



Dear Friends in GFS

World Council is almost upon us!

I write this letter the day after Pentecost, a time when we remind ourselves of the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

As Christians we are given great **Wisdom** to love the Spiritual things in life more than material ones. With **Understanding** we comprehend how we need to live as followers of Christ who, with the gift of **Counsel**/right judgment, we know the difference between right and wrong.

It is with **Fortitude**/courage, we overcome our fears and are prepared to stand up for what is right. We do this with the **Knowledge** and love of God in our hearts.

It is with **Piety**/Reverence and great wonder and awe/**Fear of the Lord** we recognise our total reliance on God as we trust Him to guide us through our 21st World Council not only to make right decisions to further the work of the Girls Friendly Society as was the vision of Mary Townsend, but also to further His Kingdom.

Safe journey to you all.

Yours in Christ

Glenys

HAPPY MOMENTS	.....	Praise God
DIFFICULT MOMENTS	.....	Seek God
QUIET MOMENTS	.....	Worship God
PAINFUL MOMENTS	.....	Trust God
EVERY MOMENT	.....	Thank God



Greetings from the United States of America:

Branches in the USA are approaching the summer months and will be recessing for the months of July and August. Many Dioceses will conclude their program year with a camping program for the girls. This is an exciting and rewarding experience for all the girls and leaders.

Over the past year we have seen growth not only in our branches but, also as an organization as a whole. We have accomplished a lot but there is so much more to do. We will be focusing on:

- Redesigning our GFS website to be more appealing and user friendly.
- To become more visible and involved with our Episcopal Church Women (ECW) organizations and the Episcopal Church as a whole.
- To offer our leaders, Leadership Training Workshops.
- To embrace the International Day of the Girl, November 11, 2015 and the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women conferences.
- To define our branch development strategies, develop, and fine-tune our programs geared to the youth we serve.

GFS/USA has a rich history and a solid foundation laid before us, which we need to preserve for generations of youth to come. Many changes have been made through-out the years to stay in tune with the time, but the mission has not changed from the day Mary Elizabeth Townsend in England and Elizabeth Edison Mason in the United States had their vision of assisting girls. Perhaps the Fruit of the Spirit also was part of their vision so long ago.

"The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, selfcontrol; against such things there is no law" Galatians 5:22-23 .

The GFS ministry stretches across the US from the East to the West Coast but we need to reach girls in between.

With our dedicated leadership, it is our hope to double our numbers in membership by 2016 with God's help.

Many individual, leaders, GFS Sponsors are counting the days before the 21st World Council in Wales and are looking forward to seeing old friends from past World Councils and making numerous new friendships. We are extremely proud to be able to bring a significant number of girls to attend the Council.

In closing please keep up with the latest on GFS/USA, we invite you to like our Facebook page. Go to <https://www.facebook.com/gfsusa> and click on the LIKE button.

We pray that this news finds all our GFS family around the world safe and well,

Submitted by: Delores M. Alleyne
National GFS/USA President

Greetings from GFS Ireland

Among other work branches throughout Ireland were busy prior to Holy Week with Bible Study projects having to be completed and the hand craft items finished. These entries went through the Diocesan competitions with the 1st prize winners in each section going for All Ireland judging. I have to say that all the finalist entries were just magnificent. A lot of work obviously went into each Bible Study Project which was based on 'Caring' and the ideas in the craft section were super.

In most cases Dioceses finish the season with the annual Diocesan Festival Service and Prize Giving, where Branches get together, banners are displayed and all members are beautifully turned out in their uniforms. As Central President I have had the pleasure of attending some of these occasions, and may I say felt proud of all that is done in this country in the name of the Girls Friendly Society.

During Easter week an All-Ireland Camp, which is biennial was held in Wilsons Hospital School in Co. Westmeath - a Secondary Boarding School in the Midlands. It was from Friday at noon until Sunday afternoon when camp closed down with a lovely Service. This event was 'action packed' with approximately one hundred and fifty Girls and forty Leaders attending from six Dioceses. I know everyone had a good time and I can imagine they went home tired with some having made new friends, while others renewed old acquaintances.

A new 'Achievement Award' badge was introduced at camp which covered good behaviour, attitude towards others, complying with rules of camp and participation where possible in all activities. This worked well and each Girl deserved to be given one.

On 10th May after our Central Council meeting the new Central Chaplain Reverend Tanya Woods was Commissioned by Dean Dermot Dunne, (Dean of Christ Church, Dublin) in the GFS Chapel in Leeson Park Church, Dublin. Reverend Tanya then commissioned the new Delegates to World Council, after which everyone present received Communion – a most moving celebration. The occasion was made complete with lovely food and the usual fellowship.

Last year GFS Ireland joined Facebook and its number of 'Friends' is steadily increasing. It is a good way of making contact, sending messages and in keeping up to date with activities.

In January 2013 the National Quality Standard Framework was introduced to GFS. This is a three year cycle, allowing all officers and leaders examine the running of the Society at the various levels; ensuring that procedures comply with Safeguarding Trust and Children First regulations. Thankfully this programme is to schedule, and viewers can see that GFS is a 'five star' youth organisation.

At this point in time GFS Ireland wishes GFS Wales every Blessing as it hosts the 21st World Council. A lot of planning and preparation is involved, ensuring that this huge event will run well; leaving GFS Wales treading the 'cobbles' that this country trod three years ago. Those of us attending look forward to meeting fellow sisters from other lands.

Every Blessing,

Sylvia.



Camp: Wall climbing.



Commissionings:

Back row: Rev'd Tanya Woods, Sylvia Quinn, Michelle Armitage, Dean Dermot Dunne.
Front Row: Jane Cairns + Florence Higgins (outgoing delegates to World Council).

GIRLS, BOYS/BAFANA FRIENDLY SOCIETY(GBFS) SOUTH AFRICA

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Girls/Boys Friendly Society Brief Report

1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to give a brief overview on the Activities and Deliverables on Girls/Boys Friendly Society in South Africa

2. BACKGROUND

GBFS in the Country is keeping the young people busy with outreach programs.

Different dioceses are hosting conferences at different times

New leaders are being work shopped and those with experience are training new members.

3. Content

Outreach program

Young people (GBFS) are practicing their motto "bear one another's burdens" by assisting elderlies in working in different churches' Soup kitchens', others are in Food Security Projects where they established food gardens during their spare time.

The GBFS leadership of the Diocese of Port Elizabeth has been running a fund raising project, training GBFS members in doing crosses which they also sell at conferences.

Branches host conferences at different times with the purpose of supporting each other. One of the branches hosted a special conference where most of the branches were represented. The theme of the conference was taken from **John 14 vs 6** where Jesus comforts His Disciples, informing them that **He is the Way to the Father the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Him.** GBFS members were given a chance of praising and worshiping and it was an opportunity for spiritual revival for all delegates. Other activities embarked on were hand work and choir competitions. The acting President of South Africa, who is also the coordinator of GBFS in the Anglican Church of Southern Africa, when delivering her address, announced the good news that GBFS has been finally **CONFIRMED AS ONE OF THE Anglican Youth Organisations** within the Anglican Church of Southern Africa by the Synod of Bishops. The Acting President was accompanied by the former World President from 1996-1999.

Figure #1.Commissioning of the Diocese Committee



It was at the same conference where the Bishop of Mbashe Diocese was commissioning the GBFS new council members as reflected in Figure#1 above.

Figure # 2: Congregation with the Acting President ready to give her address



The lady with a plastic bag is counting the number of crosses left as she is running short of stock

Figure # 3: Praising and dancing



It is part of our culture, in South Africa to sing and dance when praising.

Figure # 4: Delegation at the Conference



**The Johannesburg Cluster on the 11 May 2014 commissioning the new branch
in the Diocese of Highveld**

In the spirit of cooperative governance the three Dioceses in Johannesburg established a GBFS cluster for the purpose of strengthening the GFS MOTTO as the challenges of the association are more or less the same. Each Diocese still follows the guidelines of its leadership as we all have different Bishops which do not hinder the objectives of GBFS, instead it helps the association as we share the good practices or experiences

In conclusion the GBFS is growing even though there are some common challenges,

Like scarcity of jobs for our young people and drug abuse.

Ms Thembeke Pama

Date: 16 May 2014