

A VOTE OF THANKS

PART 1

Opening Statement

Family of Christ and all people who are in the space that we are in, let's all thank God the creator for making this day a success.

My name is Thembeke Pama the GFS World President. I hope you enjoyed this informative assembly that our committee has organised today. It is my honour and privilege to do this Vote of thanks acknowledging all those who made this first of its kind GFS Virtual World Council happen. Let's all agree that we are now in a new normal. **God allowed things to be new.** The GFS World Executive applauds those who kept the light burning in all these years even in times of this Pandemic (nale iyadlula) which means this too shall pass.

This event would not have been at this level without the organizing team together with TFI Production the young technical guys behind the sins.

GFS World Executive I applaud you for pooling through despite the challenges imposed by the pandemic. Thank you, National Presidents, for sending information in time.

Your grace, the archbishop The Most Revd Samuel Inosa of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan thanks you for gracing this GFS World Council Meeting with your presence and prayers. All bishops present, the bishops of the countries that were admitted today, bishop Brighton of Malawi, bishop Bertin of DR Congo, your support of this event is much appreciated. Clergy, sister organisations from around the World and entertainers thank you for being part of us today.

Our guest speaker The Revd Canon Dr Mongezi Guma thank you for giving us a picture of Dr Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela as an icon not just of South Africa but of the World. Thank you for reminding us that other than being just a politician he was Christlike, preaching forgiveness, peace and unity among the people of the World.

The dean mother Thandeka Vikilahle of the Anglican diocese of Mthatha we appreciate your motherhood to GFS Anglican Church of Southern Africa. The Revd Canon Dr Rachel Mash the coordinator for Green Anglican in our Province you always support GFS and youth of the Province standing in the gap as we have few women in top position in the Anglican church.

All those who are part of this program the role they played is appreciated. Our special guests from around the World, all our supportive partners and delegates your participation is noted and valued. We hope that the next time you participate as delegates in 2023 it will be a hybrid hosted GFS World Council. GFS youth Provincial Chaplain Revd Dr Vuyisile Sonti you have been part of the organising team supporting our meetings, we are continuing.

Bishop Dintoe the bishop assigned to work with this organisation in the Province, the World executive has no words to adequately express our gratitude. Your support has been extra

ordinary. Working with you has thought us a great deal. Your humility often makes us forget that you are the bishop and we relate to you more like our equal. Let me also thank mama Zanele the wife of the bishop who always support travelling with you long distances when attending GFS gatherings. Thank you for motivating the GFS World President especially in times of difficulties. Please remember we are matching with you to 2023 and will be travelling with you to Sri Lanka in 2026 for their World Council hosting.

GFS World leadership from 32 countries around the World headed by National Presidents thank you for a job well done from 2017- to date, knowing that you are going to lift your lamps higher as we journey together further to 2023. You are doing a good job in bearing each other's' burdens changing the lives of people in our communities for the better through development using your skills, resources and gifts. I hear now and then in your prayers giving Praise to God just as Paul in 2nd Corinth 3 Vs 5 reminds us that our competence comes from God. Thank you for making things easier for the current World executive.

World Executive Val, Lois, Nokwanda, Tecla, Pumeza Bekiwe if you did not stand by my side and cushion me, I would have fallen as the road has been rough, stipe and long but by Gods grace all is well. Again, to my immediate team Val and Lois you are real sisters in fact it became clear to me that you wanted my term to be a success. National Presidents, we would not have realised the achievements that we have without you.

This assembly is also about tracking the work that has been done from 2017-2020 and extending the current World president's term until the next World Council in 2023 when the hand over by GFS South Africa to GFS Sri Lanka will take place. South Africa does not take this extension lightly as it shows the confidence that the World has in South Africa, as a country.

Leadership even though we are going through challenging times GFS around the World has done well as a result of everyone pulling together to ensure that we do not drop the ball. All was because of you. Let us continue to fly the GFS flag in our countries high and remember the promise from God that He will never leave nor forsake us

Let me take this opportunity to welcome the GFS National President of USA Ms Lois Frankforter who has been elected to the Executive as a result of this extension up to 2023. Since onset of the Pandemic we have been together in this journey, my visit to USA strengthened our relationship more. Welcome to the team! Now let me welcome to the team the GFS National President of Sri Lanka madam Jeanne Withanage as an incoming GFS Worldwide President. You are also joining the GFS World executive and will take over the GFS World Presidency with your new team come 2023. I will be gladly taking off these boots and gloves and handing over to you. You are welcome to the team! God permitting the World will be your guests in 2026.

CONCLUSION

Members of this GFS World Council once again the Lord has noticed your efforts at leaving Christlike lives, caring each other's burden being sensitive to, and addressing socio economic development needs of the disadvantaged in our communities. Let us bear in mind that Jesus did not heal the saved only. As Christians we are called to draw as many of those who do not believe in thee leaving God to come to His Kingdom as we were commissioned by Jesus to do 'Matthew 28 vs 19' and teaching them to obey everything He has commanded.

One way of doing this is to continue with our development programs of Curbing the Abuse of Women and Children, Curbing Climate Change and facilitating Spiritual growth.

As Leaders it is important to remain relevant as we plan project to be implemented in our communities. We need to consider the specific conditions that prevail in those communities and devise relevant solutions. For the solutions to be easily implemented we need to use a language that local Communities can understand.

Thank you for being ambassadors of Christ remember, Jesus used to mingle with ordinary people as you do. As we work in our communities, let us remember that the threat of Covid 19 is still with us. We must continue to adhere to the protocols to minimize its spread even those of us who have been vaccinated.

If you keep safe you will increase the chances of you, coming to the next World Council as South Africa is ready and looking forward to hosting you in 2023

To all of you who are participating in this historic Virtual GFS World Council, your presence has made this function a success. For that God has changed your names you are now called the Blessed ones.

Thank you once again and Be blessed.

Compiled by: Thembeka Pama

GFS Worldwide President

15 July 2021