

GFS WORLD NEWSLETTER

Edition 3
3/15



**The World Team
plus Treasurer Ros Lumsden**

Find us on
www.gfsworld.org

From the President

Greetings to GFS members and friends around the world. I have recently returned from the USA where I was part of a ministry group from my own diocese attending an International Symposium on Collaborative Ministry. GFS operates in the six countries that were represented but so many did not know about GFS or were surprised that "they are still operating". It reminds me that we need to promote the work we do and be willing to talk to other dioceses in our countries to encourage the growth of GFS.

We now have a promotional brochure for worldwide GFS. Fine out more about it in this newsletter. And everyone has the opportunity to submit an entry for a new world logo. Again you will find information in this newsletter.

The Web page is being updated regularly and we now have a Facebook page "GFS Worldwide" which is being well accessed. All further efforts to promote the great work we do in Our Lord's name – "Serving Through GFS"

Do read about "**Our Rainbow House**" in Zambia, an exciting way to link with organisations outside GFS.

I began this letter on the last Sunday after Epiphany. It is now a week after Ash Wednesday and since then our area in Central Queensland has been hit by a powerful Cyclone (Typhoon). From expecting a large rain depression, within 24 hours it had become this powerful storm and there has been great damage in our area. I thank you for the many messages and prayers that have been sent. Our family has suffered no damage and we are quite safe. Much of the community is still without power and it may be another week before our rural area is connected. But we have a generator to keep our refrigerators going and for limited light. With temperatures around 35 degrees (nearly °F100) it has not been pleasant. But so many people have suffered so much. It has been a time for extra reflection in this season of Lent. Firstly so many people have helped each other and there have been so many acts of kindness. But there have also been many disturbing events, people stealing generators that have been set up by our councils to run the lights at the major intersections, people stealing fuel (which for a few days was so sparse), breakins to darkened houses.

I am thankful that I live in a developed country that has good processes in place to help get us back on our feet. I am thankful for all who are helping others and I pray for an end to the selfishness that seems to be so apparent in so many places in our world. May Lent me a time of deep reflection and resolve for each of us as we prepare to give thanks at the glorious resurrection of Our Lord.

Val

Message from our Chaplain

The Revd Cheryl writes from Australia:

Lent/ Easter

I will always remember one of my Easters spent in deep reflection and intense worship whilst attending Theological College in readiness for Ordination. Due to a pre-dawn start on Easter morn, I had a fellow ordinand staying at my house and as I was usually an early riser, I was charged with waking her up in time.

I woke her up alright, I banged on her bedroom door, calling out "Quick, Christ is coming, Christ is coming, and He's alive." Maybe this was my own version of Mary's garden cry, I don't know; but it followed my own awakening whilst having a dream about Christ's coming. What I do know is that neither of us will forget that early morn and the feeling of true exhilaration that came with it, as we went to light the Easter fire.

What it always reminds me of is that we, as Christians are people of a risen Christ. Christ is alive as we are called to be. I note that some churches are now referring to Easter rather as Resurrection Sunday.

In our world today there are so many issues that need our Christian response, one that reflects that Christ died and rose again to announce God's saving realm, to put to death the rule of this world. The Jesus who died and rose again to be crowned King of King and Lord of Lords, over both heaven and earth.

Every day we hear or see how refugees are being treated, we see how our own poor and outcaste suffer because of their difference and our indifference; we watch on as other Christians are persecuted for their faith, and hearts harden to violence, domestic and abroad.



As we take time this Lent to reflect on all that happened to Christ and his followers in the time before that first Resurrection, may we also reflect on how we are alive in Christ in this world. When others meet you in your GFS ministry, your Christian ministry, do they encounter an alive person; one who has allowed Christ to walk with them in their journey of Pain and Joy? Sketch from that Eastertide during formation.

(Because of communication problems Fr Isaiah has not been able to send his message)

GFS Philippines Junior Delegate



Name: **Sarah May Y. Tanhuanco**

Age: 28



1. What do you do with yourself?

I am currently a preschool educator and a graduate student taking up Masters of Arts in Early Childhood Education Major in Special Education. I am also active in church as a Caregroup leader to high school and college students, a photographer during church events, and have been a Sunday School teacher, pianist and a choir member.

2. How did you first become involved with GFS?

I started out at a very young age of 3. My grandmother was a GFS adviser and my mom, a GFS leader and counselor back then. I would tag along and observe the different activities they were doing in GFS. GFS was opened to Grade 4 students in my school and that's when I officially became a GFS member. I didn't leave GFS ever since. 😊

3. What is your current involvement with GFS?

I am currently representing GFS Philippines as a Junior delegate and for school year 2015-2016, I will be the program coordinator handling different programs and activities for GFS – St. Stephen's High School.

4. How did World Council in Wales impact you?

Being a first time attendee in the World Council, I was amazed on how God has brought together GFS members from all over the world to worship Him and do great things for His glory. I've been inspired by the World leaders' heart to pursue and continue to show God's love to the girls and spread the Word of God through different activities such as Bible study, singspiration, mission work etc. It is very important to reach out and support girls in all aspects of their lives ~ physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually. After World Council, I am assured that whatever happens, GFS from all over the world would continue to support each other through prayers as it is said from our GFS motto taken from **Galatians 6:2** : *"Bear ye one another's burden, and so fulfill the law of Christ."*

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

GFS members are women of God. According to **Matthew 5:16** *"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."* This is the kind of influence we must show to the people around us. We are to be a light to the world full of darkness. We are to live only in a way that gives honor and glory to our God.

We are called for a purpose ~which is to share God's love to other people, so dear GFS members, let's continue to run this race set before us and finish it!

2 Timothy 4:7 *"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith."*



CAN YOU DESIGN A NEW WORLD LOGO?

This was the World logo of many years ago. From the World Minutes this logo (in black and white) was approved at a meeting of World leaders in 1956. The last time it was used was in 2005 at the USA World Council when the colour was added. Many members have asked for a World Banner and/or a logo that represents GFS as a modern, professional organization. So we are conducting a competition for a new design.

The contest

Competition participants will submit logo designs to represent GFS worldwide. The winning design will become the official logo for GFW World activities and events. The logo should capture the key message: **We are a worldwide Christian organisation.**

How to Enter the Contest

The contest begins on **1 April 2015**. Submissions will be accepted up to **5pm, Tuesday 30 June 2015**. Winners will be announced via **World Leaders by email** and by direct contact with the winners.

In order to be eligible, all entries must be:

1. Sent to The GFS World President at valgrivble1@bigpond.com with all details on submission, name and contact.
2. Include a short paragraph, explaining the concept of the design.
3. Submit the artwork as both a scalable vector file in eps format (such as Adobe Illustrator), and as a 300dpi jpeg format
4. Include both a colour and a black & white version of the design.

Who is eligible

This contest is open to anyone on an individual basis. Contestants can submit multiple entries.

Logo Requirements

- **Professional:** This logo may be featured on our website, social media platforms and other mediums (stationary, banners, t-shirts etc). As a result, the logo needs to be eye-catching and simple, as well as legible.
- **Theme:** Logo must promote the key message, "*A Worldwide Christian organisation*". Logo must contain the text 'GFS and Worldwide'. The design should be international in theme, and not country specific.

- **Color:** There are no limitations although 2-3 colours are recommended. The logo must present well in both color and black & white.
- **Integrity:** Logos cannot contain copyrighted material. Logos must be original and be the unique creation of the contestant(s). Logos may not include images or licensed images that have been previously published. The design must be easily reproducible and scalable for large and small formats. Entries must not contain signatures or any personal signals.

Contest Details

Winners will be selected by voting through World leaders with one vote from each GFS World Country. . Contestants agree that the GFS World Council may publish their logo and name(s) and may use both for advertising campaigns and/or marketing materials in the future.

The winning artwork becomes the property of GFS World from the date it is received. The contestant waives any copyright in their design. GFS World may use the design at its discretion, and reserves the right to determine which entries it displays.

Any contestants submitting a logo proposal for the competition certifies that they are the designer. They also certify that the logo does not infringe the rights of any third party and is not in violation of any copyright.

Contestants assign all ownership rights, including all intellectual property rights to the logo, to the GFS World Council. Additionally, the GFS World Council may alter, modify or revise the logo as it sees necessary to achieve the goals of the organisation.

GFS World reserves the right to not select a winner if, in its sole discretion, no suitable entries are received.

By participating in the competition, contestants accept all competition rules and agree to be bound by them.

So over to you all and we hope to receive many submissions. Please share this information as much as you can and encourage submissions.

A RESOURCE BOOK FOR LEADERSHIP

Recently I read a book that is receiving lots of attention and excellent reviews in Australia and around the world. You will not read anything about Christian leadership but you will find some great material which you can easily adapt to your leadership in a Christian organisation. It is mainly written for young executives who are looking to improve their skills. As a Human Resource professional for many years I found this book very encouraging and informative, written in a very simple and direct style. I certainly could relate much of the information to my Christian leadership. It will be a very useful book for our younger members who are setting out on their professional lives. If you are a Kindle owner it is available on Kindle. (From Val Gribble)

“The Naked CEO, the truth you need to build a big life” written by Alex Malley, published by John Wiley and Sons, Australia, Ltd., 42 McDougall St., Milton Qld, 4064, Australia.



Brochures: Inside

<p>About us</p> <p>GFS or The Girls' Friendly Society (its original name) began in England in 1875, when Mrs Mary Townsend (with support from the Archbishop of Canterbury) saw a need to provide a safe and friendly environment for young girls moving to the cities during the Industrial Revolution and later as migrants around the world. GFS began as groups of young women and girls meeting in parish halls.</p> <p>The organisation spread rapidly in England and then to many countries around the world.</p> <p>Today GFS is active in Australia, Cameroon, Canada, England, Ghana, Ireland, Japan, Kenya, Korea, Liberia, New Zealand, Philippines, Papua New Guinea, Sierra Leone, The Solomon Islands, South Africa, Sri Lanka, USA, Wales and Zambia.</p> <p>Uganda is currently about to commence a trial branch in one diocese.</p> <p>To contact GFS in any of these countries please email the World President.</p> 	<p>Our purpose is to bring others to Christ through our activities and as a serving organisation through our motto - Bear one another's burdens and so fulfil the law of Christ (Galatians 6:2)</p> <p>+++</p> <p>GFS at work</p> <p>Accepting the purpose of GFS, countries are allowed to adapt programs to meet their spiritual and cultural needs. The work of GFS is very varied and may include:</p>  <p>Provides children's programs addressing spiritual, physical, mental and social needs.</p> <p>Provides women with leadership training for church and community.</p> <p>Provides bursaries and mentors for migrant and refugee young women.</p> <p>Provides hostels for students and young working women.</p>	<p>Prepares young women for marriage.</p> <p>Encourages and supports cottage industries.</p> <p>Works with women defecting from risk countries.</p> <p>Works in school based branches within the curriculum and as a means of evangelism.</p> <p>Work with men and boys in African countries - Mens Friendly Society and Boys Friendly Society</p> <p>Provides HIV/AIDS education.</p> <p>Prepares Sunday School programs and trains Sunday School teachers in developing countries.</p> <p>Works with disadvantaged young women.</p> <p>Provides an international gathering every three years with opportunities for learning and fellowship.</p> 
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This is our new World brochure which we continue to work on to keep it up to date. If you are a Vistaprint customer in your country it is possible for me to give you details on how to order brochures. Or we can provide you with a quote to print and post from Australia



Prayer thoughts for March 2015

Week beginning 2nd March

- We pray for each person in GFS in their local setting, for their branches, for lone members, for the friends we meet with regularly as we continue our GFS journey. We pray for their needs, their worries and concerns, that their burdens may be ours too as we share in prayer and other practical ways to assist each other.
- We pray for those closest to us – our family or friends. We ask for God to hold them especially close and hear their heart's desires. We pray especially for our closest friends who do not yet know of God and his saving love for us.

Week beginning 9th March

- We pray for our own GFS country. We pray for those charged with the leadership roles to guide the GFS members. We pray for continued blessings as people reach out to serve one another in so many different ways.
- We pray for those who are part of the team to assist the leaders, - secretaries, treasurers and all other roles to fulfil the many needs of organising efficiently and sufficiently to carry out the ministry of GFS.

Week beginning 16th March

- We give our special prayers to Delores from USA who is one of 20 representing the Episcopal Church at the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women's conference in New York City. We pray she can speak with confidence, wisdom and discernment about the status of women, their needs and to offer hope through GFS.
- We pray for the world team leading GFS. We pray for wisdom as decisions are made, for new directions as GFS is promoted. We pray for Val as she heads up the team and for safe travels.

Week beginning 23rd March

- We give thanks for changes happening. As the seasons change from the heat of summer to the cooler times of autumn in the south or from the cold of winter leading to the promise of spring, we give thanks for the changes in our own lives. We thank you for the faithfulness of our God as the years unfold and this rhythm continues. Help us to embrace change with hope and gratitude.

Week beginning 30th March



- This week leads us from the hope and celebration of Palm Sunday to the solemn contemplation of Good Friday. Help us to walk this journey and to rekindle that in our faith which unites us all – God died and rose again for us.

Prayer thoughts for April, 2015

Week beginning 6th April

- We begin the week leaping for joy as we celebrate the Risen Lord! Alleluia!

Week beginning 13th April

- We pray for women and girls over the next three weeks as we consider Delores' report to the UN. We pray for the struggles of women, give thanks for progress and ask to be part of instituting positive changes to help girls and women.
- We pray for girls who have been denied opportunities in education. We praise God for Malala's Nobel Peace Prize for 2015 as she campaigns for equality of opportunity. We pray against bias and stereotyping that limits girls to fulfil their destinies.



Week beginning 20th April

- We pray for women who experience domestic violence. We pray for an end to men who consider this is ok and for programs that help them to see their role as husbands in light of Christ's message. We pray for those who help to care for women and their families who seek to find refuge and escape the trauma.
- We pray for women fleeing from one country and seeking refuge in another – for those in detention centres, for all immigrants who feel isolated, who are disadvantaged by economic circumstances and for those who lend a helping hand towards them. We pray for the work of Café Grace in South Korea.

Week beginning 27th April

- We pray for our many healthy but also some who are frail members in their older years. We pray for dignity and respect and that they will not be victims of persecution or abuse based on their age. We pray for those who care for them to give respect and loving care. We pray that we might seek their wisdom from years of experience and honour them.

Prayer points for May 2015

Week beginning 4th May

We pray for the Pacific region link countries (Australia, New Zealand, Solomon Islands, PNG)

- We pray for the new team of leadership in Australia – for Gail as she takes over as Australian Chairman, for Reverend Cheryl as Vice Chairman, for Nicole as secretary, for Noeleen as Treasurer, for Reverend Sonia as Chaplain and for Val, Marj, and Helen as members of the new executive. We pray for God's blessings on their work for the next three years and as they seek to unite everyone to be "Many parts, one body" (Gail's theme)

- In the Solomon Islands we pray for the admission of girls into GFS in March and for the growth of young GFS members in their branches in the Diocese of Central Melanesia.
- In PNG we pray for all GFS branch leaders and the diocesan leaders. We pray for GFS ministry awareness in other dioceses of PNG. We give thanks for Wilma being able to attend the GFS National council meeting in January.
- We pray for NZ GFS as they start a new university year with the girls who are mentored by GFS people. We give thanks that Helen is now back in NZ.

Week beginning 11th May

We pray for the African countries of South Africa, Liberia, Lesotho, Kenya, Tanzania, Sierra Leone and Uganda, Zambia

- We give thanks for the safe return of Alberta to her home following her time stuck in London. We continue to pray for those who are suffering from Ebola and those caring for them.
- We pray for Beatrice and her meeting at the Rainbow School catering for orphans.
- We pray for Thembeke as she spurs others on to be thinking of World Council and their support of the next world President. We pray for continued enthusiasm and encouragement.
- We give thanks for the growth of GFS and for those it is reaching out to in many different parishes.

Week beginning 18th May

We pray for the Asian countries of Japan, Sri Lanka, South Korea and Philippines this week.

- In the Philippines we pray that more Episcopalian women leaders will be willing to have GFS in the provinces. We pray for more who will be willing to undergo training. We pray also that God will give wisdom and strength as they prepare meaningful programs and activities for GFS. We pray that Christ's love and the Gospel will be shared with more girls and women in the Philippines through GFS.
- We continue to pray for the work of the Japanese GFS as they assist the women and children of the Tsunami through the world Project. We pray for all GFS members as they hear about this project and begin to support it with many donations.
- We pray for Sri Lankan GFS and their continued use of the Hall to assist their community.

Week beginning 25th May

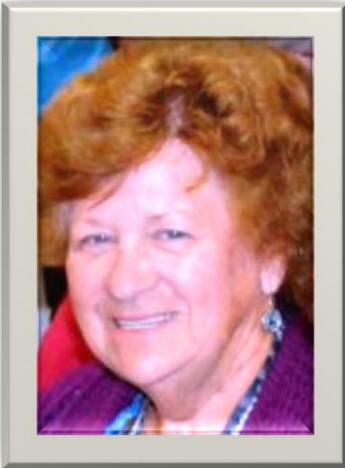
This week our focus moves to the United Kingdom and their link country of Ghana. We also remember our sisters in the USA.

- In Wales we are praying for – their new Development worker Rachel Matthews who is in the process of looking at the possibility of restarting a GFS Branch in South Wales.
- We pray also for their meeting after Easter to reflect on World Council in Wales especially hoping to have the young members come (including the Welsh, English and Irish Junior delegates Sarah, Tasha and Michelle will be joining us too.).
- We pray for the vacancies on the Board of Trustees for England and Wales to be filled with the right person willing to give of their time and talents to help move GFS forward. We pray for those already serving as Trustees that they too will be encouraged and inspired in their tasks.
- We give thanks for Delores representing women at the UN conference in March. We pray for positive moves forward to assist girls in their needs. We pray for the work of GFS to continue to answer its call in today's world to "meet girls and women where they are" in Christ's love.

Farewell – Heather Pearson



It is with much sadness that we receive and share the news of the death of Heather Pearson, a very dedicated member of GFS Australia, a person of great faith and great determination, full of fun and laughter. Heather and Joe have been to so many World Councils and are known to many throughout our GFS world membership. Heather was determined she would attend last year's World Council in Wales and we were so happy to welcome her to the last three days of Council. We, in Australia, mourn the loss of a wonderful friend and send our prayers and love to Joe and to the Pearson family. May Heather's soul rest in peace.



Your Prayers please

So many of you would know Jan MacNamara from Australia (Perth) as she has been to many world councils. Jan has had a very serious operation relating to cancer in the last few weeks. She is recovering but it may be some time and she would appreciate your prayers. Jan's email address is macj@dodo.com.au if you would like to contact her.

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: ANBAU3M
Email Roslyn with the details:
<kevinroslyn58@optusnet.com.au>

PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF NAME FOR THE ACCOUNT AND NEW ACCOUNT NUMBER PLUS SWIFT ACCOUNT NUMBER

CUTOFF DATE FOR JUNE NEWSLETTER IS

15 MAY 2015

I am full of grumbles regarding the newsletter! We love your news but some of the articles are much more than 400 words and I must ask you to restrict your future articles to this size or I will have to edit them. PLEASE DO NOT SEND IN pdf form, send in WORD please. Also two photos is the maximum and no collages please. They take up so much size for sending and for reproducing by photocopy in countries that cannot send by email. I have allowed everything in this edition but it is the last edition we will be so kind!!!!!!

What is happening around our GFS World?

Australia



In January this year 70 GFS Members from throughout Australia gathered together in Hobart for the Tri Annual Australian Council. Hobart is the capital of Julie Smith's home state and the weather was perfect for a wonderful week of business sessions and social activities.

Our conference was held at the University of Tasmania and had representatives from most Dioceses where GFS is represented. This was an occasion when we could all share our stories, plan

for future growth and renew friendships which have been long standing. For many of us we only see one another at these gatherings and it is an important time to celebrate our unity. We were especially blessed this year with several people who joined us for the first time.

During the conference we heard from other organisations working with children (Girls Brigade; Girl Guides Trefoil Guild; Bravehearts; and the Hartz Project) which gave us an opportunity to celebrate the similar paths that they are taking , along with the uniqueness of each organisation. It was especially important to realise that we can learn from each other and work together as well.

During the conference we had an opportunity to celebrate the lives of those who had passed away since the last conference and to celebrate their contribution to GFS over the years. 36 names were read out at this service in a beautiful historic church at Richmond, in a moving service and lead to names being placed on a quilt that had been made by designed by Melbourne GFS. Each Diocese was asked to contribute names & for all who were present it was a blessing. I think it is something that will more than likely be carried on in some format for future gatherings.

At the end of Council in St David's Cathedral the new Executive for GFS Australia was commissioned and we pray that God will guide us through the coming term to grow GFS in Australia.

Gail Orchard



Ireland

Branches are busy completing Bible Study Projects and Handcrafts. If time allows Achievement Award Programmes and entertainment cannot be forgotten either. The theme for the Bible Study is "Come close to God and He will come close to you"- James 4: verse 8. The Handcraft syllabus for the different sections is varied with a little sewing having been introduced following its absence for some years.

Work in the office is never-ending. The results of the Central Triennial elections will be announced at Central Council on 22nd inst. We look forward to meeting with all new officers and committee members and wish them well when they take up their positions.



A piece of good news is that Belturbet Branch in Kilmore Diocese has re-opened after many years of closure. Twelve girls and four leaders have enrolled. Thank you to our Central Chaplain Rev'd Tanya Woods, who is also Chaplain to Belturbet branch for making this re-opening come to pass. We wish everyone involved every blessing and hope that this branch will go from strength to strength.

As we are now in the Season of Lent we here in Ireland pray that the Holy Spirit will help us understand the lead up to and the magnitude of the cruel happenings at Calvary so long ago. Easter Greetings to our GFS Sisters everywhere.

Sylvia Quinn.

Sri Lanka

Highlight of the past year – 110th anniversary celebrations of our GFS Thanksgiving Service, Bible Distribution programme and Cultural Evening. We were honoured to have Revd Glenys Payne, GFS World Vice President and Revd David Payne visit our GFS and grace all three events.

The Paynes were given a traditional Sri Lankan welcome when they arrived at the GFS Hall for the thanksgiving service on Nov 15. Three Anglican priests, including the Archdeacon of Colombo, took part in the service.

The following morning, Glenys and David participated in the service at St Michael's Church ,



Colombo as Preacher and Celebrant respectively. Immediately after, we travelled south to a church in Elpitiya, in the Archdeaconry of Galle - the second in our Bible Distribution Programme begun early last year in the Archdeaconry of Nuwara Eliya. At that time, we visited Christ Church, Dickoya. As in Dickoya, Bibles were presented to the Sunday School in Elpitiya and a stock was left for distribution among other churches in the archdeaconry. This time, we had the Paynes with us and they taught the children action songs. Lunch was provided by our GFS and we enjoyed a simple meal together.

On Nov 22, the Paynes met the Bishop of Colombo and had a fruitful discussion. That evening, they attended our cultural programme and sang for us too. We had "hoppers" for dinner and ended with the popular "baila" dance!

Thank you to Val and GFS country leaders for sending greetings - excerpts were read out at the thanksgiving service. Thank you to the Paynes for making our celebrations memorable. After the British GFS ladies left our island in the mid-1950s, this is the first time that GFS world officials have visited us! We hope they enjoyed their stay in "The Pearl of the Indian Ocean".



I posted photographs of these events regularly in *Facebook* so that GFSers worldwide could

share our joy. I also wrote an article about the GFS in general, highlighting our anniversary and the visit of the Paynes, for *The Ceylon Churchman*, the magazine of the Anglican Church of Sri Lanka. News items appeared elsewhere too, including *Direction*, the magazine of Every Home Crusade.

Before our anniversary, World Day of Prayer was observed and members pinned markers on GFS countries on a map of the world. At the end of November, a modest fund raising table sale was held for our Hostel Fund. At Christmastime, instead of our usual party, members visited a Girls' Home a little away from Colombo and had a fun afternoon with the girls.

"Santa Claus" gave each one a gift. The Executive Council met in January and prepared the programme calendar for 2015. In March we plan to have our second seminar on women and the Bible and a table sale as well.

GFS friends around the world - as we journey together, may we hear God's voice, know His touch in our lives and feel His love each day!

Jeanne Withanage



Korea

First of all, we are very pleased to inform all GFS members in the world that the new Executive for GFS Korea was elected and commissioned in the part of our National Assembly in St Mary & Nicholas Seoul Anglican Cathedral in



October 2014. Agata Kim was elected as the new Chairman for next 4 years and she will also be in charge of the head of U-mul-ga Project. We appreciated all the dedication of the former Chairman, Martha Cha for the last 4 years.

The Training Conference for the board members of GFS Korea was held in the Plantation in Kyounggi-do on December 13, 2014. 24 members from 7 branches gathered together. In this conference, plans for 2015, including our 50th anniversary celebration, were discussed and confirmed. In the second part of the conference, our chaplain, the Rev. Stephen Sikyung You preached about "Meeting, Empathy and Love". In addition, we had the Inauguration ceremony of the new Chief Executive of U-mul-ga and farewelled the former Chief Executive, Helena Noh.

We held an annual Fundraising Event at the Café Grace, which located in the yard of Ss Mary & Nicholas Seoul Anglican Cathedral, on Christmas Eve. As always, the Most Rev. Paul Kim, Primate of the Anglican Church of Korea and Bishop of Seoul, made coffee for 3 hours. It is the fourth time and the money (KRW772,000) gathered on the day of the event was used for helping West Africans, who are suffering from the Ebola outbreak.



On the 12th of January, 2015, members from 8 branches met to worship in Francis Hall, Ss Mary & Nicholas Seoul Anglican Cathedral. It was our first event of this year. The Most Rev. Paul Kim, Primate of the Anglican Church of Korea and Bishop of Seoul, preached during the worship and Sister Catherine was invited to share the story about how GFS Korea was established in 1965. Also, we watched the photos of that time.

To us, this year – 2015 – means a lot. Now we are organizing events to celebrate our 50th anniversary in September and will inform our detailed plans for this in the near future.

Happy belated New Year and peace be with all the GFS members!



Canada (Newfoundland)

Just one branch in the whole of Canada but what a wonderful history. These are the members of Christ Church, Bonavista parish in Newfoundland, Canada and who recently celebrated 120 years of GFS ministry in that parish. Newfoundland was one of the original members of the First World Council in 1955 (England and Wales, Ireland, Scotland, USA, British Guiana, Australia and Newfoundland). At the 2014 celebrations



the Bishop of Central Newfoundland, The Rt Revd David Torraville, presented Frances Sweetland with a 72 year membership certificate, Phyllis Durdle with her 69 year membership certificate and several others with certificates to show over 50 years membership. The Bishop dedicated a white chasuble which the GFS President, Enid Russell gifted to Christ Church Parish on behalf of GFS.

(Photo) Back row (l to r) Sue Abbott, June Pearce, Annie Fleming, Rhonda Randell, Frances Mercer, Ruby Ayles, Joan Squires and Loretta Hayley. Front row Enid Russell, Phyllis Durdle, Margaret Russell and Frances Sweetland

The Philippines



Recently May Tanhaunco who many met at World Council was able to talk with Val by phone on plans for the future. The monies given to The Philippines for the World Council project way back in the early 90's have been carefully kept and invested and as there is now a vision to recommence GFS World Council have given permission for the use of this money.

May and Sarah (her daughter and Junior delegate) to the last council have the only remaining branch of GFS in their country, a long established branch at St Stephen's High School where May teaches. May has a vision to take GFS to public schools where children usually come from more disadvantaged backgrounds. The recommendation is that a trial branch is commenced. It is also realised that growth will come slowly.

There are two past leaders who are interested in assisting and May also has many colleagues in the Manila Chapter of Child Evangelism Fellowship Philippines, Inc.

who may like to be involved. It was agreed that leadership could only be held by Anglican members but that members of other denominations would be welcome to assist.

The Bishop of Manila has been in contact with Val, is very supportive and has now appointed a Chaplain and Assistant Chaplain. The Chaplain is May's husband, The Revd Dr Patrick Tanhaunco with the Assistant Chaplain The Very Revd Dr Gloria Lita Mapangdol. The Chaplains will take a strong interest and give support to the reestablishment of GFS. Val was able to speak with Dr Tanhaunco and welcomed his support.

This is exciting news and your prayers are asked for all who are looking for a new way forward for GFS in The Philippines.

Papua New Guinea



Mary Bagu sends her greetings to you all. In the last few weeks Mary's sister, Lyn who is also a GFS member, and her husband and five children lost all their belongings in a fire in their village which allegedly was deliberately lit. Lyn's eldest son has been very ill and it is either a long trip over poor roads or a trip by dinghy along the coastline to the nearest hospital. Alpheus is now in Popondetta Hospital for a lengthy stay. Lyn is not well and has also been

hospitalised. Mary is very busy supporting the family as well as fulfilling her role as a teacher and apologies there is no article from PNG. Please remember Mary and Lyn in your prayers.



Mary's sisters home before the fire

**Mary's sister Lyn –
A GFS member in
Popondota diocese**



Sierra Leone

Alberta Bindi has emailed from Sierra Leone being able to return home at last from World Council. Alberta says "I am happy to report that God has protected our membership and my family from infection, but activities are still suspended in observance of precautionary measures. Infection rate has reduced drastically, with zero infection reported in many districts in the country. The Western area, including Freetown the capital now reports single figure infection rate daily for the past few weeks. Restriction of movement is a bit relaxed but public gatherings are still forbidden and schools and colleges remain closed. The Western Area was recording the highest infection when I arrived. Except for branch thanksgiving services, our diocesan activities are still on hold. We are also looking forward for the end of the state of emergency to start working actively towards the 50th anniversary celebration of GFS in Sierra Leone in 2016. The crisis has severely affected every sector in the country.



Since writing this we have read in the media that there has been a new outbreak of Ebola in Freetown and there are further restrictions. We continue to pray for Alberta and all GFS members and indeed all of the Ebola affected areas in West Africa.

Alberta has a new email address if you wish to contact her. It is aebindi@gmail.com

Liberia

(From Val: It is great to hear from Liberia, the first news we have had for so long. Please continue to pray for GFS in Liberia as they address their many issues)

Lenten greetings go out to all GFSers around the world. We like to quickly extend congratulations to the Former World President, Glenys Payne and her core of officers for stirring the affairs of GFS for the last 3 years and for hosting a successful World Council. In addition, we like to also congratulate our current President and her core of officers for their preferment. In about 7 months, we have received countless number of communications and information from World Council. You all have started very well. Thank you.

During 2014, the two major things that GFS Liberia did were 1) Visitation to two of our major Hospitals - children living with HIV AIDS and children not living with HIV AIDS but whose parents/guardians live with HIV/AIDS. 2) Visitation to the children ward on April 21, 2014. We took along with us snacks, sweets, toys, juices, clothing, toiletries, rice, vegetable oil, detergent, and few dollars to help with transportation allowance for the kids. 27 GFSers were selected to form part of this wonderful experience. The most important part in this exercise were seeing the girls present the packages with smile on their faces and even to the extent of hugging the mothers and playing with the children and taking photos with them.



thanked us.

Secondly, it was good seeing the smile on the faces of the Mothers, despite their children illness. They had so much hope and faith in God to heal their children. Some of them drilled the straw right away into the sun top for their children to drink. They were seeing admiring the clothes. They were glad that we carried on the distribution ourselves; and

Our hearts were broken when we visited the wall of malnourished children. We wished we had more to offer. On other walls, some of the children had burned wounds. There were two boys who had been abandoned by their mothers. They have been in the hospital care since two, years. Upon hearing the story, we give them extra teddy bears.

Well, as every good thing must come to an end, we had to leave the hospital premises. We then went to the home of one of the sponsors of GFS, mother Georgiana R. Mitchell for lunch. After, lunch, everyone was dispatched home.

Additionally, Trinity Cathedral and St. Stephen Branches now have a Praise Dance Team. This has added another flavor to our worship service. All of our girls made passes to the next classes, some of them graduated from grade schools and moved on to higher education, and some got married.

However, during 2014, GFS Liberia didn't do very well with its activities simply because of this deadly Ebola Virus that brought about untold hardship, trauma, fear, anxiety, discrimination, and stigmatization. While in the Ebola Treatment Center (ETU), when quarantined, or when discharged, survivors go home to fight another war of discrimination, fear or stigmatization.

We need not over emphasize the setbacks it caused socially, economically, and spiritually. We however like to quickly thank our Lord and Savior for His protective arms upon us. In the midst of 4.000 plus deaths, not one of our (GFS) members died from the Virus.

As part of our Christian and human duty, we are to give support when support is highly needed. Additionally, a good society is exemplified by the way it treats its people. Matthew 25:40 says "...whatever you do to the least of my brethren, you do also to me". In order to fulfill this task, GFS Liberia (at Branch levels) joins our Government's effort in fighting and eradicating the Ebola virus from Liberia and yea the sub region. We like to give Psycho-social counseling to survivors, show concern and acceptance, and pray with and for the survivors. We like to help give information and knowledge that will help reduce the spread of the virus. We are determined to show love, and compassion to survivors of the Ebola Virus Disease in Liberia. These will help bring about restoration to families who have lost their loved ones to a deadly virus, whose dreams and aspirations were short lived, and who have become orphans.

The St. Thomas Episcopal Church Branch had a back to school retreat for the girls. Education on the spread of the virus was high on the agenda. St. Stephen Episcopal Church Branch intends to also conduct a one day back to school workshop for its members. During the workshop, topics such as; "Tips on the Spread and Prevention of Ebola Virus", "Elocution", "Gender Sensitization", and "Service to God and Community" will be discussed. St. Stephen also will be giving back to school packages such as book bags, copybooks, calculators, geometric set among others.

I am sad to inform you all that GFS Liberia lost one of its staunch members. Theoline Crystal Sponson died on the 9th of February, 2015 after a protracted illness; and will be buried on February 28, 2015. She was a 23 year old graduating senior from one of our colleges here in Monrovia. Notwithstanding all of the challenges life has to offer, we remain grateful to God for His providential care.



Georgiana T. Williams



Zambia

The GFS – Zambia activities started this year by GFS members attending an All Church groups opening service that was held at St Peter's Anglican Church on 24th January, 2015 followed by a National GFS Executive Committee Member's meeting in Kabwe at St George's Anglican Church.



Some of the Executive members



Working together – GFS Zambia and Our Rainbow House

*(from Val Gribble) Every fortnight my husband conducts the Eucharist at a small country town outside Rockhampton. One of the parishioners – Lavina - often talks to me about her niece who heads up a wonderful voluntary organisation based near to Rockhampton building and managing **Our Rainbow House** in Zambia. After reading the newsletter of this organisation I contacted both Alison Ray here in Central Queensland and Beatrice Zulu in Zambia and here is the ongoing story. Read more about **Our Rainbow House** at www.ourrainbowhouse.org.au Thank you GFS Zambia for taking up the challenge of partnering with Our Rainbow House and please pray for the success of this partnership.*



Following the information passed on to us by the World President, Ms Val Gribble to make contact with “Our Rainbow House”, on Tuesday 10th February, 2015 Ms Judith Nyondo, National President and Ms Beatrice Zulu, Project Co-ordinator took time



to visit Our Rainbow House.

OUR RAINBOW HOUSE

From the information made available during our visit, Ms Alison Ray from Emerald in Queensland, Australia visited her son's sponsor child in Chainda.

“Chainda community, being an urban based program, has many challenges that include high levels HIV transmission, early marriages compounded by high poverty and unemployment levels,”



Chainda compound is a high-density populated peri-urban settlement with a population of 26,650. Forty-three percent of the total populations are orphans and vulnerable children.

The compound has been in existence since 1968 when the Government decided to move the people to a five-acre small holding farmland to pave the way for the construction of the Kenneth Kaunda International

Airport.



After visiting her son's sponsor child in Chainda back in 2002 Alison Ray was left with an overwhelming drive to help the orphaned and vulnerable children. Knowing that it would need a team Alison surrounded herself with generous friends and family and set about establishing "Our Rainbow House." This was the beginning of the story. Alison Ray considered it wise to return and help make life better for these people. Our Rainbow House is currently taking care of 50 orphans trying to provide them with quality education.

We arrived at the school during lunch hour and found the children having lunch, Katoba, the Project Assistant informed us that the school also provide the children with breakfast as well since the children comes from homes where their guardians cannot manage to provide them with food as most of them are being looked after by their grandmothers.

While it was a very touching experience we were comforted and appreciated Ms Alison Ray's work that suits very well with our GFS Motto that from the many vulnerable children she was able to start something that eventually will end up benefiting many. However, the school faces many challenges and we would like to partner with them and identify the area in which we can come in and assist as GFS Zambia.



The children looked very smart in their new uniforms that were donated to them by a well wisher from Australia we were informed while a few had shoes (also were donated) on them while the rest were barefooted.

All we can say is "Well done Alison for your effort and hard work."

BEATRICE S. ZULU



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11th February 2015

Dear Val,

How very kind of you to pass on our School to your Group in Zambia. As mentioned in an earlier email Beatrice and Judith visited the School yesterday and Katoba reports everyone had a nice time. If you would like any more photos for your newsletter please let me know.

Alison Ray
Director - Our Rainbow House Inc



The new year's celebrations are behind us and as we embark on a new month, the month of February, there is much for which we can all be thankful. I know I am very thankful for the dedication of the phenomenal group of women in the GFS organization who are the force behind GFS here in the United States. None of my goals or visions would become a reality, and I thank God for each of them. We also have many other things to be thankful for in the USA, our increased GFRS numbers in membership, being more involved and visible within The Episcopal Church in the United States, new GFS materials are being developed and a new designed web-site but, we also know, however, that there is much to be concerned about. We all are witnesses to our nation and the world becoming more diverse and yet we are also witnessing to our nation becoming more divided. The struggle for equality and justice, decisions by the courts have touched already raw newwves and sparked mass protests around the globe; the useless taking of innocent lives in Parish, Nigeria and many communities across the USA and the world almost on a daily basis. But one thing we know that GFRS members pray for one another and that there is something "special" that is a core feature of the Girls' Friendly Society here in the USA and the world; it's an infectious enthusiasm that brings us all together to experience the GFS spirit and the belonging to the GFS family of God busy at work and making a difference.

The highlight of the beginning of February is the Super Bowl in the USA where our girls and leaders celebrate not the

football game bu the **"Souper Bowel of Caring"** to fight hunger and poverty in their local communities.

Here in the US we are so grateful for the technology that allows us to pray together in good and difficult times, and to stay connected to one another and to see actual faces on Facebook and to see all the activities our GFS sisters undertake globally. Please keep me in your prayers as I attend the United National Commission on the Status of Women conference

Until next World Newsletter stay well,safe and in prayer. Keep our GFSUSA Face-book overflowing with your branch activities.

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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