

GIRLS FRIENDLY SOCIETY WORLD COUNCIL
IRELAND
19/26 JULY 1978

Minutes of the 10th meeting of the World Council of the Girls' Friendly Society held at THE New University of Ulster, Coleraine, Northern Ireland from 19 to 26 July 1981

Theme: "Go Forward With Love"

The Opening Service of the 10th World Council was held in the New University of Ulster at 5.00pm on Sunday 19 July 1981. The celebrant was the Rt Revd. G D Simms, former Primate of All Ireland assisted by the Bishop of Connor, Dr A Butler and the Revd. N H G Mayes.

A service of Holy Communion was conducted each morning under the theme for the day. Evening Prayers, in the form of Compline and Ancient Irish Vigils were conducted each night at the close of sessions.

Monday 20 July. Theme for the day "The Family"

The World Chairman, Mrs Elizabeth Mayes, called the council to order and introduced the delegates.

Australia:	Miss P Franklin, Mrs A Fisher
England:	Mrs Elizabeth Nixon, Miss D A Haigh
Guyana:	Miss I Chase
Ireland:	Mrs P Johnston, Miss G Thompson
Japan	Mrs U Iwai, Miss Y Ito
Korea:	Mrs Maria Sung Jo Kay, Miss Agnes Hyun Suk You
Lesotho	Miss E Maleku
Liberia:	Mrs L C Harmon
Philippines:	Miss T B Paten, Miss J B Dimas
Sierra Leone:	Mrs O Macaulay, Miss I Gooding
Sri Lanka:	Mrs S de Silva
Transkei:	Mrs N Locke
USA:	Mrs A J Ray, Miss T Crane
Wales:	Mrs R McDonald, Miss J E Thomas
Windward Islands:	Sister Joan

Apologies were received from Barbados, New Zealand and Scotland.

The World Chairman introduced Dr G O Simms, Chaplain, The Revd Michael H G Mayes, Asst. Chaplain, The Revd N Sato, GFS Chaplain, Japan, Mrs F Bain, Vice Chairman, Mrs R Broadstock, Secretary, Mrs N Gilmore, Asst Secretary, Miss D Ross, World Treasurer, Mrs J May, Mothers' Union Ireland, Miss Eva Hales.

Mrs Mayes welcomed all present and said "I bid you welcome to Ireland in the words of an old Irish greeting – "Cead Mile Failke – a hundred thousand welcomes. Many people have shown unease about attending the World Council in the north of Ireland. I make no apology for once again mentioning our situation as it does inevitably affect all we do when we begin to plan. It is natural that this should be so as very often the only news seen outside the country is of a violent nature. You will see the scars of the past twelve years as you travel around the province, but we want you to see more than that.

We hope you will look around and see the country we live in. It is a beautiful one. There is a vast program being carried out in the area of housing and redevelopment both in the cities and in the rural communities. Scenic spots are being thoroughly brought to life so that we can all enjoy and appreciate the natural beauty spots of our land. I ask you not to let the events of the past twelve years colour or distort your image of the people of this island. We value our family life, our freedom of speech, our freedom to worship. We care, too, about those who do not enjoy the privileges we sometimes take for granted.

The theme for this Council "Go Forward With Love", was carefully chosen. I hope you go forward from here having seen our love in action. Mrs Jean Cheshire from Australia wrote the following when I was feeling depressed about World Council and wondering whether anyone was going to come:

Go

Go where Lord?

From you

From reality

From renewal

Go where, Lord?

Go Forward.

Not retreating

Not reproaching

Not rebelling.

Go with courage, with compassion, with commitment.

Go forward with praise, Prayer, Peace.

Go forward with love of you, of family, of fellow travellers.

Go forward with love means

Go forward with God for God is Love.

The World Chairman stated that all present, delegates and observers could speak but only delegates could vote. However, Lesotho and Windward Islands were not full members of World Council, so these delegates did not have voting rights.

Minutes:

Minutes of the 9th World Council had already been circulated. Mrs Nixon, England, questioned the accuracy of two items. All agreed that these should be amended. This was duly done, and the minutes were then agreed and signed.

Chairman's Report

'This is the day that the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it.' This is a day I thought would never dawn. It has been like a dream for the past three years, three years which have been the most hectic of my life.

I feel the whole of my family has been enriched over this time. Mrs Bain is someone well known to my children. Evan Hales becomes a member of the family on many occasions and is treated like our older sister with whispers and secrets and test favourites from the local sweet shop. "Betty Nixon's on the phone". Betty could be 5 or 15 but her name is known.

Sister Joan – letters from Korea – photographs from Sierra Leone – all have added a new and exciting interest to our lives. One of the children is sure to ask each day "Is there any post for me or is it all GFS for mummy?". Often it has been GFS only.

Undoubtedly the highlight of the past three years has been the West African Training Project. At one time I think we almost despaired of being able to carry out this project as it seemed there was no way forward. At every turn we encountered snags and difficulties. Then in late 1978 a small

group met in Dublin to interview Eva Hales who showed interest after meeting Mrs Betty Ross from Sierra Leone and hearing about our intentions to carry out a training program as required.

Miss Rhoda Cutbush, England, had been working for three years as had Mrs Bain who was the overseer of the project since it came into being during her term of office. It all seemed suddenly like an answer to prayer.

In September 1979, Eva departed for West Africa. I was involved in the planning, chiefly because Eva comes from this country and also as the present World Chairman.

Inevitably with such a project and one which we had not carried out before, there were difficulties and problems. However, Mrs Ross in Sierra Leone undertook to guide the project in West Africa and planned the work in her diocese. Lottie Harmon organised the Liberian program which was shortened by a few weeks due to a military coup. We were all invited in sorrow and prayer when we heard the news from that country. Betty Cates looked after the Gambian end, but sadly I have not been able to get any news from there other than Eva's. I have explored every avenue but get no replies to letters.

Reports due later today will tell of the resounding success of this project.

During my term of office, we have witnessed the expansion of GFS work in Guyana guided so carefully by Sister Joan.

Dr Kate Botengan and Trinidad Paatan have been sending news of GFS Philippines where I had assumed that there was only work in St Stephen's School, Manila, but find there is actually more than that. Transkei too has a new Secretary/Organiser in Miss Lockwe. The Mothers Union had looked after the work in the interim period up to Mrs Lockwe's appointment. In many parts of our world there seems to be a renewed interest in Youth Organisations in general. For a number of years "discipline" has almost been a dirty word. Yet we know we need order and discipline in our lives. This shows itself in so many ways, not least the enormous interest among young people in Oriental religions and the art of meditation. There is great discipline involved in the following of these and it seems to me as though young people are unconsciously crying out for help, but so often we confuse what they are asking for and only see them as strange notions which we don't understand. Young people today care deeply, and we fail them if we show ourselves as being "too busy" to listen.

Our society in general needs listeners – not people who always offer cures and remedies, but people who care enough to give time to the other person, to be present with the other person in whatever the situation. You and I know it is not our words which help most in time of trouble. Those who help us most are those who are present \with us when our need is greatest. Not doing, but being, the one who can hold a hand in time of distress, the one who sighs with us in our sorrows, who is willing to sit with us, not knowing what to say but just knowing it is right to be there, is the friend indeed. That is what you are to us. Your greatest gift to us in this country is your coming here and being with us.

When we lived in Japan, the late Bishop Yoshiro, the Presiding Bishop of Japan, who was a very great man and a giant of a Christian, once told us, "Westerners are often so busy doing they forget about being". It is the being which matters most.

When one part of the body is in trouble, another part comes to the rescue. We are all members of one body in Christ. At present this part of the body is in need, and you, by your coming and by your being, have come to the rescue. We all have a tremendous resource of caring within us. So often we keep it hanging somewhere between our heads and our hands and do not allow it to descend to our hearts where the caring comes from. By releasing this enormous energy within us we can give birth to a new awareness reaching far beyond the boundaries of our human efforts.

This is truly a day which the Lord has made. Let us all rejoice and be glad in it.

Treasurer's Report

Miss Olive Ross, World Treasurer, presented the account of the World Council funds. She pointed out that the World Fund was voluntary so the amount contributed by each country would not be

made public. However, she would happily give details to individual countries of their contribution. Total subscriptions received by the fund amounted to Fund £12,774.86; Standing Committee of Youth Organisations Northern Ireland £1,000, Interest £261.96; World Dues to date £124,27 making a total of £14,161.09 received. Expenses etc., were still to be paid but these were estimated at £8914.98 for printing, travel, housing etc. This would leave a credit balance of £5246,11. Miss Ross suggested using some of the fund to cover the cost of the extra night which some delegates had spent at the University as the exact time of the Opening Service had not been given in advance. This was not accepted, and delegates agreed to pay the extra cost. The World Chairman apologised for her error in not making clear the exact time.

Mrs McDonald, Wales, proposed
"the adoption of the accounts"

Sister Joan, Windward Islands, seconded the proposal. CARRIED.

Greetings

Greetings were received from : Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother; Archbishop of Canterbury; Rt Revd G Muston of Melbourne; Sr Gloria of Guyana; Bishop Mokuku of Lesotho; Youth Department of Lesotho; Mothers Union Ireland; MU Transkei; Archbishop Scott of West Africa; Archbishop Dann of Melbourne'; GFS Mt Waverley, Victoria; Mrs K Bright-Parker OBE Australia; Bishop Stewart of Western Mass; GFS Melbourne Diocese; Mrs Joan Williams, GFS President Wales; Mrs E Tsuji, Japan; GFS Wagga Wagga Australia; Diane Webster English delegate 1978; Bishop Childs of Monmouth; Bishop Cusack of Los Angeles; Mrs King, GFS Sierra Leone; Archbishop McAdoo of Dublin; Archbishop Armstrong of Armagh; Episcopal Church women of Liberia; Archbishop Williams of Wales; Dr Kate Botengan, GFS Philippines; Bishop Allin Presiding Bishop USA; Mrs Scott GFS Pres. Sierra Leone; Townsend Fellowship Dept. England; Bishop Van Duzen of New Jersey; Bishop Montgomery of Chicago; the Revd Freeman of Perkiomen, Pennsylvania; Mrs Baker, GFS New Zealand; Bishop Coburn of Mass; The Revd Durkee of Grace Church, Medford, Mass.; Bishop Lee of Korea; the Most Revd Sir Marcus Loane, Archbishop of Sydney and President of GFS Australia; Bishop Nakamichi of Japan; Gippsland Diocese, Australia; Ballarat Diocese Australia; GFS Leaders Sydney; GFS Victoria; GFS Barbados; Mrs Flemister, Liberian delegate 1962; Mrs Ross, Sierra Leone; Central Council of GFS and Townsend Fellowship England; Chichester Dioceses England; The President of Sri Lanka; the Primate Minister of Sri Lanka; Mrs Harold Woodward USA, 1st World Chairman.

Mrs Simms, Ireland, World Chairman 1959-1962 asked if special greetings could be sent from this World Council to the first World Chairman, Mrs Harold Woodward, now resident in an Old People's Home in St Louis, USA. This was agreed and a telegram sent.

Family Life Workshop

The World Chairman had asked Mrs Nixon, GFS President, England to conduct a workshop on Family Life. Theme – What effects might a broken home have on a girl? What can we in GFS do to counteract these effects?

Findings – In most countries the church looks at this problem from the standpoint of being a Christian country but in a non-Christian country it is a national problem not a church one.

- 1) What are the common causes of family breakup in your country?
Lack of preparation for marriage. Too much me, not enough us in marriage. Marriages of people who are too young and have unrealistic expectations.
In Ireland – pressure and problems of security force works.
Sierra Leone and Japan – mother-in-law
Gambling and more widely alcohol
Changing role of women. Loss of values.
- 2) Do the girls from these families come to GFS? Are they accepted?

It is necessary to accept the children of such homes into GFS. In a broken home there may be nobody to encourage, to listen to support. WE should give of our time and be aware of all the children in a branch. Don't be over aware of the problem.

- 3) Does the church as a whole do anything to help?
The church often comes in when asked but perhaps should not always wait until asked.
More Christian preparation for marriage needed.
High Christian standards taught more by example than any other way. Discipline is important.
Commitment should be stressed as we live in an age where it is almost discouraged.
- 4) What work is being done in your church to promote family life?
Church should encourage extended family relationships.
Family worship Sunday. Organisations such as Marriage Encounter and Christian Family Life associations were mentioned. Subject of sex education discussed in this question. Sex education for marriage should be encouraged not just biological facts. Education in terms of relationships.
- 5) Is marriage preparation taught in your GFS branch?
Most branches have girls too young to be taught marriage preparation. But subject should be included for teenage groups. Section on this in Irish GFS handbook.
If GFS leaders are to give marriage preparation, then we must prepare them and give them something to work with. Perhaps World Organising could put money into films, books, etc., was suggested. Closer liaison between GFS and Mothers Union.
- 6) What standards do you expect from your leaders?
Encourage leaders to show love for those in their groups.
Encourage discussion perhaps using topical events to bring in Christian ideals of marriage and family life when training leaders.
Important to include divorced leaders who have overcome great difficulties. If we exclude them, we opt out of full support and become exclusive.
Experience of one mistake or broken home can be invaluable.
- 7) What suggestions for action have you to put to GFS as a World Organisation that individual countries can take back and try to pursue?
Different cultures need different actions.
Pride in the homemaker to be encouraged.
Don't leave out the fathers.
See also 3 and 4.

Mrs Mayes thanked Mrs Nixon for the work put into preparing the workshop and the benefit felt by all who had participated.

West African Project

The World Chairman asked Mrs F Bain to introduce this session. Mrs Bain introduced Eva Hales who had gone to Sierra Leone, Liberia and the Gambia to carry out the Leadership Training Program. Eva presented her report with visual aids on the work carried out. A full booklet is available and attached to the Minute Book giving details of the completed program.

Eva's report was greeted with great enthusiasm and all agreed the personal approach of someone telling of her experiences on behalf of a GFS project really brought home the true feeling of our motto "Bear Ye One Another's Burdens". The delegates from Liberia and Sierra Leone thanked Eva and the World Council for a very worthwhile and much appreciated project.

Tuesday –Theme for the day "Peace"

World Project – delegates only.

Session opened with the World Chairman explaining that at the last World Council it was agreed that at future World Councils some time be given to a "delegates only" session. This was to encourage

participants by all delegates as very often it is easy to be overwhelmed when in a very large group. She said that each delegate has a contribution to make, and this should be encouraged.

World Project 75-78 was planned when delegates from West Africa requested assistance in the training of leaders and development of GFS.

World Project 78-81 was a different type of project. It was one of partnership between countries and the establishment of a World Fund as that in future between countries and the establishment of a World Fund as that in future a developing GFS country could host World Council without the problem of lac of finance to assist with running costs.

Delegates were asked to consider if they wished this type of project to continue or if they wished to adopt a specific project. Discussion took place. It was decided that a specific project is easier to work in branches and encourages support from the girls as well as being more personal and interesting. However, it was felt that the establishing of a World Fund had been necessary at this time. All agreed that we need a specific project for the next three years.

PROJECT PROPOSALS

1) From Guyana

The establishment and development of GFS work in the Province of the West Indies subject to the agreement of the Bishops. The Bishops gave verbal agreement to this suggestion as put to them by the late Archbishop. Due to his death and changes in the area, the present Archbishop feels it is not possible to continue with this proposal at this time. Proposal withdrawn.

2) From Transkei

GFS members would like an incubator and brooding machines to open a small factory to rear chickens and produce eggs to raise funds. The aims are not to open a factory only but to use the profits to open a GFS Art and Craft School or shop for this diocese and to help give employment to those who would otherwise be unemployed. The delegate from Transkei, Mrs Lockwe. Spoke about her country and outlined the problems which resulted in this proposal. Much discussion followed and many questions were asked about a market for the eggs, cost involved, quality of electrical system, availability of agricultural advice. Mrs Lockwe answered these. A site is available on the mission premises and promised by the Bishop. Teachers are willing to give time to the teaching of crafts and will supply initial materials. Cost to be refunded when project is working. Hospitals in the area buy fowl and eggs from outside and it is hoped to capture this market. Advice is available from the agricultural school. Project would only be dependent on funds for a few years and then will be independent. Treasurer of the diocese to be responsible. Craft work could be carried out as a home industry.

3) From discussion between Mrs Mayes, Ireland, Mrs Williams, Wales and Mrs Ross, Sierra Leone, Miss Eva Hales – A Leadership Training program as an ongoing thing such as the one completed I West Africa. Is it possible to think in terms of providing a trainer to carry out such work as requested by a country? Is it possible to have a follow-up at some stage to the West African project? Problems to be faced would be the work between assignments and a salaried post in home country and the difficulty of moving from one country to another and from one culture to another.

Much discussion took place on the follow-up idea. Liberia and Sierra Leone would like such a follow-up but could see the problems z%%% involved.

The World Chairman felt we were not in a position financially at this time to embark on the kind of training program outlined in the proposal. The Liberian delegate, Mrs Harman, suggested giving the West African countries the next three years to consolidate the training they have had and the proposal for a follow-up could be brought up at the next World Council. All the delegates were very impressed and excited about the West African Project and thought the suggestion of the Liberian delegate was correct.

USA proposed

'the adoption of the Transkei Chicken Farm as the next World Project'.

Guyana seconded this proposal.

CARRIED

It was proposed by Australia, seconded by England.

"that money left over from the West African Project, approx. \$3,000, be put into the account of the Transkei Project for use in purchase of an incubator" CARRIED.

World Fund

Mrs McDonald, Wales, reminded delegates that at last World Council the question of one country holding all World Council monies had been raised. The World Chairman stated she had consulted a banker on this matter. His advice was that at the present time only countries with a stable currency such as a sterling area, the USA, Japan or Germany should be considered. The delegates postponed making a final decision until the next hosting country of World Council was decided.

The proposal was put forward by Wales and seconded by Ireland

"That the World Fund be transferred to the next host country provided that country has a stable currency as outlined above" CARRIED.

Observers now joined the delegates, and the World Chairman reported the above decision.

That GFS worldwide will raise funds for GFS in Transkei to establish a chicken farm and produce eggs.

This will provide employment and food. Funds raised thereby to be used to establish a craft industry.

Transkei World Project to be one fund. World Council Fund to assist with the running of Council to

be a separate fund.

Reports

Copies of reports were printed and distributed to delegates covering GFS work for the past 3 years. Delegates commented on reports as presented.

England, Liberia, USA, Philippines, Sierra Leone, Transkei, Australia, Korea, Guyana, Sri Lanka, Japan, Lesotho, Wales, Ireland.

During the reports many gifts were presented to Mrs Mayes. TV cameras arrived to interview the World Chairman and filmed the presentation of a gift from the Anglican Youth of Lesotho.

Links

Discussion took place as to how effective the links system had been. Some countries found it worked very well, while others had difficulty in establishing worthwhile contact. USA said they would try to establish link with Windward Islands and Newfoundland as well as Gambia and Sierra Leone. Liberia and Australia asked to be linked and Australia also said they would try to forge a greater link with New Zealand. Japan is linked with Transkei and Ireland and there is a language problem. General opinion was that all are in favour of link system and in trying to further the bonds between countries.

Mrs Nixon, England proposed, Miss Pataa, Philippines, seconded

"That with the exception of a change for Liberia, Australia and USA the present overseas links be extended for a further three years". CARRIED.

World Newsletter

The World Chairman reported she was unable to send two newsletters per year for the whole of her term due to a National Postal Strike in the Republic of Ireland which lasted over six months. An appeal was made for correspondents to use the Newsletter to maintain closer contact between countries and also make known National Camps etc., at which visiting GFS members from overseas would be welcome. Appeals for special assistance in the way of craft materials etc., could also be put in the Newsletter.

Following this session Dr Simms gave a wonderful, illustrated lecture on the Book of Kells, an 8th Century Irish illuminated manuscript of the Gospels. This was an awe-inspiring lecture delivered by Dr Simms in his own very personal way.

Wednesday. Theme for the day “The Church in Service”

“**Windows on the World**”. Mrs Jessie Synnott chaired the “Windows on the World” session. This gave all present the opportunity to see and hear the conditions in which the church is working in all the countries where GFS works as present at Council. It was appropriate that a telegram to the World Chairman was received from the Archbishop of Canterbury just as England finished their presentation.

Resource Workshops – Delegates and observers split up into groups in workshops. Drama, Resource Kits, Dance, Bible Study Methods, Singing Games, Crafts.

Mrs Mayes introduced the leaders of each workshop and explained the aims of the afternoon. Each group to meet for two hours then to join together at 4.30pm to prepare for the Celebration of Holy Communion at 5pm at which our work of the afternoon would be offered up. Dance, a dialogue on the Lord’s Prayer, drama and singing games all became a part of the service. Crafts and resource kits together with the Bread and Wine were presented at the offertory. A real spirit of thanksgiving was present during this service.

Thursday – Theme for the day “The sick and those in need”

Council members departed after breakfast for an all-day tour of Ulster and were greeted by local GFS groups as well as local district councillors in various areas. On return Dr Simms conducted a Quiet Evening and centred around the theme for the day as he calmed and prepared us for the closing days of World Council.

Friday – Theme for the day “Thanksgiving”

The Revd Nobuyaano Sato, Japan, celebrated the early morning service of Holy Communion.

The closing session of the World Council began with the members all singing “This is the day the Lord has made”. Each delegate was presented with a little box of Australian sunshine to make up for the lack of sun all week. However, the warmth of love radiating from all present was so much brighter than any produced by the sun.

Frequency of World Council

With the increasing costs some members wondered if a five-year gap between councils might be advisable. The World Chairman pointed out that most countries work on a three-year election system and also it imposes a rather daunting task on the Chairman if the term be extended. A camp in the interim period was suggested if a five-year term be thought better. However, Mrs Nixon, England, stated that those going to camps and paying their own costs are not necessarily the people chosen as delegates to World Council. Also, the purpose of a Council and the purpose of a camp is rather different. General feeling was to keep to three years as we do need closer contact with each other. The World Chairman then asked if those countries planning camps would advise through the World Newsletter of dates etc. and make clear that visiting members from overseas would be most welcome to attend. Wales told of their plans for a 1981 Provincial Holiday to be attended by GFS members from Ireland. USA and Australia made known their plans for 1983 and 1984 and extended an invitation on the spot.

Location of 11th World Council

The World Chairman said it had been hoped that Guyana would host the 11th World Council in 1984, however the Bishop of Guyana feels that the position there would be too uncertain and has withdrawn the request. He hopes it may be possible to host a later council.

After consultation and careful thought Japan said they would be willing to host the next World Council in 1984 and Mrs Umeyo Iwai said she would be willing to act as World Chairman.

Mrs Nixon, England proposed and Mrs De Silva, Sri Lanka, seconded
"That Japan be the venue for the 1984 World Council" CARRIED.

This was greeted with great applause. Mrs Iwai then welcomed all to come to Japan and thanked council for their support. She asked for their assistance, prayers and understanding regarding the English language. She reminded members she could only do the work with God's help and with member's help and quoted the GFS motto "Bear Ye One Another's Burdens". England and Australia immediately offered assistance with World Newsletter and Mrs Mayes offer to assist with the world Project if this would help Mrs Iwai. The World Chairman expressed her delight that the next World Council would be in Japan where she and her family had spent seven happy years. She knew Mrs Iwai would be an excellent World Chairman. Mrs Simms informed Council that Mrs Tsuji, former Japanese World Chairman would be present at Open Day on Saturday and in Armagh on Sunday for the Commissioning of Mrs Iwai. The World Chairman said with Mrs Tsujio's arrival there would be seven World Chairmen present in Coleraine. All of the eleven members to hold the office are still alive. Those present would-be Mrs Mercy Simms, Ireland 1958-1962; Mrs Emiko Tsuji, Japan 1962-1965; Mrs Jean Cheshire, Australia 1969-1972; Mrs Felicity Mandelberg, England 1972-1975; Mrs Floris Bain 1975-1978; Mrs Elizabeth Mayes, Ireland 1978-1981 and World Chairman Elect, Mrs Umeyo Iwai, Japan, 1981-1984.

Location of 12th World Council

The present Bishop of Guyana has said it is hoped the 1987 World Council can be held there.

Any other business

The World Chairman reminded Council of the plans for Open Day which would be attended by members and their families from all over Ireland. National Banners are to be carried at the Service of Thanksgiving in Armagh at which Mrs Iwai will be commissioned as World Chairman. A delegate from each continent was appointed to read intercessions. Archbishop Armstrong, Primate of All Ireland will commission the World Chairman and will preach. Mrs Mayes thanked Dr Simms for all he had done for Council members during the whole week in his capacity as Chaplain. He also thanked her husband, Michael, for all his support and encouragement and not least for looking after the children so that she could carry out her duties. Dr Simms, in reply, said that the Coleraine World Council had meant a lot to him and that the worship, friendship and manner in which Council was conducted had deeply impressed him. Those present had been a great witness to the outside world. He thanked Beth for piloting the Council so well and he prayed that God would pilot all as they depart from Coleraine. He then extended every good wish to Mrs Iwai.

Yet more presentations were made to the World Chairman. She thanked everyone, particularly her steering committee for their support, help and prayers during her term of office and she thanked especially all those who had travelled to Coleraine.

Mrs Judith May, Mothers Union representative, thanked Mrs ayes for the warmth of her welcome and for the fellowship of a wonderful week. She said that in GFS work she could see it was God first, friends second and Self last. Members spoke of their initial reluctance to travel to Northern Ireland because of all the bad news but they would carry good news away with them.

Mrs Nixon, England, expressed the thanks of all present to Miss Olive Ross for all her work undertaken as World Treasurer.

The World Chairman dismissed the 10th World Council and called on all present to join together in Japan in 1984 under the chairmanship of Mrs Iwai and said
“May the road rise to greet you, May the wind be always at your back, May the sun shine warm upon your face and the rains fall soft upon your fields, and until we meet again may God hold you in the palm of His hand.”

All present joined hands in a circle and sang “Bind us together with love” after which Dr Simms closed the Council with his blessing.

Sgd. Anna Umeyo Iwai
August 22nd, 1984

As World Chairman 1978-81, I would like to record personally the witness of all who came together in love at the New University of Ulster in July 1981. At a time of great unrest and violence in the province, the GFS World Council came together and showed their love for their fellow members in the Body of Christ. They came in faith not knowing what to expect. By their presence we were enriched and greatly encouraged.

Sgd. Elizabeth A E Mayes