

## GFS WORLD NEWSLETTER – SEPTEMBER 2021

### MOTTO

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

#### 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 Organiser:** Ms Bekiwe Gijana

**Youth Officer:** Ms Kundai Matikiti

**Incoming World President and World Newsletter Coordinator:** Ms Jeanne Withanage, President GFS Sri Lanka.

#### Contact details:

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##### Website:

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

**Facebook:** GFS Worldwide



### FROM THE WORLD PRESIDENT

**THEMBEKA  
PAMA**

**Thembeke Pama**

A Christian greeting to you all!

In this Newsletter, we are excited to share some of the highlights of our July virtual World Council - the first GFS World Council hosted online since the establishment of GFS in 1875.

The highlights range from the expansion of the World Executive through the addition of two new members and that of the GFS World country membership through the addition of six new member countries, to informative reports presented during the 3-day World Council.

The GFS World Presidency which has been in South Africa from 2017- 2020 has been extended to 2023 with Thembeke Pama from the diocese of Johannesburg remaining the GFS Worldwide President. Ms Lois Frankforter - the GFS National President of the United States of America, and Ms Jeanne Withanage - the GFS National President of Sri Lanka were appointed and had their appointments confirmed at the 16-18 July virtual World Council as new World Executive members joining the 2017-2023 World Executive.

The virtual GFS World Council 2021 was a resounding success. Country representation was



quite good. All member countries, with the exception of only 4 countries that experienced connectivity challenges, were represented.

Our thanks go to the archbishop Samuel Inosa of South Sudan who blessed the GFS World Council with opening prayers and a service in honour of GFS members and families who had succumbed to the COVID-19 pandemic.

GFS World Council business was discussed with positive outcomes. Reports from all branches around the World were given and were well received, including the report from the GFS Worldwide President. The latter can be accessed on the GFS World website.

Revd Canon Dr Rachel Mash, the Green Anglican Coordinator in the Anglican Church of Southern Africa, did a very informative and instructive presentation on Curbing Climate Change. GFS Worldwide is rolling out this program around the World.

Another feather in our cap during this period is the fact that Angola, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Malawi, South Sudan, Swaziland now called Eswatini and Zimbabwe were admitted as members of the GFS World Council.

Congratulations are due to GFS Cameroon for being awarded the GFS World Project 2021-2023 at the World Council. Well done, Cameroon!

Now, looking at unfolding possibilities - the GFS Worldwide President recently connected with the Mothers Union Worldwide President. Watch this space!

Again, our prayers are with all those that have been afflicted by the virus and we remember those that have departed.

Let us join hands in educating our communities about the need to get vaccinated. There are still people who do not want to be vaccinated while this pandemic is still killing the people of the World. Research tells us that the majority of people that we are losing are people who have not been vaccinated. Let us continue to keep ourselves safe by following COVID-19 protocols - washing our hands, sanitising and keeping social distance.

Thank you once again GFS World leadership and members for the good work that you are doing in all our branches for the betterment of our communities. May we all grow and develop in the love of God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

May the good Lord continue protecting us all in this difficult time. May He continue to bless the works of our hands.

My love to you all

**Thembeka Pama**

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**From the "Editor":**

It has been a joy to prepare the world newsletter over the past year. I took on the role to assist the then World Secretary with her high work load. Thank you for sending so many great articles which certainly highlight the ability of GFS members worldwide to continue ministry within the confines of COVID-19. There have been so many encouraging stories. Jeanne Withanage, the President of Sri Lanka GFS and the incoming World President will take over the editing of the newsletter for the next two years. Jeanne is a Journalist so I am sure you will see her professionalism in future newsletters.

**Val Gribble**

## OUR NEW WORLD PROJECT

### GFS SKILLS ACQUISITION FOR DISADVANTAGED YOUNG WOMEN IN CAMEROON

#### Where is Cameroon:



An African country on the south/west corner. There is one Anglican diocese which covers the whole of the country. Like many African countries going through economic crisis, leading to poverty and misery with the most vulnerable groups, girls and children. Unemployed errant girls and women keep increasing in number especially in the city of Douala, they live a miserable and unholy life: stealing, prostitution, unwanted pregnancy, crimes, etc. HIV/AIDS together with other sexually transmitted diseases and spreading and killing the younger generation especially girls.



GFS in Cameroon was introduced during a Mother's Union provincial meeting held in

Cameroon in September 1992 and joined the world council in 1993. GFS is mandatory to be in all parishes and outstations across the Diocese at the instruction of the Bishop.

#### The World Project:

GFS in Cameroon considered what it might be able to do for the vulnerable people in their communities.

The project's goal is ***Through a GFS world project, improve living standards of destitute girls and young women.***

#### The objectives are:

- ***To provide marketable skills to 50 destitute girls and young women***
- ***To provide moral and spiritual guidance to the participants***
- ***To reduce unemployment and increase family income by helping the trained group to find employment by the end of the project.***
- ***To skill girls in maintaining small businesses and to create jobs for jobless.***
- ***To assist members of the Anglican church of Cameroon to understand the ministry of GFS.***
- ***To promote GFS to the secular community, growing membership and sponsorship.***

**THE EXPECTED COST OF THIS PROJECT IS  
\$US23,000**

**See the banking details for your gifts at the  
end of this newsletter.**

## Remember Afghanistan

### A prayer for Afghanistan

For those who are  
fleeing: sanctuary

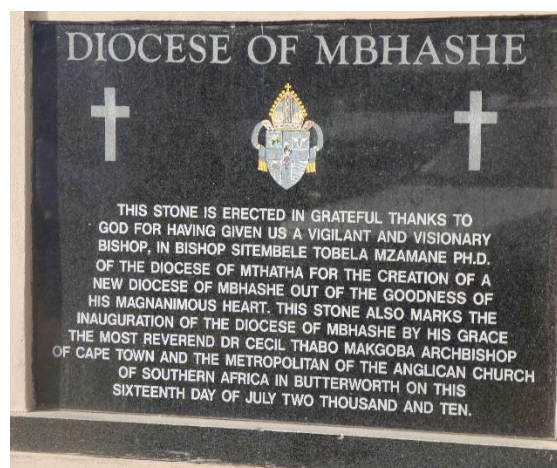
For those who are  
staying: safety

For those who are  
fighting: peace

For those whose hearts  
are breaking: comfort

For those who see no  
future: hope

*From Bishop Cam Venables, Diocese of Southern Queensland*



in keeping branches open during the apartheid era. Up to 1996 representatives at World Council were listed as representing Transkie. (There are many of us who will remember the world project – Chickens for Transkei). I first met Mrs Titus in New Zealand at the 1993 World Council where she was the sole representative for Transkie. We corresponded over the years and Mrs Titus was again the Senior Delegate (this time for South Africa) in 1999, which was held in South Africa. Since then she has stayed involved in GFS.

I was able to visit Mrs Titus in her home in 2016. What a joyous occasion it was and the photo on the left I took during that visit. I was greatly honoured with the montage of photos she gave me, a history of her involvement with GFS and our friendship. It has pride of place in my home. I well remember the wonderful view from her house over valleys and rondavels to the Drakensburg Mountains. The next day Mrs Titus came to the Eucharist in All Saints Cathedral, Engcobo, in her GFS uniform, and sat with me as both she and I were honoured.

## A TRIBUTE TO MRS NOMATHEMBA TITUS



It was with great sadness that I received a message from our World President to say that Mrs Titus (97 years old) had died after a lengthy illness. This gracious lady comes from the Diocese of Mbashe, once known as the Diocese of St John's and where so many of us had wonderful experiences at the 2009 World Council. It is interesting to read the history of GFS in South

Africa on the web site. Mrs Titus was very active



*Nobantu, Mrs Titus and Thembeke, 2016*

I thank God for the life of Mrs Titus, for her deep faith, her commitment to GFS over so many years and her friendship. May her soul rest in peace.

**Val Gribble, World Vice-President**

## NEWS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

### AUSTRALIA



I was able to participate in our Diocesan Service of Prayer and Lament for Afghanistan, in our beautiful Cathedral of St John's, Brisbane. We lit candles as a symbol of our prayer and support.

GFS Australia was delighted to join our first Zoom World Council in July 2021, we had many representatives to help us. Congratulations to World President Thembeke and her Executive for their amazing Leadership and inspiration despite the difficulties of the Covid world pandemic and technology. Also, a sincere "Thank you" to the African Bishops who attended and spoke so meaningfully. Especially, I thank Rt Rev'd Bishop Dintoe Letloanyane (South Africa) for his wonderful advice that GFS Australia needs not only more and younger members but also, we need to encourage new Leaders!

GFS Australia will observe the three aims for the World President's renewed Presidency. Spiritual Growth will be continued with our Symposium Saturdays on Zoom and posted on our website and Facebook page. All are most welcome to attend from our international family. Orange Day will be observed, on 27<sup>th</sup> November 2021 with a Guest Speaker. GFS Australia is also encouraging Dioceses to have an event to support Orange Day to help prevent violence to women and children. In addition, the effects of Climate Change is being considered and how we can counter-act these changes in Australia. GFS Australia will also work towards assisting Melanesia and Papua New Guinea.

GFS in Australia continues in many Dioceses with the wonderful and prayerful support of GFS Leaders. In GFS Bundaberg, Kathleen Brecknell continues to lead a group of young people, learning about Jesus with teaching, craft and games. In Townsville, Kids Link offers Christian teaching and appropriate craft for girls and boys. Sydney Diocese has many active groups in schools and churches. Melbourne has a group in the inner city with Helen Petering that engages young GFS Members. In Brisbane, there are two active groups

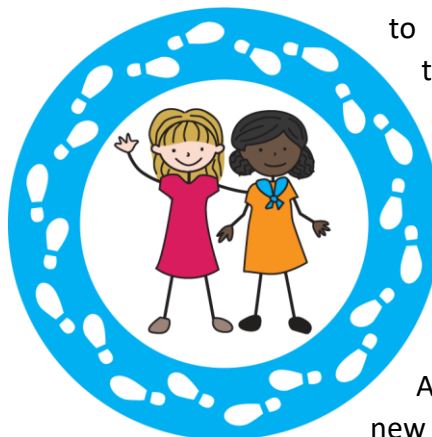
in St Mark's lead by Bronwyn Barber: a primary school group and a High school and Young Adult's group. Tasmania also has a children's group. GFS South Australia and GFS Rockhampton Dioceses adults meet and are considering their options for ministry. Others, in Ballarat and Brisbane knit and distribute rugs for the needy as well as toiletries for the homeless. We trust that GFS Australia can be inspired by the examples of our National and Inter-national groups and ministries. We are also inspired by the World Projects in Sri Lanka and Cameroon to spread the Word about Jesus Christ, help to meet the local needs and invite membership to our wonderful Society.

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## USA



Despite COVID restrictions, GFS-USA has been able to hold some meetings and activities this year. On the East Coast, the branch at the Church of the Holy Spirit in Pennsylvania (led by Amy Newman) has held a vibrant program of online meetings. On the West Coast in April, the Diocese of Los Angeles held a Spring Event outside. The theme was to appreciate the beauty of the earth. We painted, played some games to work on positive responses to negative events, and made small planters for our homes. In May, we celebrated our high school graduates. We are very excited to send them off



to university. Some of them have applied for the GFS-USA book scholarship which will help them pay for books at the university.

The Diocese of Los Angeles is launching a new program with modules focusing on justice issues such as animal welfare, literacy, disabilities and older adults. The issues are ones with which girls can empathize.



Each lesson includes a framework of ideas for understanding the issue better and providing both a charitable and a justice response to the issue. The lessons end with some ideas for digging deeper into the issue or just having some fun together. GFS-USA programs are built on four pillars - worship, study, service and recreation. The program is available for download here: <http://www.gfscalifornia.org>.

**Margaret Nolde, GFS California**



## IRELAND

Greetings from GFS in Ireland

GFS Ireland was delighted to be able to participate in the first GFS World Council from 16-18<sup>th</sup> July 2021. We thank God for the gift of technology which made this possible and allowed us all to connect and share the ministry of GFS together. World Council reminded us again of the joys, opportunities and challenges GFS members worldwide face and how in GFS we are helping to bear the burdens of each other.

In Ireland, we are putting in place our plans for the new season in GFS. This means that our programmes have to be adaptable and deliverable both 'in person' and 'remote' as the social distancing guidelines are relaxed and await to see if the venues where many of our branches meet will be open to allow us to meet again. We are delighted to continue working with Tear Fund and the COI Youth Department as we work through our response to Climate Change and how we have an important part to play in our communities. We are thankful for the tremendous work done by our leaders and helpers who volunteer so faithfully in our branches.

GFS in Ireland has been saddened by the death of Mrs Mary Hinchliff who had served as our GFS All Ireland President and Mrs Beth Mayes who served as a GFS World President and GFS All Ireland President. As we have reflected on these women of faith and dedication, we thank God for them and the many other women who have served and worked for and through GFS. We see the spheres of influence that they had for good and how we are benefitting from their work today. I remember going with my GFS branch as a young member to the International Day held at the 1981 World Council in Ireland. It was an amazing day when we met and spoke with GFS members from around the world. There was such a deep sense of joy and friendship that I have never forgotten the day and how it inspired me then and since in the ministry of GFS. Thank you to everyone in GFS worldwide who have

sent messages of sympathy and support to both Mary and Beth's families, we are passing these messages on to the families.

The challenge for us all now in GFS Ireland is how can we be inspired and in turn inspire others as we emerge from the lockdowns and restrictions of the Covid 19 pandemic to living with the ongoing changes that it has left in our day to day lives. We are seeking to replace the spirit of fear that has been so present in our communities with the spirit of hope, peace, passion, faith and goodness that comes from God. No doubt others will reap the good things that we sow now, just as we reap what others have sown in the past.

"For we live by faith and not by sight" Cor 5v7

Yours in Christ  
**Alison Jackson**  
**President, All Ireland**

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## SRI LANKA

GFS staff and members of the Executive Council continue to carry out business and programmes digitally, amidst travel restrictions, lockdown and other problems.

Expansion, development and nurturing of branches -

\* 7-day WhatsApp recycling challenge - Members made art and craft from polythene, plastic waste and scrap cloth, compost manure, organic plant tonic, snacks from leftover food and sent in photographs and videos. Prizes were awarded to



the best entries.

- \* Dry food distribution to low income families of parishes in the "upcountry" region - These daily wage earners, casual workers on tea plantations and small business owners were hard hit by the pandemic and were grateful to the GFS for assisting them at this difficult time

- \* Mobile data packages supplied to schoolchildren for their online studies - Many children are unable to follow online classes due to lack of internet facilities and cost of data. Some have to share devices

- \* Medical assistance provided to a family

- \* WhatsApp Videos - Weekly Bible Studies and "How to ..." videos continue. A special programme for Pentecost featuring members of different branches was shared on FB

- \* Zoom English Class - Sunday afternoon class for the Deniyaya branch in the Southern Province recommenced, but was closed again due to lockdown

Zoom Prayer Meetings - Held monthly.

Community Project *Women helping Women* - New items such as cushion covers and tablecloths are available, GFS garden produce too.

First virtual World Council - Congratulations to the World President and her Team for a really fine job! Our GFS participated in good numbers. The Senior Delegate was Roshan Perera, Vice President. The President presented the Country Report as well as the World Project Report "English for Employment Prospects" with a slide show.

GFS Hostel for working girls established in 1957 - Ongoing renovation



**Jeanne Withanage**  
**President - GFS Sri Lanka**

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## ZAMBIA

As GFS Zambia we have continued to open new branches to improve on our membership. We managed to open yet another branch at St Margaret's Anglican church Baluba Area Luanshya. Our family has grown.



Our girls from St James Anglican church in Kitwe ,Northern Diocese of Zambia talking about GBV in Church.



We appreciate, remember, honour and celebrate orange day on the 25th of every month .The campaign is against GBV - gender based violence .We have to say No to GBV.

Zambia Gfs witnessed and celebrated two Unions (Marriage) of our two hard working leaders ,



Liness Musonda from St Monica's Anglican church in Luanshya, Central Diocese of Zambia and Mutsa Malambo from Kaunda square, Anglican church, Lusaka Lusaka diocese. This is a blessing to the GFS famil

## KENYA



*Over 400 girls enrolled. Mombasa*

Greetings from GFS Kenya in Jesus name. It is my hope that the Lord has kept you safe under his arms despite the covid-19 pandemic. As a country, we bless the Lord for the breakthrough of having our girls enrolled this year. This is an event they had really looked forward to last year, but due to unavoidable circumstances, we had to postpone it. Girls between 5-17 years turned out in large numbers for the training sessions as they prepared for the enrolment. We give God all the glory and honour for seeing us through. Lots of activities have been going on in the Parishes since due to covid-19 protocols people are not allowed to congregate in large numbers. Let's continue praying for affected families especially members of the GFS. We love you and wish you God's Blessings.



**Phoebe Maina**  
**GFS President, Kenya**

## ENGLAND AND WALES

Since our last update, one key piece of work for GFS has been a full governance review. As a result, we are pleased to welcome many of our longest standing supporters to our Townsend Network, a new network that enables them to support the organisation and contribute to GFS' future planning.

We are also delighted to welcome a number of new trustees and committee members. We were blown away by the number and calibre of applications we received to the position, and can't wait to see how this diverse and inspiring group of women will help us to keep striving to be bigger and better for our girls and young women.

In a more general sense, the UK is tentatively returning to pre-pandemic life, with most restrictions removed and schools returning as normal in September. As the government loosens restrictions, GFS groups will return and we must continue to be sensitive to the varying needs and concerns of all of our girls and volunteers.

We have devised a new, needs-led growth plan to take us into the next phase of our work here. This plan outlines how we plan to reach as many of the most vulnerable girls in our region as we can and starts with the opening of new groups in Liverpool, Manchester, North London and Birmingham in November.

We are also beginning to introduce people to The GFS Girl, framework for the activities we run groups which aims to help girls achieve growth in six key areas that we believe will give them the foundations to face life's challenges. These six areas combine to make, what we call, **The GFS Girl**.

By the end of her time with us, we would like each girl to be able to say (to whatever degree is right for her):

- I can speak up about things that matter to me
- I am proud of who I am
- I try again if I have a setback

- I can try new or unfamiliar things
- I believe I can achieve my hopes and dreams
- I can enjoy friendships with all kinds of people

These statements will be the basis for submissions to a new creative anthology of girls' and young women's work that we plan to publish to celebrate International Day of the Girl 2021.

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## CAMEROON

We bring warm greetings from GFS Cameroon.

We give thanks to God for His unending love, faithfulness, protection, and favour upon GFS Cameroon. Despite the many challenges, the Gfs Cameroon has been pressing on and with increase faith to continuously carry out its mandate as a society.

During the period under review, we celebrated our Gfs week from the 28-04 July 2021. This week is allocated by the Diocesan which helps in showcasing the Society and its activities as well as engaging us in achieving our objectives.

We have also made use of the long holiday period in organising camps, workshops, and seminars at Parish and Archdeaconry level. There have also been admission of new members and opening of new branches during the bishop's episcopal visits to Parishes.

Most exciting is our participation in the Zoom Worldwide Council Meeting which was hosted by South Africa. It was a wonderful experience sharing with the World Gfs despite being miles away from each other. Gfs Cameroon was privileged to be awarded a project (Tailoring Centre for disadvantaged girls and young women). This in effect made Gfs Cameroon as the host of Gfs World Project for 2022-2023. We are so excited because the project is going to impact and change the lives of the underprivileged girls/ young women.

We request for your prayers and support that together we shall achieve the objectives of the project and seize the divine opportunity to help in training a girl child which is always of less priority in our African context.

May God bless the Gfs around the world and prosper the works of our hand for His glory and the benefit of mankind.



*Holiday activities 1*



*GFS Week around the diocese*



## **BANKING DETAILS FOR CAMEROON WORLD PROJECT**

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

**It is so important that Cameroon begins to receive funds as soon as possible so they can commence the project.**

**All collections at the World Day of Prayer Services are for the World Project**



## **WORLD FEES ARE STILL DUE FROM MANY COUNTRIES**

### **DONATIONS AND GIFTS**

For any gifts to the GFS World Emergency Fund please send to GFS Australia who hold the funds in this term. Account details below:

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

For all other gifts and payments (World Fees, World Travel, World President's Travel, etc.) please send to GFS South Africa)

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

### **CUT OFF DATE FOR NEXT NEWSLETTER**

**15 NOVEMBER 2021**

Please send all articles and photos to  
Mrs Jeanne Withanage, GFS President, Sri Lanka  
**[jeannesrilanka@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:jeannesrilanka@yahoo.co.uk)**