



GFS World President's Message

Dear GFS members and friends around the world,

We are in the Pentecost season – a season some regard as the birth season of the Church. Pentecost coincides with the Jewish Feast of the Weeks, *Shavuot*, one of the three Biblical pilgrim festivals. Although *Shavuot* is characterised by a jubilant celebratory mood, after Christ's arrest and Crucifixion (and despite His Resurrection and ultimate Ascension), the disciples were anything but jubilant. When the Holy Spirit fell upon them, Christ's disciples had barricaded themselves behind closed doors, gripped by fear for their safety and a heaviness arising from the uncertainty about what was to become of them now that their Master was no longer with them.

Still battling the ever-mutating corona virus and continuing to face lockdown restrictions with varying degrees of stringency in different parts of the world, almost all societies around the world can relate to what Christ's disciples must have been going through. Like the disciples, people live in fear for their lives. There is uncertainty about the future. Their freedom of movement and association (with the outside world) as well as their economic activity have all been curtailed by COVID 19. Indeed, COVID19 has disrupted everyone's way of life.

In addition to the rampant deaths, there have been negative economic impacts – depressed economic productivity, an increase in unemployment figures and a rise in the cost of living. This has placed an enormous strain on families. Overlapping global crises and unrest as well as climate change-linked natural disasters in some parts of the world have created a sense of a thick, dark, impenetrable cloud that is hanging over humanity.

It was under similar psychological conditions that the Holy Spirit came down like tongues of fire and touched the disciples. This encounter with the power of the Presence of God brought about immediate transformation in them. They were released of their anxieties and were given the power of utterance; they began to speak in various languages. They ventured out and touched the lives of thousands.

Let us pray that we may also be touched by that Presence during this Pentecost season. May it heal and transform our world from these destructive and incapacitating emotions. May the guns be silenced. May God be gracious to us, bless us and make His face shine upon us so that we can continue to boldly "bear each other's burdens" knowing His power remains with us and in us.

Thembeka Pama

World Executive Team

President:

Ms Thembeka Pama

Vice President:

Lay Canon Val Gribble ML

Treasurer:

Ms Nokwanda Benya

Secretaries:

Ms Lois Frankforter
(President GFS USA)

Ms Pumeza Magona
(GFS World Secretary)

World Organizer:

Ms Bekiwe Gijana

Youth Officer:

Ms Kundai Matikiti

**Incoming World President /
World Newsletter Coordinator**

Ms Jeanne Withanage
(President GFS Sri Lanka)

Contact Details:

Organizational Enquiries:

gfsworldpres2020@gmail.com

Newsletter information:

gfsworldnewsletter@gmail.com

Website:

www.gfsworld.org

Facebook: GFS Worldwide

GFS World Project :
Skills Acquisition for Disadvantaged Girls

GFS World Project in Cameroon - Update!

INTRODUCTION

We send greetings to GFS Worldwide and immensely appreciate you all for your prayers, encouraging words and generous gifts towards this Project.

We are grateful to God for sustaining us and the Project thus far. It has been an amazing journey of faith, determination and enthusiasm. God is faithful.

APPRECIATION

May we use this medium to send special thanks to all of you for your donations, especially to GFS-USA, GFS-Australia, GFS-Ireland, GFS-Sri Lanka for making awesome donations toward this Project. We have been thrilled by your generosity, love and commitment to the GFS and God through your donations.

We bring thanks also to our Lord Bishop for his massive support and readiness to assist us scale through when faced with challenges. We cannot fail to applaud the Project Management team for their tireless efforts and sacrifices.



ANGLICAN DIOCESE OF CAMEROON
DECREE N°89/143 OF 27 JANUARY 1989
GIRLS' FRIENDLY SOCIETY (G.F.S.)

ANNOUNCEMENT

THE G.F.S SKILLS ACQUISITION (TAILORING) CENTER INFORMS THE GENERAL PUBLIC THAT EVENING TRAINING SESSIONS ARE NOW BEING OFFERED BY THE CENTER AS FROM 1ST APRIL, 2022

FROM 5:00 P.M TO 08:00 P.M ON THE FOLLOWING DAYS:

**TUESDAYS
WEDNESDAYS
FRIDAYS**

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT US OR VISIT THE CENTER.

CONTACT NUMBERS:

○ 657-23-47-67
○ 679-17-11-00

ADDRESS: BEHIND POST OFFICE DEIDO, DOUALA

COME AND YOU WILL NOT BE DISAPPOINTED!!!



DONATIONS

We thank GFS worldwide for their donations towards making this Project a reality. So far we have received donations from world office (GFS World Day of Prayer Funds) and from individual member countries. It is worth mentioning that the difficulties of money transfer have been greatly resolved particularly with GFS-Australia acting as a successful channel. We thank GFS-Australia for this sacrifice and willingness to help.
(Details of donations so far on Page 5)

GFS VISIBILITY

The hosting of the GFS World Project has been of tremendous blessings to GFS-Cameroon. The Project has brought about visibility for the organisation and the entire Diocese as a whole within our communities. Within the Diocese, no one can pretend not to know about the organisation and members have become keen to understand more about the organisation and particularly its worldwide nature. GFS-Cameroon is on the lamp stand today, thanks to the Project.

GFS World Project in Cameroon - Update! *Contd.*



The girls launched out to the community to campaign on *"Operation NO Idleness in our Community"* as a way to celebrate Labour Day, beautifully dressed in outfits made by them at the Center



AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS

Since the Center went operational on the 01st March 2022, awareness campaigns have been intensified within the Diocese and the community in order to reach out to many young girls and women.

The management team went to all the Parishes and Chapels in Douala where the Project is located. The students visited different markets and the neighbourhood to distribute hand bills and also share their testimonies as a means of encouraging others to become part of this project.

Going to media house (Radio/Television) has also been another way of creating awareness.



The wonderful results after a few months of training



CLASSES/ENROLMENT

The Center runs morning session from 8:00Am to 4:00Pm and evening session from 4:00 to 8:00Pm. Evening sessions were introduced to give a wider opportunity due to the cosmopolitan nature of the Project location, where city dealers are having diverse activities during the day and may be only available in the evening.

In the same vein, we have introduced a long vacation session for students to spend a profitable three months holiday. This initiative is due to the high level of unemployment in our country. Therefore it is a vital that girls acquire other skills alongside academics which may at the end be helpful to improve their livelihood.

Each session starts with daily prayers and meditation and it is our aim to use the Center as an evangelism channel and for the increase of GFS membership.

The Center has three trainers, two for morning session and one for evening session respectively. The Center has registered five students so far and we remain hopeful that with intense awareness campaigns more young girls will be reached.

PRODUCTION / MARKETING

The management team is brain storming and looking for possible opportunities of producing items for sales using local fabrics as a means of raising funds for the Center.

The Center shall soon be going into the production of priestly and altar vestments like chasubles, cassocks, stoles, clerical shirts, altar linen etc. as well as grab many other opportunities we can explore bearing in mind our slogan that *'Whatever is thinkable, sew able'*. We are ready to take world orders too.

GFS World Project in Cameroon - Update! *Contd.*



The Center was blessed to receive the Bishop of Nsukka Diocese (Nigeria) and the Diocesan Bishop.

Operation NO Idleness in our Community.

Girls & young women,
You have
no excuse
to stay at home idle.
The GFS Center is here for you!

COURSES

Courses handled so far are as follows :

- Reading and explanation of the code of conduct for learners
- First contact with the sewing machine
- How to pedal the machine
- In vacuum (Without any working)
- On paper
- The different parts of a sewing machine
- External
- Internal
- Different lines
- straight line
- Curved line
- Broken line
- Different lines on the fabric, first without thread and then with thread
- How to take measurements

Example: a simple blouse (dress top)

- Division of measurements
- Basic master pattern (simple blouse without sleeve)
- Some technical vocabulary
- Difference between collar and neckline
- Difference between sleeve and armhole
- Drawing a basic pattern
- Cutting and sewing a dress without clips and with clips
- Basic outline of a straight skirt and Trapeze skirt
- Dress with clip and cut-out waist with baby collar
- Cutting and sewing of a Kaba (Traditional gown)
- Cutting & sewing of a blouse collar & puffed sleeves
- Cutting and sewing a leaf dress



BENEFICIAL HOLIDAYS



In order to make the most of our children's holidays, the Anglican Church of Cameroon offers sewing training to young girls at the GFS Skills Acquisition Center, located behind the telecommunication post office in Deido-Douala.

Price: 5.000f / month

Period: from 1st June 2022 to 26 August 2022

Contact us:

➤ 679 17 11 09

➤ 657 23 47 64

Email: gfsk@centercameroon@gmail.com



CONCLUSION

The hosting of the Project has been a journey of faith and challenges encountered have deepened our trust in God and has increased our faith as a team and GFS Cameroon as a whole. The testimonies from the students and smiles on their faces leave us more determined in our endeavours. We give glory to God thus far and we continue to request for your prayer and support.

Permit us at this point to make a humble request. The Center is in need of sewing manuals (Hand books) and we appeal to GFS members who can lay hands on some to support us with. It will be very much appreciated.

Thank you, GFS WORLDWIDE, we love you all. God bless & grow GFS more in Jesus' name. Amen

Submitted by Estelle Dibo , National President - GFS Cameroon
(On behalf of the management team)

GFS World Project in Cameroon *Contd.*

Details of donations (as of May 2022)

DATE	FROM	AMOUNT in CFA	AMOUNT in \$US (≈)
21/10/2021	GFS- USA	103.447	172.12
29/10/2021	GFS- USA	887.469	1476.74
27/01/2022	GFS- AUSTRALIA	1. 269.867	2.213.04
08/03/2022	GFS -AUSTRALIA	1. 257.052	2.091.72
08/03/2022	GFS -SRI LANKA	150.000	300
14/03/2022	GFS WORLD DAY OF PRAYER	739.001	1.242.718
11/05/2022	GFS -IRELAND	335.500	671
11/05/2022	GFS -AUSTRALIA	2.615.154	5.230.308
TOTAL		7. 357.490	13.397.646

Banking Details

Please make note of the banking details for the Cameroon World Project. All 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) 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)

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 - gfsdiocameroun@yahoo.com

Email: WORLD TREASURER - Nokwanda Benya nokwanda.benya@coega.co.za

UBC PLC
BONAMOUSSADI BRANCH
HEAD OFFICE opposite Immeuble Socar
Tel:00237
233 42 25 08
ubc@unionbankcameroon.com
ubcdouala@unionbankcameroon.com
www.unionbankcameroon.com
online.unionbankcameroon.com

RELEVÉ D'IDENTITÉ BANCAIRE/ ACCOUNT INFORMATION

ANGLICAN DIOCESE OF CAMEROON

Code swift/Swift Code	Code banque/Bank Code	Code guichet/ Branch Code	Numéro de compte /Account Number	Cle/RIB
UCMACMCX	10023	00101	01100016709	67

Intermediary Bank
US dollars
 Standard Chartered Bank
 New York – USA
 Swift Code: SCBLUS33
 Account Number: **3582026768001**

Euros
 Standard Chartered Bank
 Frankfurt AM Main DE- Germany
 Swift Code- SCBLDEFX
 Account Number: **018303503**
 IBAN: **DE81512305000018303503**

"Saturday Symposiums"

With our desire to still communicate with members as our face-to-face meetings are less frequent, we have been continuing to host our "Saturday Symposiums" – our Zoom get togethers around a particular theme. We had a gathering on Saturday, 30th April with the theme of "mothers" since Mother's Day was due on Sunday, 8th May.

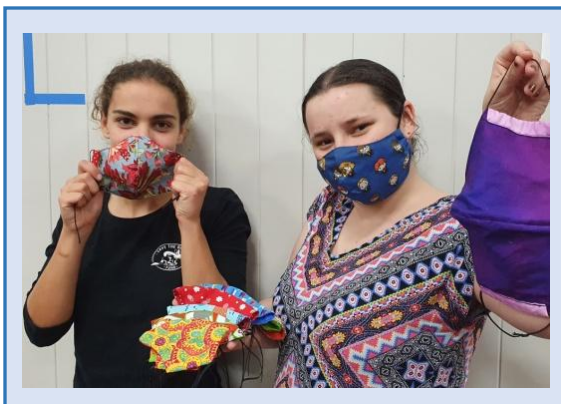
We invited our participants to share a special object, one given to them by a mother or a mother figure – a significant female who has mentored them over the years. A GFS leader often came to mind as someone who had an overwhelming input into the lives of our members. We saw painted china, cups and saucers and charming treasures.

We were delighted to have with us our World President elect, Mrs. Jeanne Withanage who spoke about the place of mothers in Sri Lanka. Being at the heart of the home, there was no need for a special day. Generations of the one family usually lived together harmoniously. Jeanne recalled her own mother, a woman of elegance and style who was active in the early days of GFS. Jeanne shared her own long treasured teddy bear, Kingsley - given to her as a GFS bear at her birth.

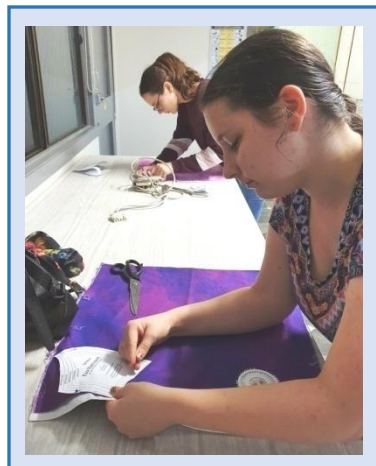
Our breakout groups spent time to understand more about a specific woman of the Bible – Salome, Tabitha and widow of Zarephath. It was a fruitful time to understand their contribution and their lessons for today.

"Soap for Hope"

The highlight of our day was to launch our latest project – "Soap for Hope", a mini project designed to raise funds for PNG folk to purchase soap and use to wash their hands frequently. We know that these small steps can have a significant outcome for reducing the spread of COVID. A pattern for a soap holder is to be crafted and will be sent off, as well as masks making materials.



Girls at a Brisbane branch learning to sew masks for PNG



GFS Cameroon

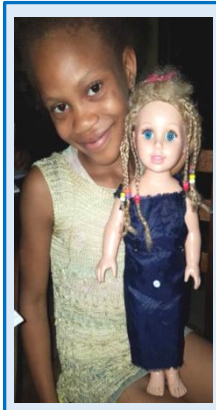
We continue to enjoy God's protection, blessings and strength in our activities at Diocesan, Archdeaconry and Parishes. God is so faithful.

During the period under review, some highlights.

- The World Project hosted by GFS-Cameroon has brought the Society to the limelight across the Diocese and within our communities. Many are now more aware about GFS especially with its international flavour and also feel its impact on the life of the girls.
- The Diocesan Conference is coming up in July and preparatory meetings have been ongoing for proper planning and its success. As part of sensitization and awareness for the Conference, Pre-conference Zoom meeting are been organized for the branch presidents, coordinators and members.
- Archdeacons, Parishes and Outstations continue to carry out activities based on our seven pillars (*Worship, Prayer, and Study, Recreation, and Leadership empowerment, Teaching, Discipline and Personal Development*) during camps, retreats, conferences etc. Highpoints of these programs are; Bible studies, cookery, bakery, sports, praise and worship nights, skill acquisition, talks, etiquette etc. It is all fun and the girls are devoted to the organisation because of its great impact and transformation in their lives.
- Admission Services of new members are ongoing during the Episcopal visits of the Bishop to Parishes across the Diocese.

Chisom Muoka, 9 years
(All Saints Branch)

GFS members acquiring skills on needle work and sewing during workshop



A beautiful dress for her doll, made by our little angel - GFS member, Miss Chisom Muoka, following their sewing lesson. What a wonderful result. This has earned her a scholarship at the GFS training Center to develop this talent.

Well done to the coordinator for her passion and dedication to develop skills in the girls.

Proudly GFS !



- We commend our branch presidents and coordinator for devoting themselves to the organisation through their enormous work. We have registered a lot of willingness and availability to coordinate fellowship and we are also making efforts to encourage good working relationship among all workers.

We immensely appreciate you all for your prayers and support to us. May the grace of God continue to enable the GFS family worldwide to advance God's Kingdom. God bless you all.

Estelle Dibo
President - GFS Cameroon

After a successful International Women's Day fundraiser, we have shifted gears back to group openings and learning opportunities.

We took our National Training Week for volunteers online, making it safer and easier for everyone to join in. The training session on girls' mental health was the most attended, showing our volunteers' growing wish to understand the girls and their needs.

Mental health understanding for girls is increasingly needed. In fact, both national and international studies show that girls' mental health has been disproportionately affected in the Pandemic.

With this in mind, we are feeling extremely proud of our volunteers' proactive attitude towards supporting the girls in their groups.

To evidence our work, we have published our 2021 Annual Impact Report, in which we touch on the impact of the Pandemic on girls, what we have done to support girls, what they had to say about it, and what we see for our future.



We have also begun offering Gender Equality Workshops for external businesses and organisations, in the hope that we can create a more equal world for girls everywhere.

Now that groups are steadily opening and re-opening, we are also starting to look more at 'cluster' areas. At the start of May, two of our groups from different sides of London came together to take a trip to a software company for International Girls on ICT Day.

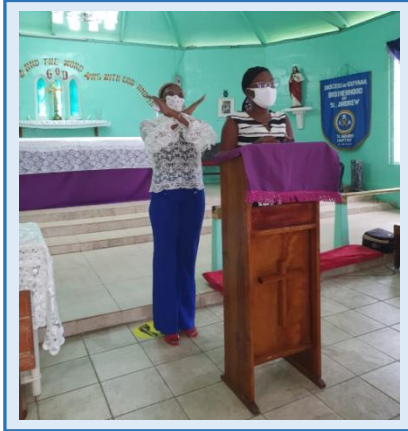
As you know, girls are discouraged from STEM fields, making this fun and educational trip for this cluster all the more important and empowering. Moving forward, we will be looking at better developing cluster areas, helping girls meet more people and have even more experiences together.

Heading into summer, we are getting ready for our final major Awareness Day of the school year – Windrush Day. Wrapping up the month of May, we are getting ready to welcome GFS World President, Thembeke.

Linsey McFadden

Marketing and Communications Coordinator,
GFS England and Wales

GFS Guyana



GFS Guyana continues to shine in this part of God's vineyard, though we are still working with relatively small numbers we continue to persevere. Now that Covid-19 infection numbers are down significantly, we are expecting our membership outreach will be successful.

International Women's Day was celebrated throughout our Diocese by giving talks about the achievements women continue to make in society.

On the 16 March our Diocesan Chaplain for GFS - Deacon Wendella Roberts was ordained to the priesthood. Congratulations to her. Congratulations also to our Diocesan Youth Director who was also ordained as a Deacon - Raymond Cummings Jr. on the 16 April.



Mothers' Day in our Diocese was another day that got great recognition by our GFS members as we made selfie frames and had our Mothers' photos taken.

During the months of July-August we will be hosting Tea Parties throughout the Diocese to garner members and raise funds to attend the world conference.

We continue to give God thanks for His blessings upon our society.

"Rejoice always, PRAY continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

Trinette Cosbert

President - GFS Guyana

Introduction of the new president from Tanzania!

We held our triennial General Assembly in February 2022. Due to the impact of COVID-19, the assembly was held through Zoom.

We decided on the branch in Hokkaido as the next Headquarters of GFS Japan. Grace Haruko Amemiya has been appointed as the new President. She is a member of Japan Overseas Christian Medical Cooperative Service(JOCS) and is currently involved in its project in Tabora, Tanzania serving as a midwife. The purpose of the project is to improve maternal care and child health in Tanzania.

Because of her current duty, she will stay in Tanzania and manage the tasks as the President until April 2023. We are happy to get the benefit of the improvement of the remote meeting technology!

We will pray for God's blessings and love that keep us continuing our mission in Japan which has been successful for a hundred years.



A screenshot from the General Assembly via ZOOM.

New President Haruko (Upper Left corner), Previous President Nami (right of Haruko)

A Headquarters Bishop and A National Chaplain assigned from post GFS Japan's leaders

The Rt Rev'd. Maria-Grace TazuSasamori is now our Headquarters Bishop and Rev. Helen Yuko Kimura is our National Chaplain.

They have been GFS Japan's members and were leaders and now became our chief ministers!

Tazu, who is to be the first female bishop in East Asia, was consecrated and installed as the Bishop of the Hokkaido Diocese on April 23, 2022.

We praise our God and are thrilled to share this wonderful moment with you all.

Peace and love to you all.

Grace Haruko Amemiya
President - GFS Japan



GFS chief staff members with the newly consecrated bishop Maria-Grace TazuSasamori

GFS Kenya

Receive Calvary greetings from GFS Kenya in Jesus' name ! It is my sincere hope that you are all safe. We thank God for safety and protection here in Kenya.

I want to thank God for the GFS ministry and the way it's teachings have positively impacted the lives of our girls. As members of Mothers Union and GFS mentors, we have intentionally resolved to support both the boy and girl child so that they are all empowered.

In April this year our Bishop enrolled 285 girls into the GFS and 287 boys into the Boys Brigade respectively. To us that is tremendous growth and progress.

We were also privileged to host a three days conference for both GFS and boys brigade. We had 373 boys and girls in attendance. The theme for the conference was "Jesus our anchor...". We had facilitators tackle different topics such as first aid skills, drug & substance abuse, pursuing sexual purity and life skills. Children had an opportunity to learn, interact with one another and even make new friends.

Similar trainings also go on in the local churches on Saturdays afternoons where boys and girls gather together for devotions and other lessons. GFS ministry has also spread its wings all over the country and we believe it will bear much fruit.



To my fellow Presidents, this is my encouragement to you as you serve, "Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain."

Let's keep up the good work for the glory of God.

Phoebe A. Maina
President - GFS Kenya

GFS Liberia

GFS Liberia congratulates Miss Joan Eliza Christensen who graduated with a BSc in Social Work, minor in Family Studies, Institutional Honors: Summa Cum Laude from the Weber State (WSU, USA) on April 22, 2022 and Miss Quinnetta Blessing Clement, the current National Secretary. She graduated on May 12, 2022 with a Masters in Environmental Science and Technology from the IHE Delft Institute for Water Education, Netherlands.

We are proud of them and wish them God's divine favor as they progress to another level in their educational sojourn and in life.



On Saturday, May 14, GFS Liberia held an all-day workshop in two different localities. 55 and 37 GFSers attended the workshops, making the total 92. The workshop included devotion, learning to make minor craft, breakfast and lunch



We extend thanks to GFS World Council through our World President, Madam Thembeke Pama for sending written words of condolences to GFS Liberia during the passing of the husband of our National President, Madam Sawyer and our 2nd National Vice President, Patricia Cole Adadevoh. May their souls rest in peace.

We participated in the Consecration service of our Bishop Coadjutor, The Rt. Revd. Dr. James B. Sellee, husband of one of the GFS Diocesan Advisers, Mot. Korlah S. Sellee.

We like to thank parents of GFS members, Advisers and Sponsors for their support. We remain grateful to God.



Georgiana Tucker Williams
Coordinator & Adviser
on behalf of GFS Liberia

GFS Melanesia

GFS Melanesia represents GFS ministry in the Republic of Vanuatu and Solomon Islands. GFS Melanesia was affected by global Covid-19 pandemic over the last couple of months.

However, with both countries slowly recovering from the pandemic, a new GFS Melanesia Coordinator, Mrs Minnie Kiriau, was finally appointed in March 2022.



*Committee
- GFS Melanesia*

The GFS Melanesia Committee has been able to meet twice since then. One of the priority tasks to be undertaken is the finalisation of the GFS Melanesia Constitution. A draft document has gone past the General Synod of the Anglican Church of Melanesia (ACOM) as well as ACOM Mothers Union General Conference.

Mrs Kiriau has been able to get in touch with some of the GFS ministry leaders in various Dioceses of ACOM and is pleased to note the strong and growing interest in GFS in the two countries despite difficult circumstances.

It has been identified that some of the GFS ministries in the Dioceses will need refresher leaders training and support for awareness noting the strong interest in GFS ministry to assist girls and young women. Plans and developments are underway as to how we can assist the GFS ministries grow and develop further.



*Girls of St Barnabas Cathedral GFS
Branch learn how to make doormats
This was in Honiara, Solomon Islands*



*GFS branch girls and women at Port Vila,
Vanuatu following their admission
prayer service*

Mrs Kiriau said that during the next two months we should see some progress made on leadership training and awareness in one or two Dioceses of ACOM as well as the Constitution.

Please pray for GFS Melanesia as we embark on these plans to the glory of God.

Minnie Kiriau
Coordinator - GFS Melanesia

GFS New Zealand

Like the rest of the world we find Covid-19 is still amongst us and will be with us for some time. Restrictions have eased and it is possible for some students to attend University lectures in person while others attend online.

Last year 6 of our students successfully completed their tertiary education and graduated from University. Another has completed her scholarship with GFS and has started her PHD with a three year scholarship awarded from the university.

This year we continue to support 16 students with their University studies and later this year we will fund 4 high school students to attend Outward Bound. Outward Bound is an outdoor pursuits centre where the participants learn through various activities to understand their full potential by challenging themselves physically, mentally and emotionally. The students are chosen by their teachers and an Outward Bound representative.

At the end of the programme we have the opportunity to meet the girls and the programme leaders. The students will return to their schools to share what they have learned and be of service to others.

Our university year began with some of our students contracting Covid-19 and many not enjoying the lectures online. However, our students have started the year well and GFS Council members have met with them to offer advice if needed.

One student set up a small tutoring business to help her class colleagues and is keen to make the most of every opportunity. She hopes to be involved with Wellington Plus at Victoria University this year which will provide leadership development opportunities and project work in the community. She is extremely grateful for the financial support she gets from GFS and will go far with her combination of academic excellence, drive, and wonderful people skills.

The students also communicate by email as at times it is not possible to meet for a face to face meeting, coffee and a chat.

God Bless !

Helen Allen
President - GFS New Zealand

GFS & BFS South Africa

Warm greetings from GFS and BFS South Africa in the wonderful name of Jesus Christ !
Rejoice always. Pray continually. Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus (1 Thessalonians 5:16 -18).

Regardless of what GBFS South Africa has experienced in the past three months, these verses remind us to give thanks and proclaim victory in His Name.

South Africa has gone through a sad moment in the past three months. We sadly lost our GBFS - SA National Secretary and Gender Based Violence (GBV) Coordinator through a fatal car accident. It was very hard for us and still is, but we thank God for the meaningful service in her memory.

*GFS & BFS
National Secretary
RIP*



South Africa was hit hard by floods in April, especially one of the provinces KwaZulu Natal where we lost members and parents, people were left homeless, roads and bridges were washed away. Again, we are thankful to the Lord that Church buildings became shelters to the homeless, soup kitchens were organized for the victims.



Remains of a house during floods



One of the members lost in floods

There are still vivid traces of the incident and GFS & BFS members are planning to be part of the projects that are assisting the affected, immediately the schools close end June because it is our prayer and wish to live by the GFS Motto, carrying each other's burden (Gal 6:2).

Zanele Ntenetyana

President - GFS & BFS South Africa

Sri Lanka is in the throes of an unprecedented economic crisis and political unrest. Faced with a shortage of foreign exchange, the country is unable to pay for imports of staple food, fuel, medicine and other necessities. The acute shortage of fuel makes travel almost impossible and very expensive. Prices of food and basic items have risen sky high. Long hours of power cuts are imposed daily, day and night.

In such a situation, it is remarkable that the GFS has managed to continue its work, although in moderation. We thank God for His mercy. * Please pray for Sri Lanka *

Central region

- Growing the GFS : Introduction programme at All Saints' Church, Maskeliya
- Cake baking demonstration at St. John the Baptist Church, Watawala

Southern region

- GFS provides employment opportunities to 30 ladies thru' a Sewing Class conducted weekly at All Saints Church, Hambantota.

One sewing machine was purchased for the use of the teacher. Hopefully we can get more machines through sponsorships.

The students have already produced school uniforms, bags and soft toys



Sewing Class



Children & Youth Programme

- Proposed new branch : A programme for children and youth was conducted at Christ Church, Beverly to introduce the GFS.

Colombo (Capital City, Western region)

- GFS Hall - old roof tiles replaced by new, before 99th birthday
- Digital - *God's Creations* video clips are shared monthly with members via WhatsApp.

General

- Distribution of vegetable plants -

The govt. has warned citizens that a food crisis is imminent and encourages people to grow their own food.

The GFS is promoting the concept of home gardening and through a sponsorship is distributing vegetable plants to families.

Dry food rations were previously distributed in the regions.



Jeanne Withanage

President - GFS Sri Lanka

GFS USA

Spring in the USA found groups focusing on Easter, Mother's Day and Earth Day.

At St. Gabriel's Church in Long Island, New York, the girls made Easter cards and donated personal care items – bath towels, wash cloths, body wash, body lotion, underwear and laundry bags for two hundred women at a Women's shelter.



At the African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, the girls planted trees in their neighborhood and learned about the effects of climate change.



GFS Earth Day

As our branch meetings come to a close in June, the members and leaders of GFS USA will gather for our National Assembly in Boston, Massachusetts from July 31 – August 7, 2022.

It will be a week of fun and fellowship as we elect new officers and make plans for the next three years!

Lois Frankforter
President - GFS USA

GFS Zambia

Mrs Thelma Nkolomba Gfs National President officiated at an Enrollment with at least 22 New members in the Northern part of Zambia, Kitwe on the 8th May 2022



New branches are yet to be officially opened in Northern Zambia end of June.
Chingola Cililabombwe Kalulushi Mufulira



This is the worshipping shelter that the Yapite Community use as a church.

The Lusaka GFS members were moved by this sight and contributed some cash to go towards purchase of cement to assist the community to start building a church.

the church has been built what remains now is the roofing. The challenge we face is that we now have to raise funds to assist the community to complete the church.

What a wonderful organization to belong to!

Members are reaching out to far off places in rural areas and serving through the GFS.

This is the work of GFS Zambia.

Prepared by : Salome Sandwe

Thelma Mwansa Nkholomba
President - GFS Zambia

WORLD WEB PAGE

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

(Canon) Val Gribble

GFS World Vice-President and Webmaster

"SOAP for HOPE" - A NEW GFS AUSTRALIA / PNG PROJECT

After consultations with Australian medical personnel who work in PNG and with PNG GFS leaders, Australia has helped prepare a new 6 months project for PNG GFS called SOAP for HOPE GFS.

Members in Australia are raising money to purchase soap in PNG and to purchase material for masks to be made in PNG. There is a crochet pattern for a soap holder, as well as using old stockings for holding soap. Some masks and soap holders are being made in Australia.

The aim of the program is to encourage hand washing and hygiene and to wear a mask as is required in PNG. Very few people adopt this instruction.

Val Gribble is visiting PNG at the end of June and will introduce the program to the 3 diocesan presidents who are being funded by Australia to meet together in Port Moresby. GFS members will be able to make the holders and where sewing machines are available, make masks.



Please pray for this program as COVID continues to be a major health problem in PNG.

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 : **Aug. 31, 2022.**

For the next quarter (June – August)

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

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

*Note: If your article is very short, much less than 300 words,
it is possible to use more than 2 pictures*

