy Christmas.

Revd Fr Mpole Samuel Masemola

Rector: Christ the King Church,
Sophiatown

IRELAND



Season's Greetings from Ireland

Hurricane Ophelia, having been forecast, travelled the length of our country recently. Our Weather station, News team, the Government, Garda/Police and Rescue services set up a National Emergency Centre and people were kept up to date with its progress. Storm Brian followed within days. It was a difficult time for many and sadly three people lost their lives. We sympathize with and pray for other countries having experienced hurricanes, storms, earthquakes, flooding and terrorist activities – all situations where people are in danger and where casualties have been witnessed.

Continuing, I extend sympathy on behalf of GFS in Ireland to the family of Mrs Dilys Fowler from Wales, World President 1984 - 1987 and to the family of Mrs Joy Parkin from New Zealand who was World President during the term 1990 - 1993. These ladies had GFS's well-being at heart and I know they were loved by all who knew

them. Their memories will be treasured by many. We also remember GFS members in Wales and in New Zealand at this sad time.

In September I was invited to a Diocesan Festival Service in Connor, Down and Dromore Dioceses in St Patrick's Church, Ballymena, Northern Ireland. This was my first time to this area and I was delighted to meet with GFS personnel there. In spring time I attended more of these Services where our 140th milestone was celebrated.

The 2017 – 2018 season has begun. Three Regional Training days were held to help leaders with the new season's programmes and to update them on current requirements and legislation. The theme was “Celebrate, Inspire, Change”. All events were well attended and interaction and fellowship was excellent. It is nice to report that Lahey branch in Derry and Raphoe Dioceses has re-opened having been closed for some years – well done to the ladies who have made this possible.

“Making a Difference” is the Bible Study theme for this season. The Memory verse is: *“Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go” – 1*

Joshua V9. The Bible stories of Ruth and Esther will be studied. I hope by knowing the memory verse and by discovering the qualities and achievements of these two good ladies that the theme can be realized and digested. I often feel that some people may believe that men are the only characters in the Bible. The New Testament relates many stories of women, their deeds and their influence in Biblical times.

The triennial election process begins here in November. All positions will become vacant. This is a time for prayer and serious thought as members make decisions.

Congratulations to Mothers Union in Ireland on its 130th birthday. Its members celebrated throughout the year. I was delighted to be a guest at the 'Big Sing' in the National Concert Hall, Dublin. Up to 1,000 voices, including an MU Choir heartily sang a selection of favourite hymns.

In this year of a World gathering in Australia and the 140th celebrations in Ireland and in USA, I say "to a well-remembered past and a thankful present; best wishes to everyone for a blessed Christmas and a New Year that will be full of goodness".



Love and greetings to everyone, *Sylvia Quinn.*

GREETINGS FROM GFS LIBERIA

Let me begin by thanking Madam Thembeke Pama, our President for

keeping in touch with us and constantly giving us update on GFS matters.

The 18th and 19th of November, 2017 were wonderfully spent. Liberia GFS conducted a one day training workshop for its members. Sponsors from some of our Parishes taught the girls crocheting, flower making and making of hair bows. It begun with devotion and discussion on discovering ones values and identity. About 45 members were in attendance and lunch was served. The day ended with the casting of ballots for new corps of Diocesan Officers.

On Sunday, 19th November, 2017, about 66 GFSers congregated at the Church of the Good Shepherd to witness the installation of their new corps of Officers. I am pleased to present them to you as follow:



Christine Sonpon Freem President
Thelman C. Duncan Sawyer Vice President
Quinnetta Blessing Clement Secretary
Grace T. Mensa Assistant Secretary
Judith M. Potter Treasurer
Angeline Mulbah Chaplain

Also on this same Sunday, we observed the GFS World Day of Prayer and admitted 5 Sponsors and 26 girls and young women into the GFS. The girls spiced up the service with praise dances. It was a wonderful time of fellowship and to God be the glory.



A new branch will be established on December 10, 2017. We look forward to attending the service. I like to conclude by saying that two of our branches that have been dormant for some time now have been reactivated. We look forward to working with the new leadership as they take on the baton. Finally, we congratulate our immediate past President, Esther H. Page and her team for their leadership and we wish Sister Page a speedy recovery.

Georgiana T. Williams
On behalf of Liberia

GFS World Newsletter December 2017

Greetings from New Zealand

What happy memories we have from World Council in Perth. New friendships and fellowship with a great collection of women, young and old, from all over the world. A very special event to be remembered always, for many reasons.

In Wellington, New Zealand we are preparing for next year when we get to know our new students and say farewell to those who have come to the end of the GFS Scholarship Programme.

Interviews are a busy time and it is a great privilege to work with local schools and meet the girls who apply for our scholarship. The interview process can be challenging and we are pleased to have the guidance of their teachers. We also attended Prize Giving Ceremonies to present the GFS Scholarship. An absolute highlight for our members.

It is always sad to say good bye at the conclusion of the three year programme and we do try to keep in touch, informally,

when we can. After three years the girls have grown in confidence and ability and we are proud of their development and achievements.

There have been some heartening stories to report:

Fuatino and Sharee both had another successful year. Melanie has been shortlisted from dozens of applicants for a summer internship at the Department of Corrections. Selia, from Ethiopia is doing well in her social work course at Canterbury University,

Some students struggle to keep up with and balance study, part time work and family commitments. Good time management skills are an essential element in the quest for academic success and financial independence.

This year GFS supported seventeen students and it is a joy and a privilege to get to know them.

Our Council will meet in December and we will organise and send you all a photo for the Newsletter, next time.

With best wishes for a very happy Christmas

With our love and prayers

Helen

President

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

After 7 years as GFS Diocesan President (Popondota) Mary Bagu has stepped down from the position (as required by the constitution). There is now a new executive. As GFS is mainly in Popondota diocese the President in that diocese is considered the main contact for PNG until there is a Provincial Council. The new executive were commissioned by Fr Isaiah Masida at the end of their Council meeting.



Papua New Guinea



L to r

Rebecca Konene (Treasurer), Moana Ijivi (Secretary), Maisy Aveo (Vice-President) and Vivian Jirega (President)

GFS SIR LANKA

Historic Visit of the World President

Mrs Val Gribble visited Sri Lanka from May 3 - 8. She met the Bishop of Colombo and discussed Sri Lanka's proposal for the World Project.

On May 9 she was accorded an official welcome in traditional style at GFS Headquarters. She presented trophies and certificates to the winners of the Craft Competition. Three past GFS Hostel girls spoke of their memories and expressed their gratitude to the Society. The entertainment segment consisted of cultural dances and a song item by the *Pink Pearls*.

World Council

Five members, including for the first time a Junior Delegate, represented our country at World Council.

We are grateful to the World Team for their hard work during the past 3 years and especially thank Immediate Past President Mrs Val Gribble for her patient and tireless efforts to promote, develop and advance the Society she loves. We congratulate and wish the new World President, Mrs Thembeke Pama God's blessings as she takes on the leadership of the GFS and offer our support to her and to the new World Team.

World Project

Our GFS is delighted that the World Council approved our proposal for the World Project - "English for Employment Prospects".

GFS Hostel 60th Anniversary - This was celebrated on Sep. 21 with a grand dinner at the Hostel together with prayers of thanks to God and grateful remembrance of members long ago, both British and Ceylonese, (Sri Lanka was then known as Ceylon) who worked hard to set up the Hostel. The building was blessed on this day in 1957 by the then English Bishop of Colombo, Rt Rev A.G. Campbell. The foundation for the building was laid the year before, by Mrs Angela Weir, the last British President of the GFS of our country.

AGM / WDP - The WDP was observed before the commencement of the AGM on October 7.

Programs - Highlights

Craft Competition - A Successful Craft Competition was held for Sunday School children of the Colombo South and North Deaneries on March 11. 95 children from 10 churches participated. Innovative craft work emerged as each team used recyclable items to depict a Bible story. Seniors - The Good Samaritan / Juniors - The Sower. Through this exercise, the GFS emphasized the value of recycling - using ordinary everyday items, odds and ends and bits and pieces and transforming them into beautiful and useful creations. This

could be compared to the manner in which God transforms us.

Table sale - The annual "March Market" was held on March 24

Pink Pearls - An interesting workshop on different styles of saree draping was enjoyed by the girls.

Coming up

November

Meeting with the Bishop of Colombo to launch the World Project

24th - The annual Pre-Christmas Sale

29th - Programme on gender based violence

December

Caroling - to homes of senior members and retired clergy

Visit to a Home for Children - to share Christmas joy with destitute/abused children

Christmas Carols at the GFS



The Executive Council with Mrs Val Gribble, World President 2014-2017



The Sri Lanka delegation with Mrs Thembeke Pama, World President 2017-2020 at the World Council in Perth, Australia

GFS JAPAN

Greetings from GFS Japan.

On 15th Oct. at Mihara St. Peter and Pole Church, Okinawa GFS got together not only the members of GFS but other women belong to the church. After they prayed the GFS World Day Prayer together, they enjoyed having delicious cakes made by Asako Chibana. And the mother's group donated for the world project. They earned the money working for the church bazar. It was a blessed day. Thanks to the Lord.



Okinawa GFS members at the new church.

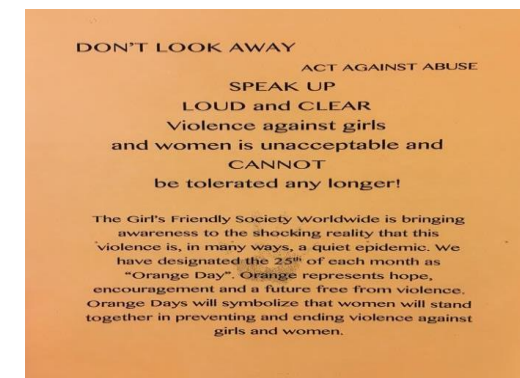
GFS Kobe, Kyoto, and Osaka got together at the Cathedral of Church of St. Michael in Kobe on 1st Oct. for the GFS World Prayer Service. They had a good time with tea and yummy cakes. After that they enjoyed handicraft. The biggest grace is that very young members have participated. They wore GFS berets which were given by their mother and aunt. They used to wear the berets about 25 years before. It is so great to know that GFS has continued for a long time.



Kobe, Osaka, Kyoto GFS members at St. Michael Church



GFS USA took part in the fight against women and children abuse with their Orange Colour



AUSTRALIA

ST CLAIR KIDS CLUB Tuesday 24th October 2017

On Tuesday, Tania and Lyn made a visit to St Clair Kids Club where they could lead many of the activities, working around the theme of GFS World Council, spreading the good news of Jesus through GFS. The afternoon commenced with a game of countries. Then a presentation, explaining what happened at GFS World Council in Perth, explaining so as the children could relate to a camp they have attended, e.g. branch, school etc. Afternoon Tea of fruit and juice. Craft, with a Japanese flavor, “origami” (paper folding) dog or cat Another game – Continents of the world. To conclude the afternoon, all sat around in a circle for prayer time. The children each prayed for a country where GFS is operating and for their work to continue. Before leaving for home all children and leaders were able to choose a gift from the table. (These had been brought back from The International Day held at World Council in Perth.) A fun night was had by all, and we were asked to come again.



Orange Day. GFS Australia made a stand to raise awareness to end violence against women & girls.



GFS Australia giving away oranges and having conversations with people in the mall.

and useful creations. This could be compared to the way God transforms us

ZAMBIA



GFS Zambia had a national camp where we had different activities, the most highlighted one being Ms GFS Zambia



We are proud to announce that GFS Lusaka has decided to work with the orphanage and offer spiritual support to the kids.



The president and her voice were on radio spreading the word of God and our organization.



GFS Zambia diocese of Lusaka recruited 20 girls and they had a braai with the children from the rainbow house.

**GIRLS FRIENDLY SOCIETY
WORLD PRAYER**

Gracious Faithful Saviour,
Guide us,
Fill us and Shape us
With Your Power of the
Holy Spirit.
May Our Worship to You be a
Sweet Smelling Sacrifice
May Our Faith in Your Son
Jesus Christ Our Friend
Be Deep and Truthful.
May Our Service to All Your
Creation be Full of Love
Help Us to Continue to
Demonstrate the Love of
Christ to All Who Are in
Any Kind of Need.
May We Be a Channel of

Courage to All Young Women
and Men Who Have Lost
Hope in Life
Gracious, Faithful Saviour
We Thank You for Our Friendship
With You and One Another.

You are the

God Who Forgives Our Sins
In Jesus Christ, We Pray.

Amen

**A request is sent to GFS Worldwide
and friends to pray for the following
countries and their national presidents
at this time of Advent.**

PRAYERS for the new beginning of our
Church year that, there must be
Connection with God.

That the families of the, below GFS
Presidents and their communities be given
wisdom and be protected by God at this
time

That those who lost their loved ones and
people from their communities be
comforted by Almighty.

That they are given strength to deliver on
their mandate of Growing the Kingdom of
God

That they must not lack as God is their
provider.

- 1.Mrs Gail Orchard and GFS Australia
- 2.Mrs Estelle Dibo Elango and GFS
Cameroon
- 3.Mrs Enid Russel and GFS Canada
- 4.Ms Mayra Brown and GFS Dominican
Republic
- 5.Mrs Margaret Winks England
- 6.Mrs Christine Adjei and GFS Ghana
- 7.Rev Canon Connie Sanchez and Gfs
Honduras
- 8.Mrs Silvia Quinn and GFS Ireland

