

SEEK  
justice



Micah 6:8

LOVE  
mercy



WALK  
humbly  
with  
your  
God



## Greetings

### Around Australia



Dear GFS Friends,

I hope this finds you all well and not too many of you suffering with winter ills. I know not only here in Queensland but all over Australia we are hoping and praying for rain. Everywhere I look it is brown as we have had many frosts this year.

Well we have finally done it, we have had our first cyber link up for a GFS Exec Meeting. We all felt a little like the Brady Bunch (sorry you have to be of a certain age to appreciate that reference) to begin with and it did take some perseverance but eventually we made it. Whilst I doubt it will ever replace the joy and personal touch of a face to face meeting I think it is a brilliant way to get us together without hours of expensive travel and disruption to lives. So, here's to many more meetings as we decided there is much to be discussed.

You will note throughout this newsletter you will be asked to reflect on and respond to a number of ideas offered by the Exec. I hope you all take time to read all that has been going on and to respond to those opportunities offered. We'd love to hear some more of your comment, begun at National, as to ideas on Mid-Term Conference.

I also know there are a number of people within the GFS Australian Community who are not well and I hope you will join with me in keeping them and their loved ones close in prayer; as I pray for each of you in your ministries daily.

In GFS love, *Cheryl*

## Kitchen Appeal

For GFS Haus in PNG



What would you do if your stove no longer was working? How would you live without your fridge?

Well, I would just run along to my local Harvey Normal store and order some new ones....

But when you are in GFS Haus in Popondetta in PNG it is a bit harder to do this. There isn't even a Harvey Normal store in Port Moresby. But the needs of the those who use the GFS Haus are just the same as you and me and so we are asking if you can help us to purchase a new stove and fridge for them to use. It will cost a lot more—just to locate them, freight them over hills and dales to reach the other side of the country. But we are praying for help from Aussie GFS friends to provide these items (along with the gas supply to run the appliances for at least a year).

Our best estimate of cost is around \$5000.

**So...**

**Can you help in any way?**

**Could your next trade table profit go towards it?**

**Can you allocate a few dollars in your budget?**

**Could you have a special bake off to raise funds?**

Please send all money donated to Noeleen (mark it for GFS Haus repairs) and let's see if we can make a difference for our GFS sisters in PNG.

Oh and could we do it by December this year?

I am sure we can!!

## Prayers

### Around our world

We pray for the GFS National Executive—for good health for all, for wise decision making, for love and patience as they carry out their daily activities. We pray especially for Reverend Cheryl as she ministers to the hospitals.

We remember Sandra Simonis—a good and faithful friend to many in GFS and especially we remember her family after her passing away. In Rockhampton we pray also for Reverend Colleen Robertson and Reverend Claire Dewar who recently passed away.

We pray for Thembeke Pama and her team as they prepare for World Council, and as Thembeke travels around Africa encouraging new groups.

WE pray for those affected by drought—families farming and their communities—and we pray for rain to bring relief.

We give thanks for the work started in Sri Lanka to teach English to young women to help with their employment prospects. We thank you for the funds raised so far for the world project and pray for much more to be received.

We pray for those who are faithful and regular members of GFS, helping or leading groups week after week to share with young girls and women about the love of God.

We pray for Lyn Vaak, our Vice Chairman and also Chairman of Sydney as she awaits for results from some tests and for treatment to improve her energy and health in general.

We pray for Pat Byron who is particularly low at this stage. Pray for her family of friends who are keeping watch as her life ends.

We pray for our nation, that its leaders might seek to bring justice, mercy and God's love into everyday decisions.

## GFS out and about

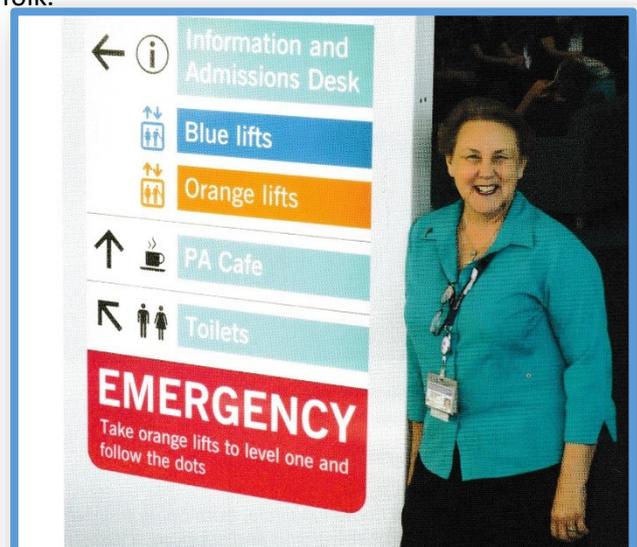
### PNG and Solomon Islands

**PNG** We have had a team of GFS Australia people out and about. In July Cheryl Selvage, Val Gribble and Sue Wilson travelled to PNG for their annual visit (although it had been two years since their last visit). A brief outline of their visit is included (either at the end of the newsletter if you receive it by mail or as a separate email if you are an email recipient.)

Please read through this to learn more about our PNG friends, the work that has been undertaken and how we might help further this work.

### Solomon Islands (GFS Melanesia)

In September/October Julie Smith and Gail Orchard are going to visit GFS Melanesia members for more training as part of the World Project from a few years ago. This time there will be training for those who will train up more leaders to continue the growth of GFS. Please keep them in your prayers as they travel and as they celebrate World Day of Prayer with these lovely folk.



Read more about Cheryl's "day job" (and nights too) in Focus, publication by Anglican Church Southern Queensland, June/July edition

## Around the Nation

### GFS Perth 130 years young

GFS in Perth celebrated its 130<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a 'Blessed to be a Blessing' dinner dance on June 23 at the Duxton Hotel in Perth. 109 people attended the evening to celebrate the milestone. In keeping with the Society's motto to "bear one another's burdens", 50 per cent of the tickets to the dinner were given away to those who support others, or who may need a boost. Organisations such as St Bart's in East Perth, the carers associated with Parkerville Children and Youth Care, Collective Hope and workers and carers from Good Sammy's came along to the celebration. We had all 5 of our current Life Members attend Jan McNamara, Michelle Szymanski, Glenys Pickford, Kate Brewer and Linda Rock. We were pleased to welcome Tim Clifford, the Greens (WA) MLC for the East Metropolitan region, JD from 98.5 Sonshine FM and his wife Karen, as well as other GFS members and their friends. It was a wonderful night of great food, friends, photo booth fun and lots of dancing!



The emphasis for the dinner evolved when at a meeting of the Committee members, the Parable of the Wedding Feast from Matthew 22 was raised. It then rapidly grew from that point forward with many people helping out and donating tickets for others. GFS will be organising a "Blessed to be a Blessing" dinner annually after it was such a success this year, we will be looking for partners and donors for this event going forward.

Our last celebration for this 130<sup>th</sup> year is in the form of an Afternoon Tea at 2 p.m. followed by Evensong at the Cathedral on September 30. RSVP to the GFS Office for catering (ph. 9202 1627) GFS is also looking for past (and current members to share their stories about their time in GFS. We would love to feature their stories on our website and then create a mini-movie that celebrates GFS in Perth.

## Ballarat

### Teapots and an Author



On 30th July the ladies from Ballarat met to hear a very interesting and amusing speaker and author, Mrs Lorraine Smith. Her book is entitled "Journey of a lost Manuscript". In 2013 a customer in a Warrnambool second hand bookshop, found a sixteenth century parchment inside a copy of Alice in Wonderland. Lorraine's book is the search to find out how it got there and from where it came. The afternoon also included a teapot competition to find the most interesting teapot. The winner of this was Wendel Davis, the group's historian. A three tiered high tea finished off a great afternoon of fellowship. Money raised during the day was sent to the World Project.

*Mrs Heather Turner is presenting Mrs Lorraine Smith with a gift following her talk.*

# Newcastle

## Reverend Nicole's Ordination

On Saturday, June 30th Nicole Baldwin, our previous National Secretary, was ordained as a Deacon in the diocese of Newcastle at their beautiful Christ Church Cathedral. Also ordained was Reverend Jacqueline Drewe, who was once a GFS member and will now be serving as Honary Deacon in the Cathedral Parish.



**Nicole writes of her new life...** *For me, the call to ordained life is an ongoing journey in which I am being drawn deeper into relationship with God. Being part of my local community, I am a Christian witness and have the great privilege and responsibility to serve God and God's people as the Holy Spirit calls, equips and guides me. One of the most rewarding things that I do each week is teaching Special Religious Education in four of our local schools. During the year I have journeyed with the children in their exploration and understanding of God's love for them and all people. I am also part of a youth group leadership team. The best part of being a Deacon, is using my time for ministry, rather than ministry being something that I do in my spare time.*

# Central Queensland

GFS members in the diocese of Central Queensland are facing a major decision as they look to the future but with no one willing to take on the coordinating role.

## Meeting about the Future

There are two branches remaining, both in the same parish, a Townsend group which meets for bible study and prayer and is a major prayer support for the children's group. There is also a large adult members group who offer financial and prayer support not only to diocesan GFS but also nationally and internationally. A group of adult members and leaders recently met for their annual Fellowship weekend and with the assistance of the GFS Diocesan Chaplain (The Rev'd Narelle Kidson) and a new Deacon in the diocese did some very in depth work on change, on where to and how GFS can continue to be involved in children's ministry in the one parish. We meet again as a diocesan group for our World Day of Prayer (we keep in October) and from there will make a decision on the future leadership of GFS in the Diocese of CQ. We seek your prayers as we approach our decision making time. *Val Gribble*

# Brisbane

## Dinner and a Crosier



The members of the South Side Townsend met together at Lesley Brigg's home to join in fellowship for a meal. The group was small but hearty in thanks with many a laugh.

Lesley Gee also writes about the process to make the beautiful Crosier presented to Bishop Sonia on her ordination.

*The Crosier was made at Mt Gravatt Mens Shed and members of the Men's Shed attended a service at St Bart's with a display. One of the main workers on the Crosier presented a PowerPoint display about the process including how the top was reinforced and it will now come apart for travelling like a banner pole.*

Seek Love Walk

## Tasmania

### Kidsplus with Tegan and a High Tea



Kids plus fun—"For God so loved the world .."

Meanwhile a High Tea was held for the Townsend group who celebrated 34 years as a group and with dear Betty Dean as their leader during this time. We are looking forward to celebrating many more years together as friends in GFS. Nothing less than fur, pearls and a fascinator for our Betty who celebrated in style.



DON'T LET ANYONE  
LOOK DOWN ON YOU  
BECAUSE YOU ARE YOUNG,  
BUT SET AN EXAMPLE  
FOR THE BELIEVERS IN SPEECH,  
IN CONDUCT, IN LOVE,  
IN FAITH  
AND IN PURITY.  
1 Timothy 4:12

Joel and Tegan Gillie have been a part of a Soma based Church in Melbourne's inner west over the last year. Following Gods plan for their life they have moved to Carlton to be part of the team at Southern Beaches Anglican and will lead a young adults Missional Community based in Carlton, Tas starting in early 2018.

Read 1 Timothy 4:12 to know of Joel and Tegan Gillie's great outline of why its important for young adults to gather and encourage each other in faith, love and hope! This has spurred them on to begin a Kidsplus group at Dodges Ferry School meeting on a Tuesday afternoon.

Tegan writes : *"So far at KidsPlus+™ we have been having so much fun! We have over 20 kids on the books, with a regular group of attendees. Almost half of our attendees have no church contact, and we have been surprised at the complete lack of Bible literacy, This has given us a chance to start from scratch, this term we are slowly working through John 3:16 concept by concept. What a joy to share the gospel!*

*We have lots of fun playing games, singing, doing craft and most importantly learning about Jesus and how He tells us to live from the Bible."*

## Sydney

### Strategic Plan and Camden

Eleven people attended the "Special Meeting" to discuss their next Strategic Plan. We started the meeting with some words from Leonie with a reminder of Proverbs 3:5-6 "Trust in the Lord with all your heart. Never rely on what you think you know. Remember the Lord in everything you do and he will show you the right way." We thought about the people that GFS Sydney affects in any way and made a Venn diagram displaying the relationships of such groups. We then divided into groups and did a SWOT (Strengths / Weaknesses / Opportunities / Threats) analysis of GFS Sydney. After sharing each group's ideas, we then progressed to developing ideas for the Strategic Plan. The consensus was that the 6 main headings: Mission, Promotion, Pastoral Care, Training & Equipping, Administration and Finance; should remain. A comprehensive list of details was developed.

**Camden Visit:** Lyn Vaak and Tania Brown enjoyed a visit to Camden GFS group. They were studying Abraham and much fun was had as they sang their song and participated in crafts. Lauren Lamaro and Megan Crocker were awarded their Deeth Awards following their involvement in World Council.

## From Executive

### Mid term Conference and Vision Statement

#### Mid term Conference, 2019

We are contemplating a change next year to the date for the Mid Term Conference. We have usually held these over a long weekend in June, although this is not a long weekend all over Australia and disadvantages those from Perth and Queensland.

We would like your opinions on using the first weekend in October next year as our new date. We hope this will offer - a long weekend timing for some, school holidays for many and warmer weather to be together (especially if we choose a northern area to meet).

We would like your opinions and ask that you contact your Diocesan Chairman/Secretary and they can communicate to us by the 23rd of September with their preference. (The National Executive will be again meeting by phone conference on this day).

#### Vision Statement

We had a false start to the year as we waited for the information, but finally we are ready to begin considering the wording of our purpose and vision ready for further discussion in a wider context.

Please let us know if you are interested to have some initial input into this process. (email to [julie679233@gmail.com](mailto:julie679233@gmail.com))

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