

## GFS World President's Christmas Message



Dear GFS members and friends around the World,

Felicitous greetings to all of you in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

As we approach the end of the year, we thank God for keeping us all alive up until now. He is indeed a God of second chances. The question we all need to answer is why He has kept us alive up to now. I think one of the reasons is that He wants to grant us more time to repent from sins, follow in His footsteps and be more Christ-like in our personal lives and in our dealings with one another.

Many of you would agree that it has been a difficult year. Despite this, GFS Worldwide has been progressing very well in growing God's kingdom. Guyana has re-established a branch which was launched on 13 November 2021. I was also blessed to be invited by South Africa to participate in their National Conference. The conference theme was *"Towards Good Citizenship: Warriors for a Caring Society"*. Challenges that are facing society were discussed and a plan of action outlining a way forward was crafted.

It is our obligation as World leaders, parents and churches to raise our children to be good citizens since they are our future leaders. We are to relook at how we are raising our children - the values we are instilling in them consciously or unconsciously. It is in my prayer for us all to assist our children to understand that there is life beyond the challenges they may be facing.

To you fellow leaders, I cannot overemphasize how grateful the GFS World office is for the work that all branches are doing around the World under your leadership. It is what we do in our little corners that contribute to making our communities better and safer places for all.

As we prepare for the celebration of Jesus Christ's birth, a feast which unites families and friends, we are praying for travel mercies of all those who will be travelling. We also pray for God to bless us all, in particular, to bless, protect and provide for those who are most vulnerable in our societies.

The GFS Worldwide office wishes you all a Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New year. Thank you for your prayers. Be blessed!

**Thembeke Pama**

### World Executive Team

**President:**

Ms Thembeke Pama

**Vice President:**

Lay Canon Val Gribble ML

**Treasurer:**

Ms Nokwanda Benya

**Secretary:**

Ms Lois Frankforter  
(President GFS USA)

**World Organizer:**

Ms Bekiwe Gijana

**Youth Officer:**

Ms Kundai Matikiti

**Incoming World President /  
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## Our Christmas Message To Our Beloved Worldwide GBFS Members

*Christ Our Christmas, Christ Our Peace, Christ Our Victory*



Dear Friends In Christ

We trust that you all continue to be well and safe with your families Especially as we continue to manoeuvre our day-to-day life especially during the Covid-19 global pandemic with its unexpected mutations as we now have to deal with the Omicron variant.

May we stay confident and steadfast encouraged by the promise given by our Lord Jesus Christ when He said, "I will always be with you." (**Matthew 28:20**). Yes indeed may we be empowered by knowing that this promise has long been fulfilled on the Day of Pentecost when the gift of the Holy Spirit was poured to the disciples and continues, even today, to be offered to us who have received and believe in the Lord and Friend Jesus Christ. (**John 14:16**).

We have come from far at the advent of the pandemic almost eighteen months ago to date to maybe feel like we want to give up now. We cannot surrender not even think about it how hard it may be. We cannot because we are affirmed as conquerors, "In all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us" (**Romans 8:37**).

This victory, may we be assured, has also been given us over this menacing pandemic. *Alleluia Praise To Him Who Is Our Victory, The Lord Jesus Christ*. However, let us make sure that we do not trade this victory to the enemy by becoming reckless and abandon the tools at our disposal to continue fighting and paralysing this vicious and invisible enemy. Our faith against this enemy should be supported by our actions as it is exhorted on us that "faith without deeds is dead" (**James 2:26**)

As we celebrate the gift of the season of Christmas, may we do so exhorted, by **Ephesians 6:10** trusting that if we put it in practice, we will be helped to defeat not only the attacks of Covid-19, but also that of **Gender Based Violence**, which is also preying out as yet another pandemic in our time. As soldiers of Christ, armoured in God's heavenly artillery, we remain conquerors against all evil.

- Let us wear our **Helmets** and use our **Heads / intellect** and not allow ourselves to be swayed by all the negative information that we come across especially on social media.
- Let us put on our **Breastplates** and be jealous of what we allow to infiltrate our **Hearts**. Let it be Christ whom we allow in hearts in celebration of Christmas.
- Let us wear and fasten our **Belts** tight and exercise great **Self Control** in whatever we do. Christmas is one season of the year when self-control is mostly needed for us to avoid spoiling our celebrations.
- Let us wear and fasten our **Boots** and be aware of where our **Feet** lead us to. May our feet be those that take the good news to the Christmas people the friends of Christ (**Isaiah 52:7**).
- Lastly, may we hold fast on to our **Shields** in making sure that the **Temple** of the Spirit of Christ does not become heavy within us due to our unwelcomed ways of celebration.

**May Christ Our Christmas Keep You And All Yours Safe And Whole This 2021 Christmas Season And Drive Far Away From You The Covid-19.**

Yours In The Service Of Spreading The Love Of Christ Our Christmas To His Friends.

Dintoe Stephen Letloenyane

**Bishop of the Anglican Diocese of the Free State, ACSA Liaison Bishop: Children & Young People**

# GFS Australia

## GFS News from around the World!

Greetings and Christmas blessings!

The Australian Saturday Symposium on 27<sup>th</sup> November included Orange Day to educate against violence to women and girls and how our Church aims to reduce such violence. The next item on the programme is an Advent study led by Rev'd Ann Edwards to help us prepare for Christmas.

The last item will be the launch of our new GFS Australia initiative to support Remote Op Shops. This initiative will promote two of Madam Thembeke's GFS World themes; it will assist indigenous communities with good quality items that they need and reduce land fill. People in these remote communities need clothes to sell in their Op Shops and money raised pays for their own local projects. So, we look forward to this project to assist other Australians.

GFS Girls' and Boys' groups and Townsend Groups in Australia have met by Zoom or in person during the past months.



How wonderful that we can meet and encourage each other in their Christian faith and give to others in our communities.

GFS Australia AGM will be held on 8<sup>th</sup> January 2022, and we pray that our Executive positions will continue to be filled and for an informative and encouraging meeting.

Brisbane GFS group practicing social distancing but loving being able to meet again !

### World Connections

After our successful GFS World Council, with the admission of South Sudan, GFS Brisbane members were delighted to hear Rachel Jimma speak. We met in Toowoomba and Rachel spoke about how God encouraged her and her husband in their amazing but difficult life as they grew up as refugees in South Sudan. Rachel subsequently immigrated to Australia with her husband, Bishop Daniel Abot and their family. God spoke to Rachel several times to reassure her that He would provide for her and their children when her husband had to leave to study. Bishop Daniel is now Bishop to the Duk people from South Sudan who live in Toowoomba in south-east Queensland.

Blessings in GFS

Suzanne Claire  
President, GFS Australia





# GFS Cameroon

Christian greetings from G.F.S. Cameroon.

Our excitement and love for GFS remains steady and keeps us moving with enthusiasm in carrying out our activities.

- Different Parishes and Outstations had holiday camps, retreats, conferences etc. Highlights: Bible studies, Kitchen corner, sports, skill acquisition, talks on hygiene, etiquette, COVID-19 awareness and prevention. These activities attract the attention of girls and make them committed and loyal to the society.
- Back to School Prayer meetings was a platform to prepare the girls spiritually and morally to return to school for academic excellence.
- We celebrated World Day of Prayer on 29<sup>th</sup> September. There was massive improvement this year and we used the occasion to inform the community about the World Project.
- We participated in two Zoom conversations on Climate Change with GFS Ireland at the invitation of its President. Many thanks to GFS Ireland for such an initiative and to TearFund Ireland (Emma Lynch) who assisted in making it a reality. The girls who participated were excited and encouraged with the fellowship despite the miles. This has triggered us to organize our own Zoom meetings to solve the distance problem within our Diocese (One-country Diocese).
- Eighty new girls joined the GFS and five new branch coordinators were commissioned.



Newly Admitted Members/  
Opening of Branch during  
Bishop's Episcopal Visit

- We are grateful to God and GFS World for granting us the opportunity to host the World Project. The Project establishment is on-going but experiencing slow moves due to limited cash flow. So far, we thank GFS USA and GFS Australia who have donated to the project. Local efforts are being made to see that the project is a reality and fulfils its aims. We thank you for your support in prayers and encouragement.
- On a sad note, we lost a committed and loyal member, Ms. Queen Laban from St. Paul's GFS Branch. The girls were actively involved during the funeral.

We thank God for the GFS family worldwide, pledge to remain connected in prayers and promote friendship, fellowship, sharing and togetherness.  
God bless you all.

Estelle Elango Dibo  
President, GFS Cameroon



This has been another wonderfully busy time for us in England and Wales as we continue to deliver support for girls and young women by bringing groups back safely in September after COVID lockdown as well as launching six new groups.

The return to group for the girls was so welcomed by the volunteers and of course the girls and young women.

The volunteers shared how they were really led by the girls who got 'back to normal' so very quickly. At the same time, many girls had found lockdown so difficult and been isolated without school, GFS and their friends. This had had an impact on them that we now see ourselves working through.

The six new groups in London, Birmingham, Liverpool, Manchester and Sunderland have been planned to meet the need identified in the Plan UK research which summarizes the locations girls need GFS the most. The whole team has pulled together to make this a reality and so far the groups have been popular and well supported by the local communities, volunteers and girls. We are excited to see what comes next.

GFS England and Wales has recruited and inducted 7 new board members and 13 committee members to support the organization in its next stage of strategic development. This work had a focus to improve diversity in our leadership and we have been successful in achieving this. In fact the project was so successful it has been nominated for a EDI (Equity Diversity & Inclusion) award with The Chartered Governance Institute.

We are also delighted to see volunteers and projects be nominated for awards; Pam Hutchison for contribution as NE Regional Chair, Judy Rowson for her leadership in Wainfleet, The Blyth Group for most improved group and the Lights for Nights Campaign.

Laura Sercombe  
Chief Executive

# GFS Guyana

GFS in the Diocese of Guyana including Suriname and Cayenne was re-established on the 13th November 2021, with the assistance of the GFS Worldwide President Sister Thembeke Pama. The programme was hosted at the St. George's Cathedral.

The Rt. Rev. Charles Davidson was in attendance and officiated at the service in the presence of the GFS World Executive and some of the fellow countries that have GFS.

The Bishop's message was one of girls building relationships. He emphasised that relationships are built on trust. His hope for the GFS is that it will give young girls the tools to manoeuvre life as they grow older. He acknowledged that the GFS is a reputable organisation with over 100 years of experience.



The new Executive Body



The new President

The Bishop commissioned the Executive Body : Miss Trinette Cosbert - President, Miss Beyoncé Sparman - Vice President, Jonetta Wallace - Secretary, Ayanna Maynard - Treasurer, Althechia Seymour - Assistant Secretary and Shemiah Barton - Committee Member.

GFS President Sister Trinette, delivered a message that promised girls that the Society will build confidence, resilience, self esteem and strengthen spiritual connection with God for them.

She acknowledged that the GFS is much needed in Guyana, as living in the 21st Century where the lives of our youths are taken over by technology, youths should have something positive to focus on, especially with all that is going on around, Covid-19, teenage pregnancies, domestic violence, cyber bullying, suicide and mental illness. She assured that the safeguarding of young girls and women is of paramount importance in the GFS.

Appreciation goes out to the Worldwide Mothers Union President Sister Sheran Harper and the board's council members, Diocesan Mothers Union President Sister Eleatrice Davenport and the Diocese for their support.

She thanked everyone and encouraged them to support the GFS as they strive to build the Society in the Diocese of Guyana including Suriname and Cayenne.

We now look forward to attending the upcoming GFS World Council scheduled to be hosted by GFS South Africa in 2023.

Your prayers will be much appreciated.

Trinette Cosbert  
President, GFS Guyana



# GFS Ireland

Greetings from GFS Ireland to our GFS World-Wide Family!

Like many of you, we in Ireland have continued to journey with the presence of Covid within our communities and we are indebted to the faithfulness of our leaders in the ministry of GFS.

Last year, GFS in Ireland piloted a Global Connections badge where members were able to explore the many 'connections' we share throughout the world in respect of climate change. GFS in collaboration with Tear Fund (Mrs Emma Lynch) and CIYD have sought to give our young people a voice for Climate Justice.

To do this, it was important that our members had the opportunity to speak with GFS members in other countries where we can all listen and share experiences and then have an informed and passionate voice for Climate Justice. GFS Ireland was helped by the Government with funding for this pilot project and Tear Fund facilitated the conversations.

GFS Ireland is grateful to all of those GFS members who were part of this pilot programme and their invaluable contributions, GBFS South Africa - Mme Zanele Ntenetyana, GFS Sri Lanka - Mrs Jeanne Withanage, GFS Cameroon - Mme Dibo Elango Estelle Bedie and to the UDP team based at the Tujisaidie School, Kenya, for participating in these conversations.

We were able to organise the conversations through the gift of Zoom and girls aged 12 -18 years old were able to meet together to have conversations based on how climate change is affecting our local communities and countries, the future we might expect if we don't change our lifestyles and the change we can each make and who can help us make the changes to give everyone a better outcome for the future.

The learning from these conversations is being used to create a short video that we can share with the government in Ireland, our GFS world wide family and our church leaders. We hope to develop further conversations next year including GFS USA and GFS Australia.

The girls who participated were able to hear for themselves how climate change is affecting health, fishing, farming, the coral reef around Sri Lanka, crime, girls leaving school as money was needed to buy food rather than pay school fees and the importance of food security.

We also learned of different projects already happening within the groups that spoke together. The participants were encouraged to think of how they are already agents for change and the importance of using their voices and actions for good.

We have come to the end of the COP 26 conference on world climate change. This pilot project is like a mustard seed, it is small but has the potential to grow to something much bigger and be an agent of change. We have seen already the impact it has had on the members throughout Ireland who had been able to participate and how we can together make changes to protect and care for the wonderful creation that God has blessed us with.

We can live out our motto of  
'bearing each other's burdens'.

Every blessing.

Alison Jackson  
President, GFS Ireland



# GFS Kenya

Hello!

Receive Christian greetings from GFS Kenya in Jesus' name.

It is my prayer that the Lord has taken good care of you. We are doing well as GFS Kenya and we have witnessed the faithfulness of the Lord in this noble ministry.

In September, we had members of GFS conduct services in their respective Parishes. It was a great joy to see the young girls preach and lead worship in our churches.



We also had a combined workshop for both boys brigade and GFS trainers which was equally very successful. During the training we had Mothers Union and Kenya Anglican Men Association members in attendance since they are the mentors of our young girls and boys. We've also had other activities like shopping coaching, mission outreach and mentorship programs. GFS is growing and spreading very fast in Kenya. As a country, we are grateful to God for His unmerited grace and divine favour in this noble ministry.

It is our prayer that we'll continue to unite together as members of GFS all over the world as we spread the good news of our Lord Jesus Christ. May the Lord bless you and make His face shine upon you always.

Lots of love and blessings

Phoebe A. Maina  
President, GFS Kenya



# GFS Liberia

We are still praying for the speedy recovery of our Bishop, our GFS members who are sick and troubled, for GFS member countries that experience man made and natural disaster, instability, displacements, COVID and other conditions. Thank God for the level of improvement in the fight of Covid-19.

GFS Liberia continues to work in reactivating existing branches and establishing new ones. Our girls are staying in school and doing well in the classes. We provide weekly activities and these include: pastry making, developing public speaking skills, craft making and learning how to build a basic website. Some are already showing interest in technology careers.

On the eve of WDP, leaders and girls had series of outdoor and indoor activities. Prizes were awarded to winners of games and Bible quizzing. Junior girls shared their college life experiences that were very motivating. We observed WDP on October 27, 2021.

It was colorful and well attended by GFSers, leaders, parents and parishioners. The girls read the lessons and lead the intercessory prayers. There were speeches of support from parents and National President Madam Thelma E. Duncan Sawyer. The different activities have helped to rejuvenate the girls and draw in new members.



We are still working with the five pillars of our program : (1) Duty to Self and Self-respect (2) Duty to God and Duty to the Church (3) Duty to Family (4) Duty to Society and Community (5) Duty to Country

We try to incorporate at least one of the pillars in our activities. It is meant to encourage growth and responsibility in each area of life. We have fully returned to many of our activities because of God's mercy to slow down if not remove this Covid -19 pandemic.

Our thanks to the World President and the hard working world team for keeping in touch with GFS Liberia and for inviting us to grace S. A. National Conference.

Lots of love from Liberia to you all.

Georgiana Tucker Williams  
Coordinator & Adviser  
on behalf of  
GFS Liberia



# GFS New Zealand

The school year in NZ will be over soon and we are looking forward to seeing our families for Christmas. A very special time and I hope we will be able to travel, catch up with family and friends and enjoy the summer.

We all hope lockdown will be over soon, everyone will be vaccinated and we can live safely. It is a difficult time for everyone everywhere but we are thinking of you all and pray that you are able to protect yourselves and are able to care for others.

In spite of Covid the interview panels at our partner schools went ahead and Council Members met with staff to select girls who would benefit from GFS help. GFS Council Members keep in contact with the young women on the programme and meet with them several times a year. We are pleased we continue working with four large colleges. Relationships with teachers from these schools, which began twenty years ago, still endure.

The help we receive from the schools is a big part of the programme's success and the trust built up with the students over the three years of their courses is essential for the programme to succeed.

We are now offering to pay accommodation costs for girls studying away from home at university colleges. Recently an achieving student under State Care and suffering from severe anxiety responded very positively to a move with a friend, to another city, staying in university accommodation. She loved living in a supportive community on campus and has passed her courses with good grades.

Good stories are great and of course we all love hearing good news. Gill recently received a phone call from a previous student who now lives in Melbourne. She has applied to do a two-year Master's Degree in Teaching and she told Gill, "I have found my place here". She sounded happy and excited. Lovely for the team to hear from a past student.

We send you our love, prayers and best wishes for a happy Christmas.

Helen Allen

President, GFS New Zealand

Thought  
for the Season

## What is Christmas?

God loved us and sent us His son  
on that first Christmas Day,  
long ago -

That's **Love** in action !

So, every time we love and every time we give,  
it's Christmas!



# GFS & BFS South Africa

Warm greetings from GFS and BFS South Africa in the wonderful name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Praise be to our faithful God for the gift of life, for His divine protection and for His unconditional love towards us!

We are delighted to report on the successful GFS and BFS National Conference which was held in the Diocese of the Free State from the 30<sup>th</sup> of September to the 2<sup>nd</sup> of October. This was our first national conference since the relentless COVID 19 virus hit our shores. We were privileged to have among our esteemed guests at the conference Mama Margaret Nolde from the USA, Mama Georgianna Williams from Liberia and our Youth Liaison Bishop in the Free State Province – Bishop Dintoe Stephen Letloenyane.

The conference, with the theme **“TOWARDS GOOD CITIZENSHIP: WARRIORS FOR A CARING SOCIETY,”** was both educational and relevant to leaders and members alike. Inputs from our high caliber speakers and presenters focused on character building, strategies for the betterment of our communities through targeted GFS and BFS initiatives as well as on curtailing climate change. The presentations triggered lively and informative discussions.

The conference included a “Gala Dinner” which was hosted by GBFS South Africa in partnership with the South African Department of Tourism. In attendance from the Tourism sector were the Chief Convention Bureau Officer, Ms. Amanda Kotze-Nhlapo, the Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Kenny Dichabe of the Free State Provincial Gambling, Liquor and Tourism Board as well as the Chairperson, Mr. Michael Raadt. Their inspirational messages of support left everyone highly motivated to work even harder to make a success of all GBFS South Africa initiatives.

The GFS Worldwide President, Mama Thembeka Pama, who was one of the guests at the conference, delivered a homily which included a heartfelt appeal to the young men of BFS to take the lead in projects aimed at ending gender based violence (GBV) in our communities. She further advised all leaders to continue joining hands to show the young that there is hope for the future if we all became Good Citizens.

Furthermore, South Africa was honoured to receive an invitation from Ireland to join a discussion on their Climate Justice pilot programme which took place on 9 and 16 October. Our thanks go to the Ireland GFS President, Alison Jackson, and her team. GFS and BFS South Africa members had a chance to robustly discuss the negative impacts of climate change and to propose possible interventions.

Since the lockdown regulations have been relaxed to Level 1 in South Africa, Dioceses have been engaged in activities that will revive the GFS and BFS guild. We look forward to exciting times ahead for GBFS South Africa.

Finally, we would like to thank the GFS family for all the prayers. Glory and honour be to God!

Best wishes to everyone for Christmas and the New Year!

May it be a year of abundant blessings!

Zanele Ntenetyana  
President, GFS & BFS South Africa



Liaison Bishop, GFS National President, Visitors from GFS USA and GFS Liberia & Diocesan Presidents



Revival at St. Francis Parish.  
32 new members admitted



## GFS South Korea

GFS South Korea made plum syrup to be used at Cafe Grace after the national monthly meeting on June 14th. After reopening in April, the hardworking staff and employers had dinner together at Seongbuk-dong. After dinner, we had a good time in the open area such as the Octagonal Pavilion Drive. It is a place to comfort the depressed minds who were suffering from the corona virus.

From July 16th to 18th, the GFS 2021 World Council was held by Zoom, hosted by the World President Thembeke Pama. You-SeonSeok (Fides) and Wonkyung Choi (Theresa), participated as Senior and Junior Delegates. Yang-Soon Choi (Lucia), who is the president of the World Championships attended as an observer.

On the 27<sup>th</sup> of August, I asked for financial support for the Café Grace from the Seoul Bishop's Cathedral. GFS sent an official letter asking for help, notifying that the Café Grace is struggling to help North Korean refugee women. In addition, GFS Seoul Department (Chairman : Myung-sook Yoon) donated 1 million won and National GFS (Chairman : You-Seon Seok) donated 3 million won to help North Korean refugees.

On the 16<sup>th</sup> of October, a regular general meeting of the GFS Federation was held at the Francis Hall of the Cathedral of the Bishop in Seoul, to elect the new president of the Seoul Diocese. Jin-Hye Min (Hilda) was elected as the new president.

You-Seon Seok (Fides)  
President, GFS South Korea



# GFS Sri Lanka

Sep – Nov 2021 :

We have been successful in continuing to keep members together through our digital programmes, with in-person activities whenever possible, according to the situation.

- \* Zoom Meetings with regional branches
- \* Weekly videos - Bible Studies and "How to" videos by members of different branches continue to be shared through WhatsApp
- \* Mobile data packages - supplied monthly to deserving schoolchildren in the hill country area for their online studies. Many children cannot follow classes due to lack of internet facilities and cost of data. Some share devices.

- \* Distribution of dry ration packs -

This continues to low income families of parishes in the beautiful central hill country region, the culture-rich southern province and other areas, according to the following criteria – women headed households, families infected by covid and in quarantine, families whose bread winners have lost their jobs and daily wage earners.



Distribution of packs in Balangoda & Deniyaya Anglican parishes

- \* GFS World Day of Prayer - special video featuring junior members was produced and posted on FB
- \* Community Project *Women helping Women* - New supplies, including Christmas themed items are available.
- \* GFS Global Connections Programme on Climate Justice - Thanks to Alison Jackson, President of GFS Ireland for inviting Sri Lanka to participate in this Programme and to Emma Lynch, Church and Supporter Relations Coordinator of *Tearfund Ireland* for facilitating the meaningful discussions that took place on zoom in October.
- \* Pink Pearls and Star Sapphires (our junior groups) - Weekly *Friday Fun* on zoom
- \* Executive Council - conducts monthly Zoom Prayer/business Meetings
- \* GFS Hostel for working girls established in 1957 - In the process of being completely renovated.

We thank God for His mercy and wish members worldwide the beauty and joy of Christmas!

Jeanne Withanage  
President, GFS Sri Lanka

# GFS Uganda

Christian greetings from GFS Uganda. We are grateful to God that we are still existing and we thank Him for His love, provision and protection. We extend warm greetings from our bishops, chaplain and other clergy plus the entire GFS ministry.

We want to thank the GFS world president and her entire committee for the wonderful work they are doing to uplift and strengthen the ministry world wide. May the good Lord bless you all.

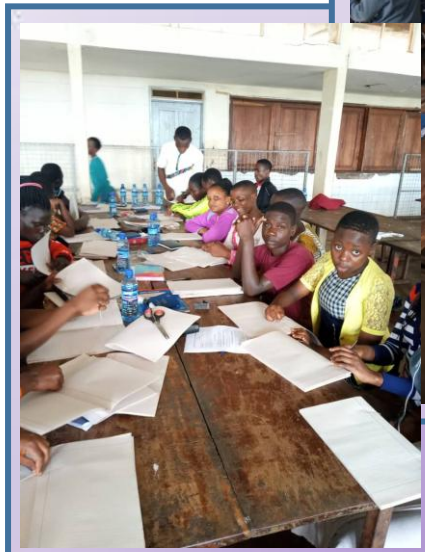
We in Uganda are still in the second wave of covid 19, no schools are allowed to operate and 20 members are allowed to gather. It is now one month since the re opening of churches and they allow only 200 members but no children at all. But this cannot stop the ministry from moving forward. We still involve the girls in different development activities which can keep them busy, like making re-usable sanitary pads, which help them during this lockdown so that they spend lesss, also making big black books which will help them in future when schools are re opened either for the girls to use them or sell some of them and earn some money.

We are also glad to welcome the new diocese of Mukono amidst this covid 19. We are happy for this expansion of the ministry in our country.

As we are heading for Christmas and the end of year season, allow me to extend my wishes to you all and continue to pray to God to continue protecting us so that we end this year peacefully with love and blessings.

Love to you all.

Gertrude Nakintu  
President, GFS Uganda







Donations made to Springfield Rescue Mission

The Fall marks the return to school for children in the United States.

Many branches collect school supplies for those in need and hold worship services blessing backpacks filled with items.

The GFS of the Diocese of Western Massachusetts collects supplies each Fall and chooses an organization or elementary school to donate to.

Supplies are for students or sometimes for teachers, because they often use their personal funds to buy items for their classrooms.

This year, eight backpacks filled with school supplies, masks and hand sanitizers were donated to the Springfield Rescue Mission which partners with organizations to distribute the items. So far they have provided school supplies to about 100 students in need.

The Fall also starts a new program year for GFS branches. The GFS of the Diocese of Los Angeles began their program year with a roller skating party. Some girls did not know how to skate, so they learned something new!

GFS LA also continues to incorporate its social justice program into its calendar of activities. They hosted a presentation by a teenager who lives with cerebral palsy and is raising awareness for equal treatment of disabled persons, made tie-dyed pillow cases to give to a hospital and made a virtual visit to an animal sanctuary.



A new member learning to roller skate for the first time

On October 2, 2021, GFS USA held its second virtual World Day of Prayer Service. Messages of greetings were shared by GFS World President Thembeke Pama, Episcopal Church Women National President Karen Patterson and Yewande Austin. The Presiding Bishop Michael Curry provided a video with greetings and a homily. Members participated as readers and musicians. GFS USA also awarded book scholarships to fourteen members who are at university.

In 2022, GFS USA will celebrate the 145<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of its founding in Lowell, Massachusetts. National Assembly will be held at Simmons University, Boston, Massachusetts from July 31 – August 7, 2022. The opening service will be held at St. Anne's Church in Lowell and members will spend the day learning about the Mill girls - the first GFS members.

Lois Frankforter  
President, GFS USA

# GFS Zambia

GFS Zambia has sent the following to College on a government programme for three months - two ladies to do agriculture, one lady for tailoring and three boys to learn metal fabrication. The college is the Rehabilitation Centre in the copper belt province in Ndola Town.



32 girls were admitted to the GFS at St. Philip's Church, Kalalangabo with a donation from GFS Australia. It was a wonderful event. The girls were waiting for this for a long time.

Thanks to Fr. John for helping and teaching the girls.

Phyllis Yambayaba  
President, GFS Zambia



**Update**

## World Project 2021 to 2023

*GFS Cameroon remains grateful to God for granting them the opportunity to host the GFS World Project and are looking forward to how this project will make a positive impact to the girls in our community and as well make GFS and the Anglican brand well known. Many thanks to GFS family worldwide for the opportunity.*

Estelle Elango Dibo  
President, GFS Cameroon

Moves have been made to follow the government procedures in establishing a training centre. Rental of a suitable building is the only way, at present, that a training centre can be established. Government officials would then need to inspect the centre and give the necessary authorisation for it to commence.

This, of course, requires project money to begin to flow to Cameroon. So far only two countries have sent money and it is imperative that the project is promoted in each country and monies sent as soon as they are available. Monies from our World Day of Prayer are expected to be for the World Project. We only have two years to complete this project. The banking details to send money to Cameroon are again in this newsletter.

Cameroon GFS is taking every advantage and gatherings to alert the community of the project. The response has been very positive and as plans become more settled they will produce flyers for more advertisement.

**IT IS NOW UP TO US, EVERY MEMBER OF GFS WORLDWIDE TO SUPPORT THIS PROJECT IN PRAYER AND GIVING.**

Canon Val Gribble  
GFS World Vice President

## Skills Acquisition for Disadvantaged Girls

### Banking Details

Please make note of the banking details for the Cameroon World Project. Any gifts should be made direct to Cameroon with an email to the World President and World Treasurer advising that a transfer has been made. Would you also email me ([valgribble1@bigpond.com](mailto:valgribble1@bigpond.com)) when you send gifts to Cameroon.

The Bank in Cameroon has given three account numbers depending on the currency which is the easiest for you to use.

The name of the account will be the same – ANGLICAN DIOCESE OF CAMEROON GIRLS' FRIENDLY SOCIETY (GFS)

Union Bank Cameroon PLC - Bonamoussadi Branch,  
opposite Immeuble Socar

Account Number: 01100016709

SWIFT NO – UCMACMCX

#### US Dollars

Standard Chartered Bank, New York – USA

Account Number: 3582026768001

SWIFT NO – SCBLUS33

#### Euros

Standard Chartered Bank, Frankfurt

AM Main DE – Germany

Account Number: 18303503

SWIFT NO – SCBLDEFX

IBAN – DE 81512305000018303503

**Would Treasurers who are sending money to Cameroon please be aware that it is preferable to send to the New York or Germany account – that seems to be working if somewhat slow. PLEASE SEND A COPY OF YOUR BANK TRANSFER FORM TO ESTELLE IN CAMEROON AND TO THE WORLD TREASURER WHENEVER PAYMENT IS MADE.**

Email: CAMEROON - [gfsdiocameroon@yahoo.com](mailto:gfsdiocameroon@yahoo.com)

Email: WORLD TREASURER - Nokwanda Benya  
[nokwanda.benya@coega.co.za](mailto:nokwanda.benya@coega.co.za)

Thank you

Canon Val Gribble, GFS World Vice President



## WORLD FEES

### World Fees are still due from some countries

Please send your World Fees to GFS **South Africa**.

Account details :

Account Name : GFS World Council  
Bank : First National Bank  
Branch : Balfour Park  
Branch Code : 250655  
Account Number : 62720797953  
Swift Code : FIRNZAJJ  
Branch Address: Shop 229 Balfour Park Shopping Centre,  
Highlands North, 2192

## GIFTS & DONATIONS

for

### WORLD TRAVEL, WORLD PRESIDENT'S TRAVEL etc

Please send to GFS **South Africa**, to the above bank account

## WORLD EMERGENCY FUND

For any gifts to this Fund, please send to GFS **Australia**  
which holds the funds this term.

Account details :

Account Name : GFS World Account  
Banking Institution : ANZ Bank  
Address : Shop 67, Whitford City,  
Cnr Marmion & Whitford Avenues  
Hillarys – WA 6025  
Code : BSB 016 494  
Account Number : 392526836  
Swift Number : ANZBAU3M

Cut off date for next Newsletter : Feb. 15, 2022

Please send your news (max 300 words) in Word format and 2 separate pics (jpg) to :

[gfsworldnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:gfsworldnewsletter@gmail.com)

## WORLD WEB PAGE

[www.gfsworld.org](http://www.gfsworld.org)

**How often do you read the world webpage?**

**Do you check that your country information is up to date?**

Our web page is our window to the world – it is the way we promote GFS - it needs to be UpToDate. I can only keep it up to date with information that is given to me. Despite many requests much of the country information is very outdated. And most of the new countries which were admitted at the last World Council have not provided any information.

**Please consider this a priority.**

You can read so much history on our web page. Did you know that you can read the minutes of the world councils from 1955 to 2014. I will shortly have the minutes from 2017, 2020 and 2021 to add. There is so much of interest as the minutes trace the growth of GFS throughout the world.

The reports of the countries as at July 2017 are also recorded. Very soon we will have the 2021 reports to add. Look for these reports under “About Us” and then “Historical Documents”

Any comments or suggestions for change are welcome. Send to me at :

[valgribble1@bigpond.com](mailto:valgribble1@bigpond.com)

(Canon) Val Gribble

GFS World Vice-President and Webmaster

**Christmas !**

**When Love came down to earth**



**The one birth  
that changed the history of mankind**

God gave His greatest gift  
to us on that  
first Christmas Day ...  
May the wonder of it  
always guide  
and light our way.

We wish all our members,  
family, friends  
and clergy worldwide  
A blessed Christmas!

May the New Year bring you  
joy, hope, good health, peace and love.

**World Executive  
Girls' Friendly Society**