

**FORMATION OF THE GFS WORLD COUNCIL  
1955**

During an International Holiday Conference held at Winchester House, Shanklin, Isle of Wight, and organised by the GFS in England and Wales and attended by representatives of the Society in Australia, England and Wales, Ireland, Newfoundland, Scotland, the United States of America and British Giana, the formation of a GFS World Council was introduced by Mrs Woodward, the President of the GFS in the USA. After discussion, the terms of a Charter were provisionally agreed, subject to confirmation by the Councils of the countries concerned.

Mrs Woodward was elected as the first President of the Council, to serve from June 1955 to June 1956. The President of the GFS in England and Wales was elected to service from 1956/57 and the Chairman of the Commonwealth Council of Australia from 1957/58.

Later in the week a GFS World Day of Prayer was agreed upon and September 29<sup>th</sup>, the feast of St Michael and All Angels was suggested and subsequently ratified.

Terms of the Charter

We, the undersigned, agree to form a World Council of the GFS for the object of promoting fellowship between the members of the Society throughout the world by the exchange of information and ideas. Membership shall be open to GFS in all countries whose purposes are in fundamental agreement.

We further agree that the first project of the World Council shall be the production of a yearly newsletter, the editorship of which shall be the responsibility of a different country each year, one copy being sent to each member country. The distribution of this letter shall be the responsibility of the member countries.

And that the second project shall be the promotion of world assemblies, camps, exchange visits and correspondence between members.

It is further agreed that the organisation shall be through the Headquarters of the member countries or where there is no Headquarters, through the sponsoring Society.

England and Wales  
Scotland  
Ireland  
USA  
Australia  
Newfoundland

When this Charter ratified by the Councils concerned, the signatures of the Presidents of Scotland, Ireland and Newfoundland were obtained.

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## **EXTRACT FROM REPORT ON OVERSEAS TOUR ARRANGED BY GFS IN 1955**

“On June 18<sup>th</sup> we went to Winchester House, Shanklin, Isle of Wight to attend the Holy Conference. There were representatives of GFS in England, Wales, Scotland, Ireland, USA, Australia, Newfoundland, and British Guiana. We had a most enjoyable holiday and during the week made two momentous decisions, one to form a World Council of GFS and two, to set aside September 29<sup>th</sup> as a GFS World Day of Prayer. All leaders had been worried regarding the method of linking GFS throughout the world, the old treaty system was no longer suitable, so after much discussion, it was decided to form this World Council and a suitable charter was framed subject to ratification by the Councils of the various countries. At the conclusion of the Conference, everyone felt that the fellowship we had experienced during our week together would influence the work of GFS throughout the world.