

# GFS WORLD NEWSLETTER



## From the World President

Our apologies for such a late newsletter and my grateful thanks to Tania for organising most of this newsletter. I am reporting further on my visit to South Africa and Mozambique on pages within the newsletter. It was a most exciting and encouraging visit.

As soon as I returned home I prepared to travel to Adelaide for our Australian GFS Mid Term Conference. Another great gathering and in such a large country as ours we don't get together very often. And time to prepare further for World Council next year.

I hope that the registration forms will be out to you all by mid-July.

We have been thinking of our USA members as they prepare for their Assembly in the first week in July and particularly for the people of the USA and Orlando as they mourn yet another shooting tragedy. We send our thoughts and prayers to them.

Australia is in election mode with our elections for a new National Parliament in early July. We all await the decision of Britain as they vote on the decision to stay in the European Union. So many events happen around the world that have far reaching effects on many people. It highlights how small our world is in these days with instant communication and the technology that goes with it. It also allows us to keep up to date with prayer points as we take our place as members of our global society. And as GFS members we are part of a wide family with many differences but all with a commitment to serve our lives within our church families and within our GFS families.

YOU ARE CALLED  
TO SERVE THROUGH



My love to you all **Val**

## **FROM THE WORLD CHAPLAIN**

A vocation is a way of life in which we become involved within our immediate community or family circle, in working for the good of others, rather than for purely selfish reasons. It is a way of allowing ourselves to become instruments of God's love of allowing Christ through us, draw near to all who have need of his healing presence, and of the peace which he alone can bring to their souls.

The duty of fostering priestly and religious vocation falls on us the whole Christian church community; we discharge it by living full Christian lives. The greatest contribution is made by families or Church Organizations which have within them a deep spirit of faith, piety, of the love of God, and by Organizations pervaded by Christian virtue and idealism.

If we parents who are members of the GFS Organization can pray with our immediate children back at our homes, and we are seen praying by our children, then we are most certainly sowing the seeds of those vocations which will be needed to minister full-time to the spiritual needs of our age and their future.

However, it is not only us who are members of the GFS Organization, but it is everyone who should become involved in this task. For a community or family or any Church Organization which is poor in vocations makes the Church poorer, but a community or Organization rich in vocations, makes the Church also richer.

May we who are members of the GFS now, not only serve through the GFS ministry but also sow seeds of vocations of our junior gfs members in our respective branches for the continuous ministry to meet the spiritual needs of their own age too.

**Archdeacon Isaiah Masida**



**Name: Mandy Malambo (GFS Zambia)**

**Age: 25**



**What do you do with yourself?**

I am a general enrolled nurse working for the University Teaching Hospital of Zambia.

**How did you first become involved with GFS?**

I was about 6 or 7 and I had always wanted to be a part of a group in church aside from Sunday school. So when Beatrice Zulu introduced GFS to my branch, I was moved and I have never looked back!

**What is your current involvement with GFS?**

I am currently an advisor to the national executive, and I had served as National vice Secretary from 2009-2016.

**What does GFS mean to you?**

GFS is my life, I don't know what else I would be doing with my life. I believe it has helped me to grow spiritually and closer to God, and it has helped me to gain self confidence and to be able to stand in public and speak freely. I use my voice to speak to young girls and women going through difficult times, those who seem lost in the world, and just counsel and reach out to them.

**How did World Council in Wales effect you?**

I had a lot of fun actually, I met different people and learnt about different cultures. I didn't even know that somewhere in this universe there was a country called Papua New Guinea.

**If you could give one piece of encouragement to GFS members across the world, what would it be?**

Remember, bear one another's burdens always. It doesn't have to be materialistically, even when give a listening ear to a friend in need , are bearing the burden of your friend. Remember GFS ROCKS.

## Val's Trip to South Africa and Mozambique

My 16 days in South Africa and Mozambique were filled with many exciting and interesting events but the most joy was from meeting so many members of the Girls and Boys Friendly Society. I stayed with Thembeke and I thank her for her hospitality and such a well planned visit. I met Thembeke's family and found we had two grandsons the same age and it became a visit to grow our friendship.

My main purpose of the visit was to meet GBFS members, to promote South Africa as the next GFS World host country (and in that capacity to meet and speak with a number of Government officials as well as Bishops), to prepare Thembeke to take over the role of World President and then to meet members of our new country, Mozambique. All this was achieved.



I was warmly welcomed to Thembeke's house by parishioners of her church and was soon entranced with the beautiful singing that all Africans seem to produce with their natural harmony and singing from their hearts.

The next morning we flew to East London, some 1.5 hours flight south and then drove

north to the Dioceses of Mbashe and Umtata. It was my honour to visit the home of Mrs Titus known to many who have attended past World Councils. Mrs Titus is now 92 and the weekend was to honour her commitment to GFS. This included a spectacular Eucharist in Mbashe Cathedral and many presentations to Mrs Titus. I was dressed as a Xhosa woman in an outfit especially made for me and I thank those who made it. It is beautiful and so much work put into it. Our visit to Umtata was in the same hall where we were welcomed in 1999 and brought back so many memories. The diocese of St John's as we knew it is now two dioceses of Mbashe and Umtata – great growth.

We drove next day with Nobantu to Port Elizabeth and again many memories of 1999. We stopped on the way to talk to the Bishop of Grahamstown, again to promote GFS. I met Hazel again, the World Secretary in Nobantu's term and many members of GFS in that city. Then flew back to Johannesburg for a round of government meetings and a most moving



Corpus Christi Mass in St Mary's Cathedral where the clergy renewed their vows and the oils were blessed. I was very impressed with the Bishop blessing the hands of each priest (there were 100 clergy there at least) and giving them a personal message.



A more sobering visit was to the Jail on Constitution Hill, now a Museum where I pondered on how man could do to man what happened in this jail. I think we continue to ponder that today in the various conflicts around the world. It was interesting to meet people who had been active in the fight for freedom during the apartheid period and to see the progress since 1999 and now 22 years since Independence.



**Mozambique leaders**

Then on the road to Mozambique – some 5 hours driving from Johannesburg. I met Bishop Carlos who is so supportive and hopes to have GFS branches in each of his parishes. I met Veronica who is leading the group of women who will be the first leaders. Mozambique is Portuguese speaking so some language problems. But we participated in the Bishop's weekend program, drove to a city called Xia Xia where a church community was being elevated to parish level and the Bishop also baptised 90 and confirmed 120. We estimated that there were 1000 people present. So uplifting, so encouraging. The Bishop also commissioned the new GFS leaders and their Chaplain at this service.

Back to Johannesburg to prepare for a GFS Training Day (which I conducted) and the Youth Conference. The Provincial GBFS Council is very new and this was their first Conference. It was so good to see 12 people and Father Bob travel from Zambia, through Zimbabwe to attend the conference. It was well over a 24 hour bus trip. There were representatives from most South African dioceses. Joyous singing and dancing both at the Opening Service at Thembeke's parish and then the gathering at the City Hall on the Saturday. Good, helpful, sessions with Government people explaining what was available for youth – education, special grants, etc. Good spiritual speakers. It was also a day to wear traditional dress and so colourful. A great success. On the Sunday, the day I left, there was a Youth Mass at the Cathedral with a great recognition of the youth.



**Bishop of Johannesburg after the Opening Service of the Youth Conference**



**Boys Friendly Society members**

One of my greatest impressions was the growth of GBFS. I congratulate South Africa and some other African countries for incorporating boys into GFS. In a time when they are battling gender issues, particularly violence it is a very positive step to involve boys and girls together and I am sure it will reap many benefits. I am very sure that GFS

has to look at different ways of being GFS and we in the western countries can learn a lot from developing countries and be willing to step *out* on new paths.

I saw the great benefit of a World President travelling to other countries. It certainly gave me a greater insight into a part of our worldwide family and will certainly assist me in planning for the next World Council. But of course the travel part is for the World President to consider herself and currently to fund herself. I hope that you will all consider a new fund to assist with travel for the World President as lack of funds has always been the deterrent in the past.

I have come home renewed and reinvigorated and now look forward to my visit in two week's time to the USA and Canada.

**Commissioning of Mozambique  
leaders and Chaplain**



**National Dress at Youth Conference**



**Mozambique ladies**

## LEADER RESOURCES

### **Children's Ministry**

It doesn't matter if you are new to children's ministry or if you have been teaching for many years, here are some good reminders for all of us.

#### **What are important characteristics of a children's ministry worker?**

1. **A person who has a committed relationship with Jesus.** - Jesus is the reason you have been called to do this work. He will shine in everything you do.
2. **A person who believes children are important to God.** - Matthew 8:1-5 Jesus says that God loves children and He values them. Children need to feel that they matter to you.
3. **A person who is teachable.** – We can all learn from everyone...everywhere...everyday.
4. **A person who is a team player and reliable.** - Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 - Plan with other leaders. Share responsibilities. Delegate tasks. Others need to know that they can count on you.
5. **A person who loves children and respects young people.** Love listens and observes. Love learns and understands. Love responds positively. Love sets clear limits.
6. **A person who is wise, honest, open and careful.** - Who you are is important. What you chose and do will come from who you are.
7. **A person who models godliness to young people.** – Remember we have an effect on the people we serve. Make people skills one of your priority growth areas.

*Bear one another's burdens  
and so fulfill the law of Christ.*

Galatians 6:2





## **NEWS ABOUT WORLD COUNCIL 2017**

**Registration forms will be available from mid July. Remember the dates – 11 to 20 July, 2017. Venue is Swanleigh Conference Centre, Perth. It will be Australian winter so cool and maybe wet! Come prepared.**

**Countries wishing to apply for a Travel Grant please contact the World President as soon as possible.**

### **WORLD FUNDS**

- **We desperately need funds to assist with the travel of our delegates from developing countries.**
- **We need to continue our World Project fundraising to assist GFS Japan with the continuing effects of the Tsunami**
- **Don't forget that the World Due is now One Hundred English Pounds each three year term to be paid either before or at the next World Council.**
- **We would like to set up a fund for the World President's future travel (from the term of the next President)**

**If you are holding funds please send them as soon as possible to our World account – details on the back page.**



## WHAT IS HAPPENING AROUND OUR GFS WORLD?

### GFS SRI LANKA

#### National disaster

Please pray for our country which over the past week has been devastated by floods and landslides caused by torrential rains with gale force winds. Over 80 are dead, hundreds missing, thousands displaced. Whole villages have been buried, towns are under water and several areas of the capital Colombo are flooded.

The government and various organizations are engaged in providing emergency relief. We plan to assist in the rehabilitation process. Shall update.

**New Hostel Project** - At the beginning of the year, we determined to launch our new hostel project and this has compelled us to focus on income generating activities.

**Upgrading the GFS Hall** - The Hall was air conditioned due to the demand for such facilities and we hope to increase our income which in turn will help fund the hostel project. Our Chaplain, Ven. Chrisantha Mendis switched the units on and blessed them on May 6. A glass door was installed at the entrance, carefully preserving the existing intricately carved wooden doorway, in keeping with our Hall tag line of "old world charm and modern facilities".

#### Regular events

**The March Market**, our modest fund raising attempt held on March 28.

**Easter Celebration and Avurudhu Games** held on April 2 - A short service followed by "Make the bunny" group competition, traditional games, refreshments, *baila* (dance) competition, awarding prizes. Please visit our FB Pages to enjoy the pictures.



The bun eating competition in full swing at the Avurudhu Games

#### News

**Visit of Tegan and Sara** (last year) - The President sent an official report to the World President on the value of their visit especially to the *Pink Pearls* and the impact it had on GFS, church and community, along with suggestions and recommendations for a world youth exchange programme.

**Article for Youth Magazine** - Tegan's and Sara's visit did make an impression on people here! The Colombo South Area Deanery Youth Assembly, Church of Ceylon Youth Movement, Diocese of Colombo, requested Tegan to contribute an article on her visit to Sri Lanka, for the inaugural issue of *Youth Pulse* to be published in June.



Stall holders at The March Market  
2016

### ***Participation in community events***

**SLWC AGM** (March 19) - Our GFS is affiliated to the SL Women's Conference which is the umbrella organization of women's organizations in SL. The President presented a report of recent activities of our Society which was well received.

**SUNFO Event** (March 31) - Executive Council members and staff participated in a programme to mark International Women's Day, organized by the Sri Lanka-United Nations Friendship Organization.

### ***Coming Up***

\* Assistance to rehabilitate flood victims    \* Fund raising event    \* Programmes with the *Pink Pearls*

Jeanne Withanage  
President

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## **GFS IRELAND**

### ***Greetings to Worldwide GFS Members***

GFS in Ireland has been busy. Branches have been finishing their season's work and Dioceses are having their Festival Services and Fun days with some having Camps. Book-work is now a major issue for GFS at all levels. Central Office, constantly a hive of activity has had its second Central Council meeting for 2016 on 14<sup>th</sup> May in Dunlaoghaire, a beautiful place by the sea, East of Dublin city. All-Ireland Prizes were distributed as the meeting closed. It was a treat to see the excellent work that went into the Bible Study Projects and the talent in Craft work is great - branches were busy and the season was short. Holy Communion led by our Chaplain, Revd Tanya assisted by Revd Ása, Rector of Christ Church, Dunlaoghaire was also celebrated. A hearty lunch was the finale to proceedings.



**The boat dance at Parent's night.**

Camp 2016, a biennial all-Ireland event was held in Kilkenny College during the Easter holidays. 140 girls and 30 leaders attended. A brilliant time was had by everyone and the planned programme went ahead despite the weather letting us down for the outdoor activities.

Congratulations to Revd Tanya who was instituted as Rector of the Belturbet group of parishes where she was Curate. It was special for me along with some of her Diocesan GFS sisters to be with her for this occasion. Attending three Diocesan Festival Services was a pleasure, each of which had its own flavour. Parent's night in Annaghmore branch was fun. Mothers' Union's charitable work was evident at their AGM meeting – lovely to be present.

Congratulations to two Central Council members, Natalie Thompson and Sarah McCammick who have been married recently. Best wishes to Elaine Grothier, Junior Delegate to World Council 2005 in the USA, whose wedding is in July.

We were delighted to hear that Revd Sonia Gyles; Olein's daughter has got engaged. We wish her well as she plans her wedding.



Sharing a stand with 'Feed the minds' at General Synod

The Church of Ireland had a 1916 Commemorative Service in St. Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin, where people of all walks of life were present. This was a solemn and reflective occasion, where the Primate of All-Ireland, Archbishop Richard Clarke preached about '*generous remembering, generous envisioning*'. It was interesting to learn earlier in the year that a widow of that era was 'trained' by GFS. She would have joined GFS shortly after the Society came to Ireland.

It is always nice to keep up with GFS happenings around the world on Face Book. The Society is certainly alive and well and it is good to let it be known.

I wish everyone a pleasant summertime.

**Sylvia Quinn.**

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## GFS AUSTRALIA

It was lovely to catch up with so many friends in Sydney for their meeting in March. And a wonderful opportunity to meet some of their younger, newer leaders as well. The day started with a workshop on Pastoral Care for GFS Leaders. This highlighted concerns which we all face in ministry. Lunch was a time of fellowship, preceding the AGM. After the AGM the current three year plan for GFS Sydney was ratified by those present. The day ended with a service of rededication and more food before heading home.

At the AGM of GFS Perth a few months ago, they awarded Life Membership to two members of GFS Perth Michelle Szymanski and Kate Brewer. Both ladies have been involved with GFS in Perth for 30 years and have lead groups, been on committees, lead/cooked on camps, attended National and International events representing GFS. Thank you ladies for your commitment to our Organisation and for the many children whose lives you have changed over this time and for what is to come in the future. God Bless you both.

A visit to Gippsland in April to celebrate 130 years of GFS Carol, Bishop Kaye and myself were privileged to cut the cake after lunch before the girls joined in an afternoon of water sport activities. It was lovely to see so many people



there enjoying themselves. Well done to Gippsland ladies for organising a great day to celebrate GFS's 130 years.

**After Gippsland I visited Tasmania.** First I travelled to Launceston to meet with the ladies then onto the delights of the autumn Botanical Gardens, dinner with the executive members and finally a gathering of Townsend in the south (Hobart) who found some body parts as their reflection on what each part contributes and how we are all "one body".



Members of GFS Australia will be getting together June 10<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> for our midterm conference at Nunyara Conference Centre in the Adelaide Hills. This is a time of fellowship, training & also our planning time for the next 18 months.

We will also hear reports from branches & our World

Chairman about activities in the past and planned.

Please pray for safe travel for those coming to Adelaide, those who may already be on holidays & finishing off by joining with us. Also pray that we may have a time of listening to each other and making wise decisions. With loving prayers,

Gail Orchard, National Chair, Australia

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## GFS LIBERIA

I bring you greetings from the Girls' Friendly Society of Liberia.

During the period under review, the St. Thomas CJR – GFS, St. Stephen, 10<sup>th</sup> Street – GFS, and St. Augustine Garnesville-GFS carried on the following programs:

**St. Thomas CJR – GFS:** Has two new instructors for sewing lessons. The girls now have a basic idea about the parts of the sewing machine. They have completed peddling, cutting and measurement taking. Their focus is now on sewing. Baking classes have commenced but on a slower pace. Praise dance practices are ongoing. Their girls are eager to learn. Currently, most of their time and resources are invested in preparation for their annual program slated for July 24th.



**Bromley Episcopal Mission GFS**

**St. Stephen, 10<sup>th</sup> Street - GFS:** Is active and they are having regular 3 hours classes on Saturdays. They carried on decoration of their Parish for Principal services. They had a one day workshop that dealt with the following topics: (1) "Reaching Your Goals In spite of the Challenges". They learned that inspiration has to do with things that will make one

want to do something. It could be an idea of what to do, that which pushes one or forces one to do something. It has everything to do with positive things. They learned that achieving their goals means



learning what others have done. It means remaining focused, determined, having spiritual values by praying and having trust in God for wisdom to avoid bad company. They identified their challenges as suffering, setback, complex, fear, low self-esteem and the like. In all, they grasped the concept that motivation cannot be seen physically because it is abstract. Hence, they are to see each other scholastic/academic achievements, politeness, dutifulness at home, among others to serve as a motivation for achieving their goals.

This was presented by Sister Isatu Ville of the St. Thomas Lay Readers' Guild and a former Vice President of the Diocesan Episcopal Youth Council of Liberia and a National student leader.

(2) "Elocution". The lesson on elocution was very rewarding and educative that the girls could not stop asking questions. Plans are on the way to organize same on the Diocesan level. This was presented by Sister Elaine Dunn/GFS sponsor.

(3) "Modelling as a Career". This was presented by a former GFSers, Sis. Marie Goe of SSEC. The intent is to help the girls chose their own career. They invited all the female acolytes and 10 females from the youth Department of their Church. They were about 50 in total. Thanks to the bigger girls of the SSEC GFS for sponsoring the workshop. Praise dance practices are ongoing and being taught by one of the senior girls.

**St. Augustine Garnesville-GFS:** The girls join in the clean-up exercise on Saturdays and every major/feast day program. They also carry on decoration of their Church during major occasions. They are collecting funds and items to take to their sick and shut- in as they visit with them next month.

Thanks to Val, our World president for her able leadership and constant communication.



**St. Peter Episcopal Church GFS**

#### CHALLENGES

The organization is faced with leadership

issue/mentorship from the branch level to the Diocesan level. The girls are willing to attend classes and meetings to learn how to grow in this difficult world but there are fewer mentors. I have started to make a passionate call on more of our women to volunteer their time, talent, and resources to work more closely with the girls so as to prepare them for the challenges ahead of them. The challenges of drug addiction, standing in a bowing society, job seeking, peer pressure, identity crisis, gender and the like.

Georgiana T. Williams  
**COORDINATOR**



## GFS HONDURAS

Blessings of Our Lord Jesus Christ in your life and ministry,

We have organized 4 branches of girls in 4 of our congregations, they are enthusiastic and are doing their vests. Our 4 branches are:

1) Cristo Redentor Episcopal Church  
Colonia America, Comayagüela.

Francisco Morazan, Honduras.

Rector or Vicar Rev Connie Sanchez

Leader: Connie Sanchez Rev

Girls 7 to 11 years are 3 girls

Girls aged 13 to 17 are three girls

2) San Juan Bautista Episcopal Church

Colonia Villanueva, Tegucigalpa.

Francisco Morazan Honduras.

Rector or Vicar Rev Maria Consuelo

Cartagena

Esmeralda Lider Mejia.

Aged 7 to 11 are 10 girls

Girls aged 13 to 17 are 10 girls

3) San Pedro cerca del Rio Episcopal Church

Aldea El Guanabano, Km 9 carretera to Olancho

Francisco Morazan. Honduras.

Rector in Charge of the Church Rev

Deacon Luis Brenes

Leader: Ruth Pereira

Girls 7 to 11 years are 4

Girls aged 13 to 17 are 3

4) San Miguel Arcangel Episcopal Church

Rector or Vicar Reverend Dagoberto Chacon

Lurvin leader Patricia Yanez

Girls 10 to 14 years are 4

Girls aged 13 to 17 are 7

Our children and youth are very excited about this new experience learning more about the word of God and loving to Him and our neighbour.

Consuelo (Connie) Sanchez

*We are thrilled that Connie is able to attend the USA National Assembly in July*



## GFS JAPAN

From 29th May to 31st May, Ayumi, our new president of Japan GFS went to see the place where the big Tsunami attacked 5 years ago. This was her first visit and she was able to see how the world project is going. The core members of Japan GFS who are in Osaka attended also. Because Osaka GFS is far from Tohoku area, they could not come there. But as the central office of Japan GFS is in Osaka now, they are sincerely going to support the people who are still suffering from the accident.

It was our honour to have Bishop Kay Goldsworthy from Australia visiting Japan GFS. We got together and had a great time. with Bishop Ohata ,his wife, Rev.John Kanzaki, and sisters of Tokyo GFS.



## GFS ENGLAND AND WALES

GFS Membership Conference was held at Whalley Abbey on the weekend of 20th-22nd May. GFS members and members of Townsend Fellowship use this weekend to come together, catch up and learn about what is going with GFS in each other's areas.

We heard from Harmony, a brilliant four-piece group, learn about how we should use social media in GFS, shared craft ideas and learnt the results of this year's competition. We can't wait to return to Whalley Abbey in 2017!!

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## GFS GHANA

**Christine Adjei, the Coordinator of GFS in Ghana has recently visited Korea to made a presentation on behalf of her University at a Korean Academic Conference. Christine was able to meet some of the GFS members of St Christopher's parish and the Cathedral.**

Here are some photos of Christine and some of her Ghanaian Academic colleagues meeting with GFS.





## *Prayer thoughts for June 2016*

### **Week beginning 6<sup>th</sup> June**

Give thanks for the travel to South Africa

We give thanks for the recent trip to Southern Africa by our World President, Val. We give thanks for the incredible meetings with many different members and dignitaries. We thank you for the visit to Mozambique and to meet with recently admitted members. We thank you for the inspiration that Val was able to be in these newly established groups. We thank you for the excitement of the Youth gathering

### **Week beginning 13<sup>th</sup> June**

We pray for Val's next gathering as she meets in Australia at the Australian Midterm Conference in Adelaide, Australia. We pray for a productive time together planning and considering the theme "Working and Growing together in Ministry and Life". WE pray for safe travel and an opportunity to connect again with GFS friends from around the country.

We pray for all gatherings of GFS friends as they work and share together. We pray for those who work behind the scenes to make these events happen. We pray for a working of the Holy Spirit to move and unite people, to give them a renewed vision of the opportunities before them and the strength to carry out these dreams.

### **Week beginning 20<sup>th</sup> June**

WE give thanks for all the new groups meeting. We pray for new leaders and their excitement to go on and lead girls and women to know and love their Lord Jesus. We pray for those who seek to mentor to these groups, to inspire and guide them. We thank you for this growth that only comes from trust in our Lord to provide.

### **Week beginning 27<sup>th</sup> June**

We pray for the National Assembly of GFS in USA beginning on 1<sup>st</sup> July – 7<sup>th</sup> July. We pray for their efforts to bring members from Honduras to join with them. We pray for Val who is also going to meet with them. We pray for a sense of purpose and willingness to serve each other during this time and in their time ahead.



# *Prayer thoughts for July 2016*

## **Week beginning 4<sup>th</sup> July**

We give thanks for all those branches celebrating their work for the year. We remember the branches of All Ireland as they give awards for their craft making. WE thank you for the year that has been and for all that is in the future. We pray for GFS in England and Wales and give thanks for their GFS Membership Conference held at Whalley Abbey on the weekend of 20th-22nd May. We thank you for the friendships in Jesus Christ that flow from our membership of GFS.

## **Week beginning 11<sup>th</sup> July**

We give thanks for the USA as they remember the work of their executive members in bringing about a time to gather at their National Assembly. We give thanks for their vision to find a way to fund the Honduran delegate. We join them in celebrating their friendships and all that was achieved at their national gathering.

## **Week beginning 18<sup>th</sup> July**

We give thanks for the members of GFS in Sri Lanka, Philippines, Japan and Korea. We give thanks for the women of faith who have answered the call on their lives to serve each other through GFS. We give thanks for the GFS Hall that allows for such a fine meeting place in Colombo. We pray for the Café Grace that allows women to return to a dignified valuable life. We pray for the work of GFS in meeting with girls in the Philippines. We pray for the work of GFS in Japan to help heal broken lives from the tsunami. Thank you Lord that you heal each of us in our brokenness.

## **Week beginning 25<sup>th</sup> July**

IN the Pacific region we pray especially for GFS in the Solomon Islands, in PNG, in NZ and Australia. We pray for the diversity of needs, of resource-rich but people-poor nations, and of those in need of resources but with many who are eager to hear of GFS. We bring before you our relationships with each of these countries, especially where we can lend a hand between nations to help spread the good news of our Lord Jesus through GFS.





# *Prayer thoughts for August 2016*

## **Week beginning 1<sup>st</sup> August**

This week we pray for the World project. Lord we ask you to be with those who are still living with the real and terrifying after effects of the water surging savagely onto the land so long ago. We pray for healing and wholeness as they rebuild lives. We give thanks for the workers who give of their time and energy to help out. We urge our GFS friends to continue to support the work of the GFS in Japan through the World Project.

## **Week beginning 8<sup>th</sup> August**

As we consider the travel costs to go to special events we think about the World travel fund. We pray for money to come into this fund to assist the many who will need assistance. We pray for a generosity of spirit to donate to this fund and see the special rewards for those who can be part of the World council. We pray for safety in travel for everyone to GFS events especially those travelling long distances, over winter icy roads, or for difficult terrains over which to travel. We pray for Val as she travels in her role as World President.

## **Week beginning 15<sup>th</sup> August**

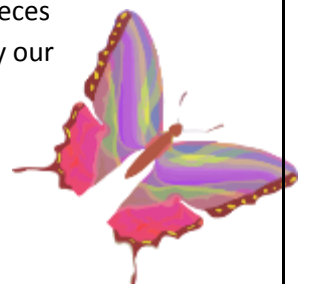
In less than a year we will gather together at World Council. We pray for those beginning to consider being a part of World Council in 2017. We pray for the organisation necessary beforehand and those charged with that task. We pray for the selection of delegates to be able to represent their country and for discussion points to come forward.

## **Week beginning 22<sup>nd</sup> August**

Each year we spend a day to devote to prayer for everyone around the world. We give thanks that we can bring our concerns, our praise and our thanks in prayer through our Lord Jesus. We think of the words from the Lord's Prayer that give praise for all that we have and that we need in our daily bread. We pray to ask for forgiveness for the wrongs we have committed particularly against our family and friends in GFS. We celebrate with the words that remind us that "the Kingdom, the power and the glory are yours Lord God".

## **Week beginning 29<sup>th</sup> August**

Lord we pray now for the provision we have for emergencies through our Emergency Fund. We give thanks for all the weather conditions that give us our landscape and unique climates. But we know that sometimes the weather can overcome our resources to cope and we need to pick up the pieces following all kinds of extreme events. We thank you that we can support in some small way our near neighbours through our Emergency Fund. We thank you for the funds that have been added into it and pray for more to be welcomed in.



**CUT OFF DATE FOR NEXT  
NEWSLETTER 15<sup>TH</sup> AUG 2016**

## **World Contacts**

### ***World President:***

**Canon Val Gribble ML**  
32 Angela Road, Rockyview, Queensland  
Australia, 4701  
Mobile: +61 419792671 –  
Email: [valgribble1@bigpond.com](mailto:valgribble1@bigpond.com)

### ***World Vice-President:***

**The Revd Glenys Payne**  
Email: [geepayne@btinternet.com](mailto:geepayne@btinternet.com)

### ***Deputy World President:***

**Kate Brewer:**  
Email: [puzzlerkate@yahoo.com.au](mailto:puzzlerkate@yahoo.com.au)

### ***World Chaplain:***

**Father Isaiah Masida**  
PO Box 133, Popondetta, Papua New Guinea  
Mobile: +675 72122319  
Please note this is a different address and  
mobile  
number to the information  
handed out at World Council.  
Email: [frmasidagfs@gmail.com](mailto:frmasidagfs@gmail.com)

### ***Assistant World Chaplain***

**The Revd Cheryl Selvage**  
Email: [olytrans@hotmail.com](mailto:olytrans@hotmail.com)

### ***World Secretary and Webmaster***

**Tania Brown**  
Email: [taniabrown.gfs@gmail.com](mailto:taniabrown.gfs@gmail.com)

### ***World Treasurer***

**Roslyn Lumsden**  
Email: [kevinroslyn58@optus.net.au](mailto:kevinroslyn58@optus.net.au)

### ***World Youth Officer***

**Tegan Hudson**  
Email: [teghahuds@gmail.com](mailto:teghahuds@gmail.com)

### ***World Project Officer***

**Julie Smith**  
Email: [juliesmith@iprimus.com.au](mailto:juliesmith@iprimus.com.au)

### ***World Project Officer***

**Christine Rooney**  
Email: [loosrooney5@optusnet.com.au](mailto:loosrooney5@optusnet.com.au)

## **GFS World theme Prayer 2014-2017**

**Gracious Lord, guide our  
footsteps of faith that we might  
walk in your grace and wisdom as  
we act to serve you. Rekindle  
afresh in us our spiritual gifts that  
we might transform ourselves and  
others, serving the whole body of  
Christ through GFS. Make us  
worthy of our calling to service,  
through Jesus Christ  
our Lord.  
AMEN**

## **Donations, Gifts or payment of fees, etc., can be made by telegraphic transfer to:**

**Account Name: GFS World Account**  
**ANZ Bank,**  
**Shop 67**  
**Whitfords City**  
**Cnr Marmion & Whitford Aves**  
**Hillarys WA 6025**  
**BSB 016 494**  
**Account Number 392526836**

**Swift Number: ANZBAU3M**

**Email Roslyn with the details:**

**<kevinroslyn58@optusnet.com.au>**