



GFS World President's Message

Dear GFS members and friends around the world

We are in the Season of **Creation**. Each year from September 1 to October 4, the Christian family unites for this worldwide celebration of prayer and action to protect our common home. This year, the theme for the season is **Listen to the Voice of Creation**. There is a guide that will help you learn about the Season and plan to celebrate it. More resources, including webinars and prayer services, a Facebook page and photos are available online. Please visit *SeasonOfCreation.org* to access all the materials.

The Season of Creation is the time of year when the world's 2.2 billion Christians are invited to pray and care for creation. It runs annually from September 1 through October 4. The Season of Creation is a liturgical season of prayer and action that unites the global Christian family around one shared purpose - celebrate prayer services and engage in a variety of actions to care for creation. (Taken from this year's Season of Creation : The Burning Bush Booklet).

I want to take this opportunity to invite the worldwide GFS to plug into this international initiative to preserve our natural ecosystems, climate justice and endeavours to mitigate effects of climate change : extreme weather patterns, rising sea levels, flash floods and uncontrollable wildfires. This is a wake-up call to all of us to engage to protect our common home. The following are actions that have been suggested to be undertaken:

1. Listen to one another's stories on impact of climate change in our respective areas.
2. Reflect : Prayer vigils, walks, service focused on sustainability of creation.
3. Act : Invite a speaker, social media campaigns, examine your own behaviour, including developing habits of recycling and sustainability actions.

Our prayers are with the British Royal family and the people of the British isles during this transition period.

We also pray for the GFS World Day of Prayer services worldwide on 29 September as a part of celebrating St. Michael and All Angels' defeat of the dragon, the devil.

Thembecka Pama

World Executive Team

President:

Ms Thembecka Pama

Vice President:

Lay Canon Val Gribble ML

Treasurer:

Ms Nokwanda Benya

Secretaries:

Ms Lois Frankforter
(Immediate Past 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](https://www.facebook.com/GFSWorldwide)

GFS World Project :

Skills Acquisition for Disadvantaged Girls

GFS World Project in Cameroon

INTRODUCTION

We send love and gratitude to GFS worldwide for your prayers, words of encouragement and generous gifts towards this Project. We are grateful to God for moving with us thus far in the Project. It has been an amazing journey of devotion, willpower and passion.

GFS VISIBILITY

The Center remains a flag for GFS as an organisation and many are attracted now to the organisation.



CLASSES / ENROLMENT

The Center runs morning sessions from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm and evening sessions from 4:00 to 8:00 pm. Evening sessions were introduced to give an opportunity due to the cosmopolitan nature of the Project location, where city dealers are engaged in diverse activities during the day and may only be available in the evenings. Both sessions are going well. The Center currently has ten students.

The holiday classes were successfully carried out for three months and all the girls who attended were amazed at what they have been trained to do within the short period.

DONATIONS

We thank GFS Worldwide for their donations towards making this Project a reality. During the period under review, we received a donation of FCFA 1,636.720 from GFS-USA. A detailed list of previous donations can be found in the June Newsletter.

AWARENESS CAMPAIGN

The Center continues to carry out sensitization and awareness outings to give publicity to the Center and its activities. The students through their transformation and success stories publicize the activities of the Center in their communities.



GFS World Project in Cameroon *Contd.*



PRODUCTION / MARKETING

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

The Center will soon be going into the production of priestly and altar vestments like chasubles, cassocks, stoles, clerical shirts, altar linen etc.

As the world support draws close to an end by the World Council 2023, the management is seriously thinking about a sustainability plan for its continuation and expansion. God be our helper!

CHALLENGES

The challenges we encounter in the work are with the students who come and have no material to work with. Sewing is much more practical than theoretical and when the student has no material, the student lags behind.

Another challenge is the fact that we recruit as we go along. We cannot stick to a set program; we evolve as students come in. They do not evolve to the same level.



"The amazing work of their hands"



SEMESTER BREAK (TEACHERS & STUDENTS)

Semester break - from 26 August to 12 September 2022. This marks the end of the first semester.

NEED

Bilingual sewing manual (French and English).

CONCLUSION

Many thanks to GFS Worldwide, Diocesan and individual support and encouragement. We continue to request your constant prayers and support. May God bless and keep you all.

Submitted by

Dibo Elango Estelle Bedie

National President - GFS Cameroon

(On behalf of the management team)

GFS World Project in Cameroon *Contd.*

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)

UBC PLC
BONAMOISSADI 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**

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

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

Canon Val Gribble - GFS World Vice President

GFS Australia

GFS News from around the World!

We continue to be blessed and give back to our communities in our varied ministries across Australia. Some Australian groups are celebrating many years of service. I will have the joy of joining with two of our Dioceses - Melbourne and Brisbane, both celebrating 140 years of continuous ministries to children, their parents and adults. Each Diocese has a branch celebrating a milestone - 60 years and 30 years.

GFS Australia is seeking ways of offering GFS children's groups with new models of ministry that are suitable for our busy society. These have been shared in the Zoom Saturday Symposiums to encourage Leaders to start groups. GFS leaders can offer GFS groups after church on Sunday, on Zoom or in a school; we do not need only weekly meetings as there are many models to adopt.

Project updates :

Soap for Hope has been generously supported with Lay Canon Mrs. Val Gribble, World Vice-President flying up to Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, with her suitcase full of soap bags and masks. Cash donations have been passed onto the three Dioceses in PNG so they can buy soap. In these ways we can show God's love to others through GFS.



Val Murcutt sorting second hand clothing brought along by parishioners and the girls at GFS destined for the Remote Op Shops project.



Elizabeth Petering, leader at St Alfred's Blackburn with trolley loads of parcels ready to be posted to remote locations with Opportunity shops.

The funds will go to local community projects.



Kathleen Brecknall (centre) sharing a celebratory cake with her branch at Bundaberg, Queensland. She celebrated the milestone of 30 years as a leader with this group!

Remote Op Shops have received many large postal bags from GFS members of clothes, baby supplies, linen and other essential household items.

These communities are up to 8 hours drive away from a local 'town', so good quality clothes and linen are greatly appreciated. This project enables us to assist our indigenous peoples to have better clothes and reduce our waste!

GFS Australia looks forward to our in-person gathering at our AGM from Jan 6 - 8, 2023.

Two more Zoom Saturday Symposiums are planned for 2022.

We look forward to the GFS World Council in August 2023.

Congratulations to GFS Cameroon on the progress of their World Project and welcome GFS new members.

Suzanne Clair
President - GFS Australia

GFS Cameroon

Our activities have been successful at Diocesan, Archdeaconry and Parish level.

Highlights :

- Vacation trainings, seminars and workshop - the lives of girls are transformed with encouraging testimonies and feedback from parents and guidance.
- Branches in crises zones (Anglophone areas) have not given up their faith but remain resilient for Christ and GFS in constantly carrying out sensitization activities in a bid to educate the girls on how to keep themselves holy in the midst of the crises especially avoiding activities that can lead them to unwanted pregnancy. A seminar/workshop was organized to stir up their full potentials irrespective of environmental challenges. Back to school materials was distributed to them to promote an academic mind-set.
- Diocesan Conference with girls from all parishes and outstation branches was held from June 29 - July 3 at New Covenant Parish Douala under the theme “Ignite your talent”. It was a remarkable event with an amazing attendance.



The Timetable was packed with activities such as Bible studies, health talk, cookery lessons, table etiquettes & setting, prayer and deliverance session, workshop, cultural night, quiz competition, an unforgettable excursion experience and many more. The girls showcased their talents in sewing, handcrafts, tie & dye etc.

- A leadership training for Branch Presidents and Coordinators aimed at building their capacity to enhance performance was held. It was a profitable time of discovery of new things about the society and its operation worldwide, learning and fellowshiping together. Challenges confronted in branches were shared and addressed to encourage promoting team spirit and unity in service.
- We commend our branch presidents and coordinator for devoting themselves to the organization through their enormous work. We have experienced a great deal 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

GFS Democratic Republic of the Congo



Retreat
July 31 – Aug 1



Ursule Tshama Mbuyi
President - DR of Congo

GFS Guyana



President - GFS Guyana

Unfortunately, Guyana reported its first case of Monkey Pox on the 22nd August 2022. We pray for God's healing mercies to protect us.



The Girls' Friendly Society Guyana greets the worldwide family in the name of our Saviour Jesus Christ.

As reported in our previous newsletter we were able to have our Tea parties.

Although many challenges confronted us, the parties were successful. Parishioners' support was lacking, but we appreciated all others who supported us. Thank you.



Tea parties



GFS Guyana looks forward to celebrating World Day of Prayer.

We ask that you please keep our Diocese in your prayers as we continue to pray for all our G.F.S. members worldwide.

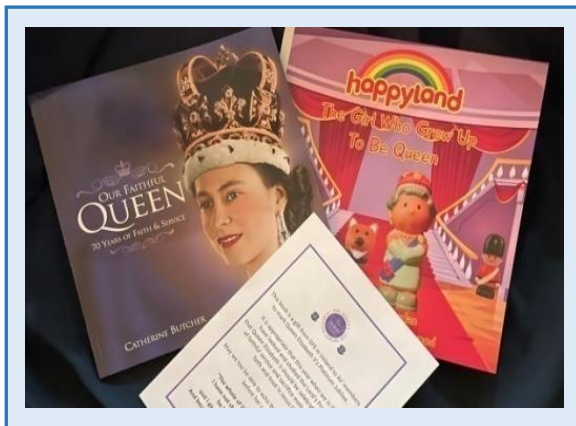
Trinette Cosbert
President - GFS Guyana

GFS Ireland

Greetings to GFS Worldwide

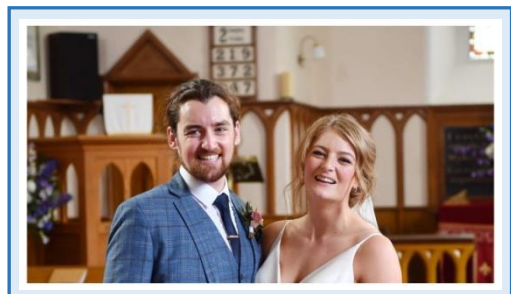
The summer has given us all a chance to relax, refresh and reenergise in readiness for our new season in GFS with many branches holding day trips and activities, now that we are able to meet more freely again.

In the past year, GFS Ireland focused on the Lord's Prayer and God's faithfulness to us. How appropriate then that the Platinum Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II was celebrated in June. Within GFS we give thanks to God for the Queen's faithful service and sacrifice motivated by her faith and trust in Jesus Christ. Our members in NI were given a copy of a book to celebrate this milestone appropriate to their age group.



We are getting ready for our new season in GFS with Diocesan Training Events organised and being held and holding trainings in person and online.

We look forward to working with Tear Fund again as we continue to develop our Climate Justice Advocacy Programme. This has been a blessing to us as our members have had the opportunity to link directly with GFS members in various countries. Our theme for the year ahead is 'God's love for us'.



We wish Alison Bailey (Junior Delegate for Ireland) our good wishes on her marriage to Conor and wish them both a long and happy life together.

May we too be able to echo this prayer of Queen Elizabeth II before her coronation :

“The whole of life is a journey to God.....
I have not chosen this office for myself;
He has appointed me to it,
And I go to be consecrated to it by Him....
And because He leads, I may follow in complete trust.”

Queen Elizabeth II has died since this article was written. We thank God for her life and living faith in Him.

Alison Jackson

President - GFS Ireland

GFS Japan

Activities

Japan GFS Division : Osaka and Kobe

We had an opportunity to have a GFS booth at the General Meeting of the Japan Anglican Women's Association in June in Osaka. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we have faced difficult situations and have not been able to hold charity bazaars for a few years. So this time many people came to visit our booth. It meant a lot for us to have this opportunity



People holding handmade items of GFS Division

As life "with COVID-19" continues, our members have been assigned different roles and they make accessories, pouches, cross bookmarks and engage in other work that makes "mask life" a little more enjoyable.

Though it is limited to Japan, we would like to use apps to sell handmade items and we, as creators, also would like others to enjoy our work.

GFS Summer Camp

We went camping with children at sea in Hokkaido, with 45 participants, for the first time in three years. After having prayers for Ukraine, Lambeth, JOCS and GFS, we enjoyed playing.

We spent a pleasant time and are grateful that our God watches over us.



Boys and Girls playing happily in the sea



The Lambeth Conference

Bishop Maria Grace TazuSasamori, our GFS Japan Headquarters Bishop, attended the Lambeth conference. It was a great pleasure for Japan GFS.

The Rt. Rev. Sasamori (third from right) and participating bishops from Japan.

Grace Haruko Amemiya
President - GFS Japan

GFS Papua New Guinea

In July 2022, with financial assistance from GFS Australia, three of our GFS Dioceses representatives from Port Moresby, Popondota and New Guinea Islands met GFS Deputy World President and Melanesian Consultant Canon Val Gribble in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea.

A successful three days training and discussions were held and an agreement on a Provincial Structure to pave the way for GFS PNG was reached.



3 Diocesan Reps meeting with Canon Val Gribble in POM : Popondetta/Viviane, NGI/Mother Estella, POM/Girika



Viviane from Popondota Diocese visited the Paediatric ward at the local hospital to distribute baby wraps, also gifts from friends in Rockhampton Diocese

GFS PNG acknowledges receipt of GFS Australia's donations in cash and in kind, such as soap holders, some crocheted, leggings and masks plus Days for Girls kits, the latter made by friends in Rockhampton.

Since then GFS Australia has distributed funds for soap according to the membership in each diocese.

A big thank you to Phil Gribble for the use of his office space as our meeting venue and the overwhelming support of his wife.

Commencing 1st October 2022, the management of GFS PNG will rotate from Diocese to Diocese on a three year term. Port Moresby will be the first followed by Popondota and then New Guinea Islands. It is exciting that MU in Aipo Rongo Diocese has asked for information to commence a branch there. We have four Dioceses in PNG.

Mother Estella Tawasu is the leader of the new branch in the Diocese of NGI and we warmly welcome her into our GFS family. She has a small branch but membership is growing.

Estella is from Melanesia (*Solomon Islands*) and was a GFS member there before moving to Kokopo with her husband Fr. Francis to look after the Anglican Parish there.



*NGI Diocese : Kokopo branch
Mother Estella Tawasu with her GFS members*

Girika R. Sanata

President - GFS Papua New Guinea

GFS Sri Lanka

June - August 2022

Sri Lanka continues to experience an unprecedented economic crisis with high inflation, shortage of foreign exchange, rising commodity prices and power shortages and is unable to afford key imports like food items, fuel, fertilizer and medicine.

Impending food shortage

Solution : **Home Gardening**

The government advised people to cultivate vegetables in their home gardens.

The GFS promoted the concept of growing one's own vegetables

❖ World Environment Day

- The *Pink Pearls* planted vegetables in the GFS premises
- GFS branches in Maskeliya, Bogawantalawa and Pundalu Oya planted trees & vegetables

❖ Through sponsorship received from a Christian organization -

- presented 200 chicks, 500 vegetable plants, vegetable seeds and wire mesh to the Nuffield School for the Deaf & Blind, run by the Anglican Church in Jaffna, Northern Province
- distributed vegetable plants to 130 families in Gorakapitiya, a village in the outskirts of Colombo, Western Province
- distributed vegetable plants to families in Colombo



Community Project

GFS purchases fresh, home grown vegetables in the central hills and offers them to the Colombo housewife at reasonable price.

Growing the GFS

Teams from GFS Headquarters, Colombo visited Galle, Hambantota, Maskeliya & Kotagala Branches to assist and encourage members .

New Branch - Baddegama

Maskeliya - Provided assistance to a parishioner affected by floods
Held an Awareness Programme for Sunday School children

Galle area - 20 Bibles were gifted to confirmation candidates

Hambantota - The Sewing Class ended

Pink Pearls - made bookmarks for confirmation candidates and Birthday cards for members

Video clips *God's Creation* - shared monthly with members via WhatsApp

WDP 2022 - Our GFS was honoured to prepare the Order of Service

Our thanks - To GFS USA for inviting the President to attend their National Assembly

Jeanne Withanage

President - GFS Sri Lanka

GFS USA

Looking back on GFS USA's 64th National Assembly in Boston, Massachusetts, it is safe to say we all had so much fun and learned a lot. We started the week with a Red Sox baseball game at Fenway Park, which is the oldest active Major League Baseball stadium in America! Our week continued with a tour of the Cotton Mills in Lowell, Massachusetts, where our original United States sisters got their start.



Of course, with all this play we had to do work, so we had our business sessions to discuss by-laws, recap the three years we had spent apart and elect a new national board.

We also had time to explore the beautiful city of Boston and were lucky enough to take a Duck Boat tour (some of our girls and leaders even got to drive the boat!). There was also lots of free time for individuals to sightsee in their own time. Our girls explored the aquarium, the harbor, downtown Boston and even the restaurant from Cheers!



We also had an opening and closing ceremony, both beautifully written by Delores Alleyne. At our opening ceremony, we learnt the history of the windows at the church, one of which was specifically dedicated to our organization. The week ended with a lovely banquet that included food, laughter and lots of dancing.

It was beautiful to see our GFS sisters reconnecting, especially after the hardships that COVID-19 brought. The United States GFS sisters would also like to express gratitude and love to Thembeke and Jeanne, who traveled from South Africa and Sri Lanka to be at our National Assembly for the week.

We are so thankful for all the hard work and dedication our girls continuously show and we cannot wait to see where our new leadership team takes us!

Cat Sopko
Director of Marketing and Mission - GFS USA

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 up to date.

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. 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 of our 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. Please send them to me at :

valgribble1@bigpond.com

(Canon) Val Gribble

GFS World Vice-President and Webmaster

GFS World Day of Prayer

September 29, 2022

We thank God for GFS countries and their branches
and for all the work carried out around the world in His name.
This year, the Order of Service was prepared by GFS Sri Lanka.

Angola, Australia, Cameroon, Canada, DR Congo,
England, Eswatini, Ghana, Guyana, Honduras,
Ireland, Japan, Sierra Leone, Kenya, Korea, Liberia,
Malawi, Melanesia, Mozambique, New Zealand,
The Philippines, Diocese of Popondota, Rwanda,
South Africa, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Tanzania,
Uganda, USA, Wales, Zambia, Zimbabwe



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 : **Nov 30, 2022.**

for the next quarter (Sept - Nov)

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*

