



GFS WORLD NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2020

MOTTO

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

World Executive Team

President: Ms Thembeka Pama

Vice-President: Lay Canon Val Gribble ML

Treasurer: Ms Nokwanda Benya

Secretary: Ms Pumeza Magona

Organiser: Ms Bekiwe Gijana

Youth Officer: Ms Kundai Matikiti

Incoming World President: Ms Lois Frankforter

Contact details:

Organisational Enquiries:

gfsworldpres2020@gmail.com

Newsletter information – strictly email:

valgribble1@bigpond.com

World Council 2021 Enquiries:

gfsworldsec2020@gmail.com

Website:

www.gfsworld.org

Facebook: GFS Worldwide



FROM THE WORLD PRESIDENT THEMBEKA PAMA

With the cancellation of the 2020 World Council (due to COVID-19) GFS World has come up with a plan for 2020-2021!

The outgoing GFS World President, Vice President and incoming GFS World President have agreed on the following:

1. From 9 July 2020 to 15 July 2021, Ms Thembeka Pama will remain in the position of World President with her main focus being on organising the World Council to be held in South Africa in 2021. The World Team will remain the same except for the addition of Ms Lois Frankforter (USA,) the incoming World President who will, from July 2020, work directly with the World President.
2. To retain the three-year cycle, the USA will be the host country for two years and the World Council meeting in USA will be held in 2023 as originally planned. There was one application to be host country after the USA and this will be announced in this newsletter.
3. Countries are still requested to provide their three-year reports (covering the period up to 31 December 2019) and their statistics covering the same period to the World President so that these can be compiled into an official composite report of the current term. The composite report will be posted on the GFS World website.
4. Most airlines are allowing credits on travel without any penalties being charged for travel



changes. So, hopefully, the travel grants made to many countries will still be available next year. Australia through World funds, who organised the travel for Melanesia, PNG and Philippines has asked for a full refund of the grants and, if approved, this money will be put back into the Travel Fund for 2021. If you were sent a grant in cash, please retain this and use for World Council in 2021. The process of travel fund granting was finalised before lockdown and all countries granted were informed.

5. As the World Council dates have been changed from 9-19 July 2020 to 15-25 July 2021 because of COVID-19, the Board of the Pat Franklin Foundation (PFF) has informed the office that their funds have been exhausted and they have no further grant for this term. Therefore, no application must be sent to the PFF.

6. As everyone has been advised, the deposits for World Council will remain in place for 2021. Registrations are open until 31 October 2020 for new members who may wish to register and attend. At this stage, it is unknown whether the cost of World Council 2021 will be the same as for this year and the World Team will advise you of this later.

7. As per the information sheet, 31 March 2020 was the cut-off date for all cancellations and, as such, cancellations were closed with effect from 1 April 2020. However, the cancellation fee of R500 will not apply since the cancellations were because of the coronavirus pandemic. Bank charges will, nevertheless, still be payable.

8. The GFS World Project by GFS Sri Lanka "Education for Employment Prospects" has now closed. If you are holding money for this project please contact Canon Val Gribble (valgribble1@bigpond.com) who will provide you with the banking details for money to be sent directly to Sri Lanka. You should advise the World President and World Treasurer of your payment.

9. As the date for the submission of World Project applications closed some time ago, there will be no further applications accepted for consideration in 2021. The two proposals will be presented at the July 2021 World Council and voted for in the

Council. After the presentations, the projects will run for two years - from July 2021 until the date of World Council in USA in 2023.

Further information:

As we follow the alphabet in the preparation of the World Day of Prayer guide, this year the program that was prepared by South Sudan has been sent to all country Presidents and is also posted on the website. In 2021, it will be Sri Lanka's turn, in 2022 - Swaziland and in 2023 - Tanzania.

The expectation is that the World Day of Prayer service collection for 2018 and 2019 will be made available and sent directly to Sri Lanka. It is recommended that the 2020 Day of Prayer service collection be collected and donated to the Emergency Relief Fund.

As the 2023 World Council will be in the USA and there will be more developing country participants travelling and, therefore, more demands on the Travel Fund, my humble request is for all countries to use this extra year (July 2020 to July 2021) to raise funds that will be donated towards the Travel Fund. Countries are advised to either deposit the donations into the GFS World Account or to bring the money with them when they come for World Council in July 2021. A time slot will be made available during World Council for "ingqungquthela" where each country will be given an opportunity to present the amount or output of their fundraising initiatives.

In conclusion, it is critical that as we work with developing countries and branches, the primary goal should be the transfer of skills and knowledge so that in future they are better able to plan, implement and manage their own GFS work. In other words, we should "teach them to fish" and assist with "fishing gear or tools," rather than "give them the fish."

Let us keep in touch using this lockdown period to come up with ideas on the betterment of GFS Worldwide.

Thembeke Pama.



GFS WORLD MINI CONFERENCE 9 JULY 2020

On the day when the 2020 World Council would have commenced, a ZOOM 2.5-hour Mini Conference was held. Thirty (30) countries were represented with 102 people connected. A great achievement, indeed! The theme of the day was "For Such a Time As This." The World President gave an address and the keynote speaker was Ms Melissa Awu. There was time for participants to introduce themselves. It was extremely encouraging to see so many of our GFS brothers and sisters from around the world. Certainly, in the troubled time of COVID-19, the use of technology to keep in touch has become the new norm.

**COUNTRY PRESIDENTS,
HAVE YOU SENT YOUR WORLD
REPORT (to 31.12.19) and Statistics
(to 31.12.19) to the World President?
If not, please do so by 31.08.20**

BIG NEWS!!!!

It is exciting that Sri Lanka has offered to be the host country from 2023 to 2025 with Mrs Jeanne Withange nominated as President. Thank you Sri Lanka and Jeanne! This will be ratified in 2021 and we are asked to pray for Jeanne and for GFS Sri Lanka as they plan for their time as host country.

NEWS FROM AROUND THE GFS WORLD

IRELAND

Greetings to our GFS Worldwide family from GFS all Ireland. We, like you all are journeying together through this time of response and developing what will be the rhythm of daily life while living with the COVID-19 virus.

Our members, while in "lockdown" have been finding creative ways to fulfil our motto of 'bearing one another's burdens.' We are developing and exploring new ways of fulfilling the ministry and work of GFS and we encourage everyone to stay safe particularly in the use of newer technologies.

We all have an important part to play by staying in touch with each other, encouraging each other, helping our younger members with craft and weekly challenges to help develop each other. Our older members are being helped by junior leaders who are sharing their computer and social media skills with GFS as a whole. It is hard to believe that at the beginning of this year few of us were familiar with online conferencing applications such as Zoom and Microsoft. As elders we are now part of the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR).

We remember in prayer our members who work in the health service and who are front line workers, those who have had much to bear through bereavement, illness and the challenges of loneliness, isolating, shielding and cocooning, our governments as they seek to guide and direct us, our church leaders, our communities, our GFS families locally, nationally and world-wide. We look forward to July 2021 when, God willing, we will be able to meet with our GFS sisters worldwide in South Africa. We pray for Ms Thembeke Pama and the World Council Team as they continue to plan and organise this council meeting.

It is perhaps a fact that many overlook, especially for a youth organisation, but GFS has in its long history already navigated and



operated through a number of global pandemics, including the Spanish Flu pandemic which ravaged the world 100 years ago. We have a faithful God and He is our hope and strength for each and every day.

There is little doubt that how we deliver our GFS program and operate in the future will change, but our core focus remains the development and encouragement of our members as they develop personally and, in their faith, and walk with God. We have a capable, talented and committed team of volunteers who lead and help GFS. This helps us look forward in hope and expectation.

Here is an encouragement that I would like to share with you:

There's no storm that God won't carry you through, no bridge that God won't help you to cross, no battle that God won't help you win, no heartache that God won't help you let go of. He is SO much bigger than anything you will face today, leave everything in HIS hands and embrace this day, confidently knowing that HE WILL take care of you"

Stay safe, stay well and stay connected.

Every blessing!

Alison Jackson, All Ireland GFS President.

A prayer in the time of the Coronavirus



Almighty and All-loving God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, we pray to you through Christ the Healer for those who suffer from Coronavirus and Covid-19 in Ireland and across the world.

We pray too for all who reach out to those who mourn the loss of each and every person who has died as a result of contracting the disease. Give wisdom to policymakers, skill to researchers, comfort to everyone in distress and a sense of calm to us

all in these days of uncertainty and distress. This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord who showed compassion to the outcast, acceptance to the rejected and love to those whom no love was shown. Amen!

Archbishop Michael Jackson

Dublin + Glendalough

GHANA

There are exciting new developments in GFS, Ghana. A new GFS branch has been established in the Anglican diocese of Sunyani with the assistance of the GFS World President and the Diocesan Bishop's wife, Mother Felicia Yeboa. We have started in two archdeaconries.



We hope to commission our first group in December, depending on the stage of the corona virus pandemic. We will be supported in this endeavour by our GFS National President, Christine Adjei. The GFS Diocesan President of this new branch is Ms Mabel Animah.





LIBERIA

Greetings from Liberia!

GFS Liberia had its Diocesan Convention under the World Council theme "Growing GFS Together with Prayer and Action" making use of the scripture, Colossians 3:16. The Convention was held at the St Stephen Episcopal Church on 10th Street, Sinkor, Liberia from 31 January to 2 February 2020.

Activities included:

Registration, Devotion, Roll Call, Drawing up of Calendar of Events for 2020, Prayer, Praise and Worship Time, Small-Group Bible Studies, discussing of the history of GFS, attaching meaning to the GFS Prayer/pledge and Motto. Others included reports from the Acting President, Thelma E Duncan Sawyer, the Financial Secretary, Leana Mitchell Kamgar and the outgoing Treasurer, Grace Tete Mensay. Revision of our By-Laws and Constitution, the conduct of Elections, and most importantly a colourful Thanksgiving Service on Sunday February 2.

We succeeded in grouping our members into three categories, namely: Junior Girls (age 7-12), Intermediate girls (13-17) and Senior Girls (18-25). Above 25 years are considered Sponsors/Advisors. In order to retain our girls and young women, we took into account four sets of uniform styles but used the same colours. We realized that many of our young women were shying away from wearing the same style of uniform with the juniors and thereby causing them to keep away. With this strategy put into place, we are anticipating that we will retain the active ones now and go after the passive and new ones.

We were preparing to make our presence felt at the Convention of the Episcopal Church Women of Liberia and our Churches' Diocesan Convention beginning from, the 9th-11th and 11th-17th February 2020 respectively. 6 of our girls will serve as pages at the Convention.



Please find below the listing of our newly elected officers who were installed on Sunday February 16 by our Archbishop, the Most Revd. Jonathan B B Hart at the close of our Diocesan Convention.

President: Sister Thelma E Duncan Sawyer

1st Vice-President: Deroe A Weeks

2nd Vice-President: Patricia Adadevoh

General Secretary: Quinnetta B Clement

Assistant General Secretary: Priscilla George

Treasurer: Grace F Kwayon

Chaplain: Angeline M Mulbah

Diocesan Advisors:

Mornjay O George Pratt

Mot. Georgiana R Mitchell

Mot. Koriah S Sellee

Moy. Georgiana T Williams.

We will keep in touch, but for now, we say "Shalom" to GFSers far and near!

Georgiana – Liberia February 2020
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AUSTRALIA

Greetings from beautiful Brisbane Queensland - where the weather has been giving us beautiful warm days and crisp nights just perfect for sleeping. Unfortunately, there are many things that are not quite so perfect here either for now. Probably not quite as drastic



as many other parts of the world or even Victoria but we are all again worried about the spread of the Corona Virus.

We, in Australia, after a most devastating early fire season, seemed to have managed the first wave of COVID-19 relatively well. Now we are facing the next round and we all are thinking and praying for our Victorian counterparts as they face their toughest lockdowns yet. Then there has been a spread to Sydney, NSW and now on to South East Queensland. And yet we give thanks that as yet we have been spared much of what the rest of the world has had to face. Our thoughts and prayers are with you as we know many of you do not have the level of control you would like and are very worried about the safety of your family, friends, work colleagues and, indeed, yourselves.

Many of you know we here in Australia also partner with Papua New Guinea on projects and we remember them too, now – in particular, as this disease spreads throughout their country with very limited resources to assist those who develop the virus.

On a brighter note, inspired by the World Council Zoom gathering, we have decided to organise an Australian-wide World Day of Prayer Service. We, in the executive, have been working hard on our Constitutional, Rules and Policies and have decided to couple our Australian wide vote on the new set and follow it up with the WDOP service to share Australia wide.

Let's keep inspiring each other as we bear one another's burdens!

Love and prayers,

**Cheryl Selvage, National President GFS
Australia.**

KENYA

Greetings from the Diocese of Mombasa, Kenya. We write to inform you that we have done restructuring of the Women and Girls Ministry operations in the diocese of Mombasa. All the Women and Girls' programs (Mothers Union, Anglican Women Fellowship and Girls Friendly Society) shall be coordinated centrally by the newly appointed coordinator: (GFS National President) Mrs Phoebe Maina and the Revd. Martha Mwaro President of Mother's Union and All Woman.



**The Rt Revd Alphonse Mwaro Baya
Bishop of Mombasa**

USA

Diocese of Los Angeles

We have been on lockdown since about March 20. Schools and non-essential businesses have been closed. Northern California has been on lockdown longer. We were blessed to have a visit from our Bishop Taylor on March 8, the last Sunday before churches started to close. The GFS members were an important part of the day's events. Now some parishes stream their services. My parish uses Zoom so we can interact. We continue to worship at home.



Popondetta were able to go to GFS Haus for sewing and craft days.



The Diocesan President remained at GFS Haus together with another member for support, and GFS Australia was able to assist them to meet the cost of power and water accounts as there was no diocesan income.

In Port Moresby Diocese, the Feeding Program ceased.

During the State of Emergency (SoE) there were very few cases of COVID-19 in PNG but one the SoE was lifted, there was a sharp increase and now Port Moresby is in lockdown again. The Australian Government is sending PPE and skilled personnel to PNG to assist with the controlling of the virus. **Val Gribble on behalf of GFS PNG.**

The branches in the Diocese of Los Angeles have not been meeting since the lockdown; leaders needed to take care of their own issues first. However, we are planning an online diocesan-wide celebration on May 16 to celebrate the 143rd Anniversary of GFS. We will use the Zoom app to have a short worship, do some sharing, and teach the girls some self-care and coping skills.

Our leader Mary Mabuoch is the spirit behind these ideas. She has small children, so she knows how much they enjoy being able to see their friends online during this time. Most children have iPads or computers, either at their home or on loan from their school.

Our Diocese is also planning to launch a weekly online program for children in the diocese this summer since activities are still likely to be limited.

Margaret Nolde, Diocese of Los Angeles, USA

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Like most countries GFS has not been operating any branch or diocesan activities during the current pandemic. The 3-month State of Emergency meant that in Popondota diocese all people remained in their villages. Some members who lived in the town of



GIFTS AND DONATIONS TO GFS WORLD ACCOUNTS

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

Account details:

Account Name: GFS World Account
Banking Institution: ANZ Bank
Address: Shop 67, Whitford City,
Cnr Marmion & Whitford
Avenues, Hillarys, WA
6025
BSB Code: 016 494
Account Number: 392526836
Swift Number: ANZBAU3M

**THE CUT-OFF DATE FOR
ARTICLES AND PHOTOS
FOR THE NEXT NEWSLETTER:
31 OCTOBER 2020**

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

Account Name: GFS World Council
Bank: First National Bank
Branch: Balfour Park
Branch Code: 250655
Account Number: 62720797953
Swift Code: FIRNZAJJ
Branch Address: Shop 229, Balfour
Park Shopping Centre
Highlands North
2192