

GIRLS FRIENDLY SOCIETY WORLD COUNCIL
AUSTRALIA
24/27 AUGUST 1972

Minutes of the 8th meeting of the World Council of the Girls' Friendly Society held at Janet Clarke Hall and St Hilda's College, University of Melbourne, Australia, Thursday 24 August to Sunday 27 August 1972

The Purpose of World Council

The purpose of the World Council of GFS shall be to promote fellowship between the members of the Society throughout the world by exchange of information and ideas. The promotion of World Assemblies, camps, exchange visits and correspondence between members shall be encouraged.

Theme: Living and Loving

Chaplain: The Rt Reverend Gerald Muston, Coadjutor Bishop, Diocese of Melbourne.

Bishop's Chaplain: The Rev John Stockdale, Vicar, Holy Trinity, Thornbury, Diocese of Melbourne.

Chairman: Mrs F W Cheshire

Hostess: Mrs R Richards

Secretary: Miss P Franklin

Treasurer: Mrs W L Sanders

God, I rejoice to realise you are always here
I rejoice that you have given me human ties.
I rejoice in the many friends who are so loyal.

For duties that await me today
I ask your strength and skill

Let me remember all this day
That people matter more than things
That monetary rewards matter less than honest service

That faith, hope and love are the lasting things and the greatest of these is love.
Let life be more meaningful for somebody
Because we live in the world today.

A Woman's Book of Prayers, Rita Snowden.

Present:

Delegates:

Australia: Mrs M Sanders, Miss G MacDonald

England and Wales: Mrs F Mandleberg, Miss J Bitchenor

Ireland: Miss N McKinley

Japan Mrs U Iwai, Miss M Miyazaki

Papua New Guinea Miss D Osembo

Philippines: Mrs A Lee Go, Miss J Tan Go

Sri Lanka: Mrs M Jayaraphasn

USA: Mrs A Ray, Miss B Moore

Hostess Mrs Buchanan

Observers

Australia Mrs Arnott, Mrs Beames, Mrs Beynon, Mrs Boles, Mrs Bowman, Miss Bracken, Mrs Bright-Parker, Mrs Campbell, Miss Champion, Miss Clarke, Mrs Cohn, Mrs Collier, Miss Crosby, Mrs David, Mrs Dean, Miss Dent, Miss A Ebbs, Mrs Egerton, Mrs Featonby, Miss Granville, Mrs Heldane, Miss Hemer, Mrs Hill, Mrs Hollan, Mrs Hogg, Mrs Hill, Miss Jackson, Miss Jimmieson, Mrs Keogh, Miss Kowalski, Mrs Lawrence, Miss McNamara, Mrs Matthews, Ms Meyer, Miss Mills, Miss Mousley, Miss Nothrop, Mrs Parnaby, Miss Parker, Miss Prior, Miss Randle, Mrs Rayner, Miss Runnals, Miss Shaw, Mrs Joy Smith, Mrs Stockdale, Miss Stone, Miss Strong, Miss Taylor, Mrs Trevaskis, Mss West, Miss Woodhouse, Mrs Worland.

Japan Mrs Ito, Mrs Kochi, Miss Misukami, Miss Mureka, Miss Murasku, Miss Okagabi, Miss Schara, Miss Sugimura.

Philippines Miss Chuia, Miss Pe, Miss Ty

USA Mrs Bain, Miss Beeghly, Miss Cope, Miss Fox, Miss Johnson, Miss O'Brien, Miss Seward, Miss Scott, Miss Scoggins, Mrs Jackie Smith, Miss E Taylor, Mrs Thorne, Mrs Van Volkenburg.

The Australian Patron, Her Excellency the Lady Hasluck, D.St.J, was the guest of honour and guest speaker at the inaugural dinner which was the official opening of the 8th World Council of the Girls' Friendly Society. Her Excellency stressed the importance of GFS maintaining its principles in the face of great opposition in modern life.

Each morning began with a celebration of Holy Communion when delegates and observers experienced different liturgies.

The Chaplain, the Right Rev G Muston, began each morning session with a "Thought for the Day". These short addresses were an inspiration to us all and influenced the thinking and decision of the day.

Greetings

Greetings were received from the Primate of Australia; Primate of All England; the Archbishop of Dublin; Bishop of the Episcopal Church of the Philippines; Bishop of Tasmania; GFS in Ireland; Mrs Atkins, Past World Chairman; Mrs Barry, Mrs Simms and Mrs Tsuji, former World Chairmen; Mrs Lamplugh, Mrs Scott Ireland; Mrs Chee and Mrs Park, Korea; Miss Pickles, Mrs Calvert, Australian in Italy; Mrs Woodward, USA; Mrs Yetman, Newfoundland; Miss Wilson, Umtata; Mrs Davies, St John's Diocese, South Africa; GFS in Guyana; Windward Isles; Japan; St Kitts; Sri Lanka; Board of USA; Dioceses of Arizona, California; Connecticut; Central Florida; SW Florida; SE Florida; Long Island; Massachusetts; Newark, New Jersey; Southern New Jersey; Oregon; Pennsylvania; Utah; Leader Training Camp, Japan; Girls Auxiliary, Canada.

Mrs Moore, USA, moved and Miss McKinley seconded
"That the greetings be received" CARRIED.

Mrs Ray, USA, moved and Mrs Mandleberg seconded
"That the apologies be received" CARRIED.

Minutes of the 6th World Council Meeting

The minutes of the 6th World Council meeting, held in Kyoto, Japan, 28 April to 5 May 1965. Were read by Mrs Iwai, Japan who moved

"That they be confirmed".

Seconded by Mrs Richards of Australia. CARRIED.

Business Arising

7th World Council Meeting, United States of America.

In January 1969 the Board of Directors of GFS, USA, wrote to GFS Member countries, regretfully withdrawing their invitation extended in Japan, to host the 7th World Council meeting. The member countries regretfully accepted this Directive, and the 7th World Council was a Meeting by Mail.

GFS Patron Saint

Mrs Mandleberg (England and Wales) raised a question regarding the acceptance of St Michael as GFS Patron Saint. It was agreed that this subject be placed on the Agenda for the 1975 World Council meeting.

Lost Minute Book

The Chairman reported that an Australian Clergyman visiting USA has called on Mrs Atkins in order to obtain the GFS World Council Minute Book but learned that Mrs Atkins had already posted it to Australia. However, the book did not arrive at its destination. Mrs Bright-Parker (Australia) recalled that in 1970 there had been a fire at the GPO and mail from USA was destroyed. It is assumed that the Minute Book was amongst this mail.

It was suggested that Mrs Tsuji, Japan (a past World Chairman), who had kept GFS records over the past years, be approached for copies of previous minutes.

Mrs Bright-Parker (Australia) suggested that the letter from Mrs Atkins be accepted as a report and received.

Mrs Ray (USA) moved, Mrs Sanders (Australia) seconded

"That the letters concerning the 7th World Council meeting be received as reports". CARRIED.

Financial Statement

The Financial Statement of the World Council was presented by Mrs Sanders, World Treasurer, who moved

"That it be received and adopted". Seconded by Mrs Middlebury (England and Wales) CARRIED

World Project Report:

The Philippines – read by Miss Judy Go.

GFS in the Philippines was organised on 3 September 1965 affiliated with the GFS of the United States of America at the St Stephen's High School. The School is an Episcopal Mission School. The Girls Friendly Society is one among the other school organisations we have. WE started with an initial membership of 12 girls increasing to more than 80 girls at present.

During the 6th World Council held in Japan we were able to send two girls to attend the Convention. In 1969 we were chosen as the World Project country. We would like to take this opportunity to express our heartfelt gratitude to those who have given us spiritual as well as financial aid.

We have to apologise for not bringing the financial report. We shall furnish copies of this report as soon as we reach home.

Among the activities we have are cooking, handicrafts, lectures, field trips, guitar lessons and of course worship and service too.

The visit of the World Chairman, Mrs Cheshire, In January 1971, was the highlight of our activities. It was of great significance to us in the sense that we are made more aware of how our fellow GFSers work in other countries. This was followed by one day visit paid by Mrs Eva K Fynes of Northern Ireland. Deaconess Daphne Robey from Burnie, Tasmania, stopped over at Manila too on her way to London. Visitors from abroad always enrich our girls with new ideas.

Upon receiving the invitation to the 8th World Council, we worked doubly hard to raise enough funds to send delegates to represent the Philippines in the 8th World Council. We devoted our time to making straw (raffia) bags which came in different sizes, designs and colours. Aside from having a Trick or Treat for Halloween, numerous bazaars were held, and we had benefits film showings to raise funds for delegates to come to Australia.

We were thrilled and happy when news came from Australia saying that they will sponsor one girl from the Philippines for Leadership Training. This truly proved to be beneficial. Mrs Alicia Lee Go was designated by our school chaplain for this mission because she works more closely with the GFS. January came with another cable from Australia stating that we could send another girl to accompany Mrs Go for the Leadership Training. Written examination as well as oral interview were taken by all applicants, an election was held, and the final decision was based on that of the Screening Committee. Eleanor Rose Ty was chosen to come for the Leadership Training, with Judy Go and Hedy Pe as the Philippine delegates to the 8th World Council held in Melbourne, Australia. We were very happy that Irene Chua, who was delegate in Japan in the 6th World Council paid on her own to accompany Judy Go and Hedy Pe to Australia.

The problems that we encounter may be the same as those you are trying to solve. When girls graduate from High School, they leave us, and we are trying to find ways of how we can keep them with us. We are also in the planning stage of developing a branch at Easter School, Baguio City (summer capital of the Philippines). We have plans to teach in about GFS in various parts of the country.

Taking the GFS to visit orphanages and making gifts for the orphans, helping UNICEF on Halloween night with Trick or Treat cans, visit to the school of deaf and blind, all these activities help our GFS to be more civil minded. From there we come to realise how fortunate we are than the others and we surely give praise to our Lord.

Miss Judy Go (Philippines) moved

"That this report be received" seconded Mrs Iwai (Japan). This report was CARRIED with acclamation.

Korea

Prior to the Secretary presenting the Korean report on behalf of Mrs Hilda K Choe, President of the Seoul Diocesan GFS, the Chairman expressed her utmost dismay that, that day despite endless communication, the plane ticket and the absolutely tireless efforts of the Australian Immigration Department and Qantas officials, Korea's delegate would not be with us.

Korean Report – read by the Secretary:

Since GFS first organised in 1965, it has made a steady progress to establish twelve branches throughout the Diocese of Seoul with the membership of about five hundred. Most of the members are over 19 years old and we have some girls of 13-16 years. A Sunday School Teacher, Miss Kim at St Nicholas and St Mary Cathedral will soon start the first GFS group of little girls from 7-12 years. And this we hope will give us another beginning of all GFS as we realise the increasing membership among elder groups is often limited and that the earlier the education begins the better its fruits, as we experience it in Australian GFS. May I now bring to your knowledge some of the more important programs and general events of the past six years.

Leadership Training: When August comes this annual program is held in one of the parishes or seminaries with some study on GFS History, Bible Class, The Lessons of Music, Folk Dance, Recreation and Handicrafts. During the recent two years another characteristic was added to this training camp, that is, a work camp for these parishes, the participants sewed the church linens, curtains, drew the Sunday School Hymn Chart and took care of the flower seeds around the church.

Here I shouldn't go further without icing you some important reports on the girls' leadership training in Australia from April 1968 to beginning of 1970.

When Mrs Im and I returned from the Leaders Training Camp in Japan we felt we needed leader training in some GFS experienced country to lead our GFS in a righteous way in this country. Miss

Joan Ash, an Australian leader, was staying in Japan at that time. Once she came to visit us, conveyed this to Mrs Egerton and her committee who kindly accepted to undertake this work for us. Miss Marie Park, staying at the Deaconess House in Melbourne, was given theology, religious education lecture by Deaconess Elizabeth Alfred. While Miss Elizabeth Yi and Miss Agnes Yun, staying at Bishopscourt in Perth and Adelaide, have been mostly trained by observing branches and the GFS office. Each of these three loved to travel to meet our GFS friends through the country and they learned a great deal which should have prepared them for greater service in their respective branches after their return. We will never be too much grateful for their training to Mrs Egerton and Mrs Sanders respectively, as well as their leaders and members, Mrs Atkins, Mrs Tsuji and all of you respectively.

The report continued as under:

Prayer Day of the World GFS

On 29 September we offered our prayer of thanks for all the member nations of the World GFS, who said for us one universal prayer and made contributions. Since 1970 we have said this prayer and made some contributions for them. Philippines GFS.

The Branch and Diocesan Works: The Diocesan members visit to each branch once or twice a year helped those who sent out the monthly branch programs, cleaning church, teaching at Sunday School, serving the church with tea or music are some of the countryside branch works for their parish. At a branch they wove the straw rack of rice with youth club members to make the branch funds. Generally speaking, in Seoul, branches are some more active to set a stand of sacred things, cross rosary, etc., and sell some coffee or noodle, arrange bazaar, charity concert to raise the funds. They bought several baby pigs for the people who live on an isolated island. They also visited the monthly visit to soldiers to pray and play together, gave a party for their parents on Mothers' Day, met some old, retired priests. For their study they have Bible Class, Religious Seminar, retreat and opened a Bible contest. The Diocesan GFS newspapers have been published four times a year. At the annual GFS picnic members joined in one prayer for certain branches, made contribution for two branches during the recent two years. Your fellowship of World GFS has been constantly remembered in our prayers. On behalf of GFS in Korea, may I pledge that I and my colleagues will do our best strengthened by him for further growth and expansion of the GFS in Korea.

Mrs Sanders (Australia) in moving

"that we receive the report from Korea", said that we could feel the presence of Mrs Hilda Chae and Miss Marie Park through the loving letter. This was seconded by Mrs Mandleberg (England and Wales) CARRIED.

Reports from Member Countries:

England and Wales	Presented by Mrs Mandleberg
Ireland	Presented by Miss N McKinley
Japan	Presented by Miss M Miyazaka
Papua New Guinea	Miss D Osembo
Philippines	Presented by Miss Judy Go
Sri Lanka	Presented by Miss Marjorie Jayaraphasn
USA	Presented by Mrs Adele Ray
Australia	Presented by Miss G Macdonald

Newfoundland, St Vincent, New Zealand, Antigua, Umtata South Africa) read by Secretary.

World Project

Mrs M Davis (Australia) because of her personal interest and detailed knowledge due to regular correspondence with Miss Shirley Macdonald, was asked to present Lesotho as Australia's nomination for the World Project country. Mrs Davis told of the magnitude and influence of Miss

MacDonald's work involving thousands of young people. Miss Macdonald herself was returning to England. In order for her work to continue it was necessary to find friends to pay the salary of an indigenous Youth Worker.

In the discussion which followed, it was agreed that it was most necessary for a project to be concerned only with the development of GFS for it to be considered as a worthwhile nomination. The Chairman, in introducing Mrs Marjorie Jayaraphasn, explained how a donation received from a Melbourne GFS Leader, now living in Italy, had been used to pay the airfare for Mrs Marjorie Jayaraphan, a GFS Leader from Sri Lanka, now living in Sydney to come to World Council.

Mrs Jayaraphasn spoke of the GFS Hostel for girls and how it was endeavouring to meet the desperate need for the accommodation of girls in Colombo. If Sri Lanka was chosen as the World Project Country, the money would be used to enlarge the hostel.

The Delegates and Observers were so moved by Mrs Jayaraphan's simple and sincere presentation of Sri Lanka's needs and by Mrs Davis' comprehensive and vivid picture of Miss Macdonald's splendid work with the youth in Lesotho that they found it impossible to make a choice.

Mrs Bright-Parker (Australia) spoke of the introduction of the World Project. Originally this had been an Annual Project and the money raised had been modest. Today, since the inception of triennial World Council meetings, the support given has surpassed the wildest dreams of the instigators.

Mrs Sanders (Australia) moved, and Mrs Ray (USA) seconded the motion

"That both Lesotho and Sri Lanka become World Project Countries until next meeting of World Council" CARRIED.

Agenda Items

GFS Prayer:

One of the startling discoveries of this World Council was the realisation that the wording of our GFS Prayer varied from country to country. Several delegates spoke of the need to update the prayer and of their endeavours to do so. At the Australian Council meeting held immediately prior to the World Council, this matter had been discussed at great length and alternative versions reviewed. It was interesting to note that the more senior members were the ones who favoured an updated version whilst the younger members favoured the traditional version.

It was moved by Mrs Ray (USA), seconded by Mrs Go (Philippines)

"That the wording of the GFS prayer be considered at the next meeting of World Council." CARRIED

Closer Links with Branches in other countries:

Mrs Mandleberg (England and Wales) introduced this agenda item under two headings.

- 1) The "twinning" of branches exchanging news, ideas, songs etc., by tape recordings as well as correspondence.
- 2) Exchange of information on program activities and projects in different countries. This, without doubt, would be fulfilling the purpose of the World Council "to promote fellowship between the members of the Society throughout the world by the exchange of information and ideas".
- 3) Those attending World Council had already exchanged ideas with other delegates and observers and unanimously agreed that this interchange of experiences and ideas was most worthwhile. However, after much discussion it was agreed that the most effective way to implement this interchange was with direct links between a branch in one country and a branch in another country.

The World Newsletter

Mrs Mandleberg (England and Wales) spoke of the value in receiving regular information regarding GFS around the world. In the past these newsletters had been infrequent and expensive to produce. It was agreed that in future these newsletters be produced more regularly and in a simpler form.

Miss Gaynor McDonald (Australia) moved and seconded by Miss J Go (Philippines)
"That Australia be permitted to produce a newsletter as a souvenir of this meeting and to bear the cost of its production". CARRIED

Cooperation with Other Church Youth Organisations

Miss Naomi McKinley (Ireland) spoke of the need for closer cooperation with other church youth organisations and asked for suggestions as to how we could do this effectively. It was agreed that this should be encouraged but would be more effective if worked at parish and diocesan level.

Future World Council Meetings

Mrs M Sanders (Australia) mentioned that one Diocese in Australia had raised the matter of increased travel costs. With this in mind, they had suggested that consideration be given to the possibility of the World Council meeting every five years. In the discussion which followed, delegates expressed the view that a lapse of five years between meetings would hamper continuity and the term of office for office-bearers would be over long. No amount of correspondence could balance the value of face-to-face encounters. However, it was agreed that the matter of lengthening the intervals between World Council meetings be revised at the next World Council.

Next World Council Meeting

As 1975 would mark the centenary of the founding of our Society, England volunteered to be the hostess country for the 9th meeting of the World Council. This would enable all member countries to participate in the centenary celebrations. This offer was accepted with acclamation. Mrs Felicity Mandleberg, President of the GFS Central Council for England and Wales was duly elected World Chairman for 1972-1975. Her commissioning took place in the Cathedral Church of Saint Paul, Melbourne, Australia, on Sunday morning 27 August 1972, by the Right Reverend G Muston.

Presentations GFS around the World

The evening sessions of our World Council were most colourful and provided the opportunity for member countries to present items depicting cultural activities and scenic attractions, eg the Japanese Tea-making Ceremony, Philippine and Papua New Guinea dances, American and Australian folksongs, slides of Ireland and USA.

The culmination of our final evening together was the "Breaking of Bread" celebrated by our beloved Chaplain, the Right Revd G Muston, assisted by his invaluable Chaplain, the Revd J Stockdale. The Liturgy used was Australia 69, emphasising that "We being many, are one bread and body, for we all partake of the one bread". The concluding prayer of the Service:

"Almighty God, we offer ourselves to you as a living sacrifice. Send us out in the power of your Holy Spirit, to live and work as faithful witnesses of our Lord Jesus Christ. Grant that at his coming we may be ready to meet him, so that with all your saints, we may worship you forever. Amen" was said by all who had shared in the memorable experience of the 8th World Council, as a fervent expression of their rededication to the aims and purpose of our Society.

Sign. Felicity Mandleberg, 21 July 1975

Through no fault of our own, the following Australian Observers were omitted.

Australia: Miss C Barber, Miss J Beard, Miss A Davis, Mrs D Downie, Mrs D Foley, Mrs J Langlois, Miss J Perkins, Miss R Punch, Mrs A Rayner, Mrs K Reynolds, Miss B Slack, Mrs M Suhr, Mrs L Tutley, Mrs S Girvan.