

*From the World President: Thembeke Pama*



Advent greetings to you all. It felt like yesterday that we were commissioned in Australia when my World Secretary mentioned that we are 6 Quarterly Newsletter away from the 2020 Tri-Annual GFS World Conference. Yes, it is 18 months and that means we are halfway through the term. A lot has happened and we have been sharing activities that have been taking place in the various countries.

As we start the Liturgical Year, and also looking forward to the celebration of the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ, I hope that as we interact with each other, we will give each other full attention in all that we do, bring peace within our communities, through our faith we will continuously be good stewards in all that we do and bring more joy to the world.

The Gender-Based-Violence Prayer booklet was shared and we would like to have some feedback on whether it is useful so that we can look at extending it to other communities. Thank you to all those that contributed and to Delores for agreeing to coordinate and put together this booklet.



During this quarter, together with the Provincial Deputy President, we visited the diocese of Free State as part of strengthening branches to be ready to host the GFS World Council in 2020.

We further welcome new branches that have been formed from DRC Congo and in the 2<sup>nd</sup> diocese of Niassa (Mozambique). Thank you to neighbouring branches for assisting with the recruitment and formation of these branches. By the time you receive this newsletter, we will be

in Rwanda attending the GFS Africa Conference. Grace and peace be with you always and wishing you all a Merry Christmas and 2019 full of joy and wonderful.

*Love, Thembeke*

## **New branches**

Diocese of Niassa – Mozambique



Dear family

I had the first meeting with the girls in my Parish, (St Simon and Jude) namely with the help of our President Thembeke Pama. Their years start from 7 up to 20. The church and parents received it with pleasure and hope that the girls will be directed to their rightful destiny through GFS. Above is the photograph I had with the girls and I was assured that more girls will join us.

Stay blessed,  
Neema Kwagwanji Chilalika



New branch  
GFS DR  
Congo from  
the Anglican  
Diocese of  
Katanga.

GFS National President Ursule Tshama Mbuyi first day GFS establishment fully supported by Diocesan Youth leader and the Rt. Revd. Bertin Mwale Subi.



### GFS Korea

Warm greetings from Korea. Hope all our GFS sisters from around the world are enjoying the season as we wrap up another splendid year! GFS Korea has been keeping busy this whole year and saved up some wonderful news to share with everyone.

#### \* Café Grace Renovation and Re-open!



GFS Project U-Mul-Ga (우물가; "Well-side") has renovated and reopened Café Grace at the Seoul Cathedral. Café Grace has been through much since its opening in 2010 and the newly conducted project started from May 2017 of building a Seoul City History & Culture Park adjacent to the cathedral has resulted in several relocation and caused a permanent damage in the building of our café. GFS U-Mul-Ga has met up with Seoul city council and Seoul diocese and decided to undergo two weeks reconstruction. On the 20<sup>th</sup> of September, with Rev Joo leading our prayers, Café Grace opened once again to public. We are expecting to have more customers influx as the Seoul city park opens early next year.

#### \* 2018 GFS World Day of Prayer and publishing GFS Korea 50-Years Celebratory Book

On the 15<sup>th</sup> of September members of GFS gathered at the Womens' Mission Center, Seoul and conducted service in celebration of GFS day of Prayer. On this occasion, we have also celebrated the publishing of GFS Korea 50-Years Book, titled "Bare one another's Burdens", with the first GFS Korea president

Kim, Yang-sik and 80 other GFS members from around Korea.



Our book has been made as in an attempt to collect and remember our journey and stories as we thank the wonder 50 years of GFS Korea. With our beloved Lucia Yang-soon Choi in charge and Rev Joo as our adviser, we have worked on it since our 50-year celebration in 2015.



GFS World Day of Prayer

#### \* GFS Staff Workshop and GFS Korea Annual Meeting



At the end of this year's extremely hot summer, we have gathered GFS Staff and committee for

a workshop at the Womens' Mission Center. The theme was to discuss the future and growth of GFS. GFS branches from Seoul Cathedral, Il-san, Gang-nam, Gan-suk, Yeong-deung-po, Dae-hak-ro churches gathered together and discussed issues and the future of each branches.

Also, GFS Korea Annual Meeting was held on the 20<sup>th</sup> of October at St. John the Baptiste Chapel at Seoul Cathedral with Rev Joo and 17 delegates and members gathered. The annual report was announced, and GFS Korea national president Maria Hyekyeong Won was re-elected for a new term of 2 years.



*GFS Annual Meeting*

### **GFS England GFS Christian Christmas Celebrations**

Girls Friendly Society in Atherstone, Warwickshire, is one of the biggest branches in England that shares GFS's Christian path and what an absolutely amazing morning we have had at our church, St Mary's Atherstone!

Girls who were worried about dressing up and being on stage, smiled and did a great job.



Girls who were unsure about reading prayers, readings, poems on microphone did so confidently and every word was heard.

The older girls who were shy and unsure about doing the puppet Bethlehem Rhapsody were amazing, everyone was laughing with you and in awe at the quiet parts.

A special mention to the 2 girls who stood at the front on mic and led us through the whole service. Amazing leaders who made it all happen. A packed Church.

The stacks and stacks of toys you all brought in to donate to the Salvation Army and Birmingham Inner City Mission, we are going to need a large van to deliver them but there will be some happy boys and girls this Christmas because of you!



This is GFS at its best!  
God bless you all  
Jade Clark

### **Greetings from GFS in Ireland**

This is perhaps one of the busiest times for us in the GFS year in Ireland.

Our Diocesan Trainings have been completed and our craft, Bible study and badge programmes for both the girls and leaders are well underway using the theme, 'Whenever you see a rainbow, remember God is love'.

Centrally, GFS in Ireland has been working at formally recording many of our policies and protocols in response to changes within the Irish and Northern Irish jurisdictions within which GFS in Ireland works. We are finding that many of the legislative changes that are being introduced are comparable to the standards we in GFS have already been working to. Central to our ethos is the provision of a safe environment where our members and leaders can meet, develop and grow their skills and learn more of who they can be as they find their own place within society. There are many challenges to us in our work within communities that are increasingly becoming secular to ensure

that everything we do is founded in, surrounded and guided by God through prayer.

In Ireland we give thanks for the life and witness of one of our most faithful leaders, Miss Doreen Creighton of Lissan GFS in Armagh Diocese. For many years she faithfully encouraged and guided many girls and leaders in her own branch and throughout Ireland, including myself. It is incredible women like Doreen that help us see God in action. We pray for her family and her branch who will miss her presence the most in the days ahead.

As we move towards Christmas, our prayer for GFS here in Ireland, as it is for the entire GFS family worldwide is that we know the love, peace and purpose as we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. Our Lord knew what it was to be homeless and the uncertainty that this brings, we pray that those including children who are homeless worldwide and especially here in Ireland know the gift of being able to call somewhere and some place "home".

Every blessing to our GFS sisters worldwide this Christmas time.

In Christ  
Alison Jackson  
GFS President in Ireland

### **GFS Liberia**

The Girls' Friendly Society having been founded in the late 1800's in England was established in Liberia in 1953. It was predicated on this milestone that GFS Liberia decided to celebrate 65 years of existence in Liberia. Activities for the 65 years celebration began on Thursday, September 27, 2018 and ended on Sunday, September 30, 2018 under the theme "GFS @ 65, Be the Light for all to See" with text taken from Matthew 5:16.

We received the GFS World President, Mrs. Thembeke Pama video message and through the means of projector, we played it for everyone's hearing. Everyone was glad to see and hear her voice. They however requested that we transcribe it and let each one have a copy. We remain grateful to her for her kind thought. We also received greetings from His Grace, Jonathan B.B. Hart, our Diocesan Bishop &

Archbishop of the Internal Province of West Africa, greetings from His Lordship, Boston Jacque, Bishop of the Anglican Church of the Republic of Guinea, greetings from Sister Christine Sonpon Freeman, our Diocesan (GFS Liberia) President, greetings from Sister Jocelyn Brown, President of the Episcopal Church Women of Liberia, and greetings from Me, Georgiana T. Williams, Program Chair.



We discussed with our Bishop about the GFS World President's vision to have GFS established in many African countries before the World Council. Bishop Hart worked with us in communicating with Bishop Boston Jacque. Having established the link, we wrote to Bishop Jacque to kindly send three members of his Diocese (one Anglican Church woman, one Mothers' Union member and one Girl/young woman) to participate in the activities marking GFS 65 years of existence in Liberia; and in order to acquaint themselves with GFS activities as a means of making it easier for them to commence the process of establishing a branch for their Diocese. Bishop Jacque was gracious enough to send Sarah Aboise Sylla (Mother's Union Secretary in her Parish and a representative of the incoming GFS in Guinea) to attend our program. We received her on Thursday, September 27, 2018. She stayed in Liberia up to Sunday and departed the country on Monday. To God be the glory.

Others in attendance and who brought greetings were 15 members of the Girl Guides Association of Liberia, 13 members from the Catholic Girls Axillary, and 3 members of the Baptist Girls Fellowship. From the Episcopal setting, we received 6 girls and 1 sponsor from three counties.

**Attendance** on Day One was 50 persons, Day Two was 150 persons and Day Three was 200 plus.



Hence, GFS Branches in attendance were (9) nine. **54 persons were admitted in GFS on Sunday, September 30, 2018.** Girls were selected from the various branches to do the intercessory prayers.

#### **Recommendations from our mini Convention included:**

1. A call on GFS Sponsors/Advisers to be more visible and or accessible from praying for girls and young women, to counseling and giving financial support to them. Hence, these are their functions - to help girls and young women grow in this complex world
2. A call on the Episcopal Church Women of Liberia (ECWL) to provide mentorship for the girls and young women in all aspects
3. That girls and young women reach out to the women and mothers in their Churches through phone calls, text messages, letters or cards on their anniversaries, during bereavement and the like.
4. The need to purchase and construct a training center for young girls/women as a means of empowering them and meeting their wholistic needs.

Our activities consisted of Fast & Prayer & Preparation, Arrival of Guests from Guinea, Meeting with His Grace (Archbishop, Jonathan B.B. Hart)

The Mini Convention was comprised of Leadership form Local Branches Sponsors, ECWL, & Mothers' Union member / Guests from Guinea, Group work, presentations, Statements, Prayers, Lunch, Parade, Indoor Program, Inspirational music/Praise & Worship.

Other activities included; Bible Quizzing Competition, Spelling Bee Quizzing, and Debates on the topics:

("Dual Citizenship should be allowed", "Science is a Threat to Humanity")

"Are Women and Girls being responsible for Violence against them?"

Talent show (Praise Dance, Poetry, Cultural Performances, Drama), World Day of Prayer, Admission, & Thanksgiving Service.

These activities have caught the attention of the entire Episcopal Diocese and they are requesting that similar activities be held annually. We are looking forward to having more activities that will meet the needs of the girls. Thanks to our Bishop, Jonathan B.B. Hart for his spiritual and moral support and to the ECWL for their support as well. We ascribe all honor and glory to His Majesty for His providential care.

**Georgiana T. Williams**

**GFS @ 65 Celebration Chair**

#### **GFS Australian News**

Well the weather here in Australia is beginning to warm here it is 33 degrees today in the Southern part of Queensland, where I live and the same even further south yesterday; so looks like a hot summer to come. We are all coming out after the coolness of our winter. Mild by most of your standards, although some much further south will have experienced some snow.

We have been hearing much about new countries who are joining GFS World for the first time and give thanks for Thembeke and her team and the great energy they are bringing to this ministry. While we welcome you all, we here in Australia have been celebrating a long history of GFS ministry.

I was privileged to be invited and attend the culmination of Western Australia's 135-year celebrations. We know the great joy of all that a GFS ministry can bring to countless Women, Girls, Boys, Men and families and we want to encourage others to keep spreading GFS across the World.

We live in a very large country and so I flew across from my home town of Brisbane to probably one of the furthest cities of Perth in Western Australia, some 3,600 kms to be

warmly welcomed. During my time I thoroughly enjoyed my stay with Noleen Stewart (many of you would have met Noleen at World Council in Perth) and her beautiful family and new Puppy, Arni. Just by chance whilst I was there it happened to be St Francis Day celebrations, so I had the chance to watch on as Arni received his first blessing from Rev'd Josie Styler (again many of you would have met her also). Across Australia in many of our churches we have a blessing of the pets.



*Reverend Josie blessing a very special pet during their St Francis day blessings*

Back to the real reason I was there, on the afternoon of Sunday the 30<sup>th</sup> September, we headed off for The Cathedral to join a goodly crowd of GFS members past and present who were gathering for an afternoon tea with memorabilia and cutting of a cake. This was followed by The World Day of Prayer celebrations, Evensong, where all were involved in the ceremony of light on dusk. A beautiful service beautifully presented accompanied by the angelic voices of the Sydney conservatorium High School Chamber Choir. A fitting celebration to the service of 135 years and to the present ministry that GFS continues in Western Australia.

All around the country different groups were busy celebrating World Day of Prayer. In Sydney (on the East Coast) members also met

with Right Reverend Sonia leading their service.



*Right Reverend Sonia addressing the GFS Sydney World Day of Prayer gathering*

I have also had the pleasure to meet up with members of Tasmania another place right at the southern end of our country. I took the opportunity, whilst travelling to Hobart for a work conference to enjoy a couple of days hospitality with Julie Smith (another many of you will remember from Perth World Council) in her beautiful home also down south. We were able to join with members young (you may remember Teagan, our Junior Delegate and her partner Joel, who now live in Tassie) and older, for a delicious Italian meal on Friday evening. Another time of sharing catch up and fellowship in further flung places.

As I have been indicating Australia is a place of great distances so as an executive, spread north and south, east and west; we have been having our first experience of regular executive meetings by Skype. This has proved interesting, as it also now involves three different time zones, as we here in Australia have a thing called, Daylight Saving Time during our Spring and Summer months. The great advantage of using Skype is not having to travel long distances, so saving time, money and physical energy. We hope being able to meet more regularly will also eventually mean more efficiency in decision making and moving business forward.

In the meantime, others have been busy leaving the shores of Australia to visit and support our Sisters in GFS in the Solomon Islands. I will leave Julie to tell you about that travel. Also there has been further action in PNG, as many wonderful branches within Australia continue to support the ongoing ministry of GFS Haus, up there. Thanks to their generosity GFS Haus now have a new working Fridge and a stove as well as money to assist with the payment of gas for the next twelve months. We hope they will be able to use this to assist them with their ongoing use of the Haus for training and hospitality.

All this and many more individual branch reunions, functions and events, including one in Melbourne recently where GFS joined with CEBS (our former Boys group) at the church where Leanne Kapetanovski (again another whom you would have met at World Council) and I believe her mother, have all enjoyed GFS ministry for so many years.

As we in Australia begin to reach Advent and prepare for Christmas in our wide brown land, much of which is still in drought, we remember to give thanks for all we have, especially the freedom to worship this wonderful season, safely. We pray this safety for others, all over God's world too.

Yours in GFS  
Reverend Cheryl Selva  
GFS Australia President

### **GFS Australia and GFS Melanesia**

In September Gail Orchard and Julie Smith were privileged to be once again journeying to be with our GFS sisters in Melanesia. We were continuing the World Project begun in 2011 in Ireland with the charge to help grow GFS in Melanesia. The first training had been conducted in 2013 and this was our second visit for a training time. A group of 3 had visited PNG and joined their training when GFS Australia was conducting a program in 2016.

Our training was centred around:

1. *What is GFS*
2. *GFS History*
3. *GFS Structure and Special Events*

4. *Leadership*
5. *Communication*
6. *Team Leadership*
7. *Biblical Journey*
8. *Running a Branch*
9. *Elements of a Programme*

Over the 5 days we prepared a Bible program for use in branches and one to learn about GFS. This will be built upon for a further one or even two-year program to come in future. We were also joined by local people who ran some very important life skills sessions – Rebecca shared about the Savings Club (a program designed to encourage savings and budgeting), Ethel Suri raised awareness about Domestic Violence (Ethel works at the Christian Care Centre where women can seek refuge) and bookkeeping along with some craft times.

We were as always warmly welcomed, and it was a joy to share with the worship, singing and enthusiasm of the GFS Melanesia members. So much had been achieved in the 5 years since our first training visit. GFS has many capable and enthusiastic members, typified by Betty Kesaka who managed the organisation of this event so well. There is a strong link with MU who are supportive and see the eventual growth into an autonomous group as a top priority for GFS.

We were fortunate to share the World Day of Prayer with GFS Melanesia members in Honiara at the Cathedral of St Barnabas. After proudly watching over 20 young members admitted into GFS along with 10 new Townsend members we adjourned to be entertained, fed and encompassed by the warmth of GFS members in a day of songs and dancing.

### ***World Day of Prayer – dancing and sharing together “We’re together again”***



A highlight was a visit on Sunday morning to GPPOL some 50 km from Honiara where we were welcomed with a traditional welcome, flowers and singing and invited to join in Holy Eucharist as more members were admitted to GFS. As is the generous nature of our hosts, we enjoyed a sumptuous feast for lunch before being enveloped by enthusiastic singing, dancing and together time.

We give a huge thank you for the warm welcome, the enthusiastic participants, the tireless workers (and there were many led by Betty Kesaka) and everyone who contributed to the World Project so many years ago to make these funds available to truly work to "Makem Strong" in GFS in Melanesia.



*Presentation of Certificates to the 40 successful participants of the training week*

### **Girls' Friendly Society – USA**

#### **Annual Diocesan Report – Honduras**

Please provide the following information in a format suitable for inclusion on the website or in a newsletter. Also provide photographs or drawings.

1. What business meetings does the Diocese hold?

The Annual Diocesan Convention and Deans meetings every quarter.

2. What months are the business meetings?

The Annual Diocesan Convention is generally the month of May the third or fourth last weekend of May. The meetings of the deans are generally in January, April, July, and October.

3. Where and when (day and time) are business meetings held?

The Diocesan Convention is usually the last or last Saturday of the month of May of each year, it is held in Omoa, Cortes. The meetings of the deans generally are the first Monday of January, April, July and October.

4. Does the Diocese have an annual diocesan event or activity? If so, please describe.

a) The Diocesan Convention;

b) This year we had the first Revival in the month of May, and this activity will also be celebrated next year at the beginning of May 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>.

5. Does the Diocese sponsor or promote any diocesan service, mission or projects? If so, please describe

The Diocese promotes several Evangelism events depending on the ages of parishioners such as:

a) New Beginnings in this retreat our girls participate as a team and the new ones as participants;

b) Happening for youth from 15 to 21 years old, also in this our girls of those ages participate;

c) Daughters of the King and in this also we participate the adults, and in some cases where there are junior chapters girls;

d) Cursillos de Cristiandad

6. Is there any other information that people should know about the Diocese? If so, please specify

Each congregation or group of evangelism makes one day spiritual retreats; Evenings of Praise and Worship at least three times a year.



*Branch of Cristo Redentor*

Preparing some food to share with the needy people and making gratitude cards



*Branch of  
San Miguel  
Arcangel*



*Branch of San Pedro Cerca del Rio*



*Branch San Juan Evangelista*



*New Beginnings GFS Team  
4 branches combined*



*First GFS annual meeting (Feb.2018)*

**Rev Connie Sanchez**

## Diocese of Los Angeles



Los Angeles girls in cultural dress for World Day of Prayer with the 2 rectors assisting for the day. Fr. Arthur Toro and Mother Jane Gould. We are lucky our diocese is so diverse, we have Chinese, Kenyan, and El Salvadoran in the photo. Colorful skirt from Rwanda.



A group of GFS members using blue electric candles for our World Day of Prayer celebration.



Rev Winnie Muvunyi from Diocese of Rwanda visit to GFS-Los Angeles. She visited during a good week - we were holding our weekend camp, so she got to see the girls learning to ride horses.



**Margaret Nolde**  
**Diocese of Los Angeles**

## GFS CAMEROON

### Branch Conference

Emmanuel Miracle Parish Douala had their Parish Conference which took place on the 8th September 2018. They had various activities during the conference such as bakery, production of hatinators etc. This branch is very remarkable with periodic seminars for senior members on sex education, pre-marital counselling and how to choose a life partner etc.



*Emmanuel Miracle Parish during their Conference teaching on the production of Hatinators or Fascinators and below wearing the fascinators*



### World Day of Prayer

The GFS family across the Diocese equally celebrated the World Day of Prayer using the prayer outline written by South Africa. Highlights during the celebration was singing,

prayers, drama and refreshments to commemorate the day. They also extend greeting to the World-wide family particularly the South Africa who wrote the prayer outline for 2018.



*All Saint Parish Bamenda members and branch president during World Day of Prayer celebration*

## REPUBLIC OF SOUTH SUDAN – NZARA DIOCESE

Peace is with you in the mighty name of our Lord Jesus Christ the Saviour Amen. Nzara girl's friendly society was formed in Nzara Diocese on 10<sup>th</sup> August 2018 and will be launch in the third week of November. The executive body is already formed and their names are listed below. The Bishop of the diocese has appointed one Pastor who is teaching them the prayers sent to us by the President of GFS worldwide madam Thembeke every Thursday and Sunday evening.

The total number of GFS is 67, and most of them are girls, their pastor is called Rev Emmanuel William.

### DIOCESAN LEADERSHIP

Diocesan Council consists of:

- ✚ Diocesan President:  
Amb. Mama Aida Wande
- ✚ Vice President: Modi Ezibon
- ✚ Diocesan organiser: Sanahaa
- ✚ Parish Presidents: Rejoice Joseph
- ✚ Secretary: Natalia Namaku
- ✚ Treasurer: Eunice Andrew
- ✚ Diocesan Chaplain:  
Rev. Emmanuel Ramadan
- ✚ Ika Samuel: Member
- ✚ Mary Daniel: Member





We met on October 13<sup>th</sup> to orientate ourselves with the work expected of us. We resolved to meet again in December to finalize plans for the launching later in December 2018.

Mama Aida Wande  
GFS President, Nzara South Sudan

### NEWS FROM GFS MELANESIA – SOLOMON ISLANDS

GFS Melanesia will be conducting a Training of Trainers from the 25<sup>th</sup> September – 3<sup>rd</sup> August, 2018 facilitated by GFS Australia (Gail & Julie) under the World project funds. There will also be some local facilitators participating on various other topics in the training. Please remember us in your prayers.

#### **The aims and objectives of the training are;**

1. To equip GFS trainers with a good knowledge on GFS organisation and its setup
2. Develop their confidence as trainers/leaders and coordinators by making them aware of their roles and responsibilities.
3. Empowering them to spread the work of GFS throughout the Dioceses/Parishes and right down to the village levels.
4. Simple book/record keeping which a weakness at lower levels in any organisation.
5. Basic health and good village hygiene.
6. Awareness on issues affecting young women & girls, domestic violence, HIV & AIDS and early pregnancy etc.

7. Simple money making activities, live skills, printing of materials, savings, crafts etc
8. Savings club for the rural areas

The Orange Day was celebrated by GFS members in the Diocese of Central Melanesia (DOCM) at Vura Parish on the 25<sup>th</sup> August 2018. New GFS members were admitted during the Church service which was arranged by the DOCM GFS Executive council.



#### **Thank you and Welcome**

Other important news is that the present DOCM GFS Coordinator, Elsie Elo has resigned to take up some studies with the Solomon Islands National University (Sinu), she has been replaced by Diana Luisa Pupuro.

GFS Melanesia and DOCM Members would like to thank Elsie Elo for her valuable contributions to the establishment of GFS in DOCM Pilot Diocese and wish her God's blessings and success in her studies.

At the same we welcome Diana Luisa Pupuro on board as she takes up her new responsibilities as the next DOCM GFS Coordinator.

### TRAINING OF TRAINERS

#### **Theme: "Magnify Christ thru GFS Melanesia by prayer, Word and Deed"**

Briefly, The theme for this year's training of Trainers was for us a good inspiration and is very appropriate as we gather together to learn not only about the work of the GIRLS friendly Society (GFS) but also to equip ourselves for the work that is ahead of us as leaders and Trainers, to magnify Christ to all people, through proper teaching by way of regularly talking with God

(praying), teaching the truth of the gospel of Christ (*Word*) and acting or demonstrating (*Deed*) on how to live a godly life. The Girls Friendly Society is a Worldwide Organisation and is a ministry in the Anglican Church and if it's God's plan that this ministry must spread throughout Melanesia who can be against it.

Having being trained and equipped (empowered) as Trainers we must therefore reach out to all people everywhere and where we live, and bring them to the Family of Christ (ACOM) through our GFS Melanesia Work plans and Activity Programmes.

I would also like to express my sincere gratitude to the following organizations and Communities for their friendly support to make our training programme such a success;

The Anglican Church of Melanesia (ACOM) for the financial support, Australian Embassy, GFS World Council through GFS Australia for funding and providing Trainers for the training, Gail Orchard and Julie Smith from GFS Australia for your personal commitment to help GFS Melanesia, PMU Office for the Administrative support, Provincial Cathedral, Dean and the Administration staff for participating in our church programmes and the use of your great facilities for the trainings.

The Mothers Union members of St. Barnabas Provincial Cathedral for wonderfully hosting and catering work during the training, MU and GFS members in the Diocese of Guadalcanal for the great day out and invitation to take part in your admission service and field activities.

God be with you all in your work.

*Betty Kesaka*

## HOW THE WORLD COUNCIL FUNCTIONS

This newsletter we will look at the Finances of World Council and how they operate. Thembeke has reminded us that the current term is now at the half way point so in the next few months Thembeke and the World Team will be contacting each country on a number of matters and many of these involve money. There will be forms to apply for a grant to travel to Johannesburg for World Council in 2020. There is nowhere near enough money I the World Travel Fund to assist all eligible

countries. There will be an account for each country for their World Fees to be paid before or at the next World Council. Please read this section carefully and ask questions if you need more answers (from either Thembeke or from me)

## 2 Financial

### 2.1 World Council Funds

The funds of World Council are transferred to the care and management of each World President and can only be used for world administration according to the World Rules. With the approval of World Council some funds can be held in investment in another GFS country.

### 2.2 Accounting

The World Treasurer shall open an account in the host country – GFS World Council - and signatories will be the World President and one of World Secretary and World Treasurer. A motion will be presented at each World Council to authorise such account.

### 2.3 Budget

The incoming World President in consultation with the current World President (at least three months before the next World Council) will prepare a budget for her term of office and present to the World Council for approval before her commissioning

- The budget must include the travel expenses for the Vice-President to attend the World Council in her period of Vice-Presidency.
- The budget should consider a grant for travel expenses for the World President with particular emphasis on promotion of GFS in new and developing countries and

to support significant events in any GFS World Country. Countries being visited should, where possible, provide any domestic travel and accommodation costs.

### **3.4 Country Membership Fees**

All member countries will, if possible, contribute a country membership fee of at least £100 (one hundred English Pounds) each three year term for general administration as documented in the budget.

It is expected that the country membership fee will be paid either before or at the commencement of any World Council.

A reduced fee of £75 (seventy-five English Pounds) will apply to countries coming to World Council for the first time to be admitted as full members.

### **3.5 Reporting to countries**

A simple income and expenditure statement including the balance in each World Fund will be prepared at the end of each calendar year and forwarded to all GFS countries. Audit of this statement is not required.

### **3.6 Audited Statement**

An itemized and audited statement of income and expenditure shall be provided to the World President within one year after the close of Council.

### **3.7 Format of accounts**

All reports should be in a form that is generally accepted accounting practice for the country but should

show monies in local currency and conversion to \$US and GBP – Pound Sterling)

## **3.8 World Council Costs**

The World President and her team shall prepare a detailed budget for their World Council.

- It would be expected that the attendance fee for council will cover all costs for World Council.
- The World General funds can be used for required deposits but such deposits must be returned to the World General funds when money is received from participants.

## **4. Election of a Country to Host World Council**

- The country to host World Council will be considered two terms ahead (e.g. at the 2017 Council the host country for 2023 will be considered).
- Each country wishing to be nominated as the country to preside over the World Council shall present a submission to the World President at least 6 months prior to the next scheduled Council meeting using the required form (Appendix 2)
- The submission shall include a letter from the responsible Bishop or Archbishop of the nominating country supporting the nomination.
- If elected, a country shall nominate a person as the World President in the term they are the host country. The World Council Meeting shall ratify that nomination.

## **5. World Day of Prayer**

- World Day of Prayer will be 29 September of every year.
- GFS member countries are invited to prepare the format for the World Day of Prayer, on an annual, rotating basis.
- Countries are nominated to prepare this service in alphabetical order. Confirmation of this order will be provided at each GFS World Council.
- Copies of the World Day of Prayer service should be provided to the GFS World President at least 5 months prior to the World Day of Prayer.

#### **6. GFS Link Countries**

Member countries are to be "linked" for further prayer and practical support. The groupings may be changed after discussion at each World Council.

#### **7. World Project**

- The purpose of the World Project Fund is to assist GFS members with funding of new initiatives and for the promotion of GFS in new countries.
- World Project Submissions will be received six (6) months prior to the meeting of the World Council, for the succeeding period, using the required form (Appendix 3)
- The submission should include all costing for the project (converted to US dollars and Pounds sterling) and must include a letter of support from the responsible Bishop/Archbishop of the

country making the submission and sent six (6) months prior to the start of Council.

- More than one project may be chosen for any one period.
- World countries granted a project are required to present a detailed, financial statement at the next World Council and will be required to submit annual reports to the World President on the progress of the project. An audited financial statement will be prepared when all funds are exhausted and will then be presented at the relevant World Council.
- World countries should be regularly updated with progress reports of the current World Project, through progress reports provided to the Vice President. (See Section 1.5 Vice-President duties)

#### **8. World Travel Fund / Grant**

- The World President will be responsible for promoting and managing the World Travel Fund and seeking monies to assist with the travel costs for delegates to attend World Council.
- Only one delegate from any country seeking assistance will be supported with a grant and only to the level of funding as decided by the World President.
- Applications to the World Travel Fund should be made in writing via the application form (appendix 4). The closing date for applications is one calendar year prior to the World

Council meeting. It is not necessary to name the delegate at this stage.

- Where possible all applicants to the Travel Fund will be advised within six months prior to the World Council Meeting. Grants will be made available at the discretion and timing of the World President.
- Tickets may be purchased by the host country or monies submitted to the applying country.
- Tickets should be purchased in advance in order to receive the most economical rate.
- Grant funds will only be made available to the delegate once they have registered and paid a deposit for the World Council.
- Delegates receiving a grant will be required to seek the most economical route of travel.
- The grant will only be available for the most economical air, train/bus travel costs. The delegate must meet the financial costs associated with attendance at the World Council (e.g. registration, accommodation, etc.).
- Each delegate is strongly encouraged to have travel insurance. In the event of the delegate not being able to attend the Council, any monies received from the cancelled travel should be refunded to the World Travel Fund.

#### **Date of Issue**

29 March 2019  
28 June 2019  
27 September 2019  
13 December 2019  
27 March 2020  
26 June 2020

#### **Deadline**

15 February 2019  
17 May 2019  
16 August 2019  
01 November 2019  
14 February 2020  
22 May 2020

#### **GIFTS AND DONATIONS TO GFS WORLDWIDE CAUSES**

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**  
**ANZ Bank,**  
**Shop 67, Whitfords City, Cnr Marmion & Whitford Aves**  
**Hillarys WA 6025**  
**BSB 016 494**  
**Account Number 392526836**  
**Swift Number: ANZBAU3M**

For all other gifts and payments (World Project, 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 No: 62720797953**  
**Swift Code: FRNZAJJ**  
**Bank Address:**  
**Shop 229 Balfour Park Shopping Centre, Highlands North,**  
**2192**

*Merry Christmas*



**Thank you from Canon Val Gribble, World Vice-President.**

*I greatly appreciated the many emails and messages when I was ill a few weeks ago (and which has prevented me from attending the African Conference) Thank you all so much. I am much better, needing to re prioritise my busy life and to rest a little more!!! Not easy for me!*

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