



JOYFUL JOURNEY

Girls' Friendly Society, Colombo 3.

January - April 2025

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings to all our wonderful members!

As we step into the blossoming month of May, it's a perfect time to reflect on the rich experiences and growth we shared during the first four months of the year. From the hopeful beginnings of January through the vibrant close of April, these past months have been filled with learning, connection, and the spirit of togetherness within our Girls' Friendly Society community.

A Season of Renewal: Remembering Easter

The season of Easter, which we celebrated in April, brought with it a powerful message of hope, renewal, and the strength of community. We trust that you all enjoyed a blessed Easter filled with joy, peace, and cherished moments with your loved ones. It served as a beautiful reminder of new beginnings and the importance of unity, values that are at the heart of our GFS family.

Encouraging Progress Through Our Programmes

We are delighted to share the positive outcomes and enthusiastic participation we witnessed in our programmes and activities held between January and April. It has been truly encouraging to see the engagement and the tangible impact these initiatives have had on our members. The commitment and the eagerness of our members to learn and grow together are the cornerstones of our vibrant and impactful society.

Looking Ahead

As we embrace the month of May and the opportunities it holds, we are filled with excitement for the activities and growth that lie ahead. We remain steadfast in our commitment to providing a nurturing and empowering environment where women and girls can flourish, forge lasting friendships, and develop into confident and compassionate young women.

Thank you to each and every one of you for your ongoing commitment and enthusiasm. Together, we continue to make a meaningful difference in the lives of girls and women in our community.

“Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.” - Galatians 6:9 (NIV)

Rohini Ratnam



Joyfully Journeying with Jesus



I am Alisha, and I come from a Buddhist background. My mom is a Buddhist and my dad was a Christian convert. However, I have attended church ever since I can remember. In my journey with Jesus, there is a special day that I remember and will never forget. This was the day that my O/L results were released. On that day, before leaving home, I quickly ran into my room in my uniform and backpack on and knelt on the floor. I started to desperately pray to God, telling Him that all I wanted was for my mom to be happy with my results. After I went to school, I was standing in line for my results and my mom came running to me and she hugged me and kissed me saying that a teacher had told her that I got an 'A' for Chemistry. I ended up getting two 'A's for Physics and Chemistry. Ever since that day, my faith in God grew stronger and I began to seek God in every action that I did. This has helped me to learn to love God and build a relationship with Him. This reminds me of the Bible verse, ***"Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the Lord your God goes with you; He will never leave you nor forsake you."*** (Deuteronomy 31:6)

I hope this verse encourages whoever is reading this, to always rely on our Almighty Father and that Jesus loves and cares for us all the time!

Alisha Piyaratne

WHAT IS CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP AND WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

Christian stewardship is a very important aspect in our lives that we as Christians must follow.

Christian stewardship in a nutshell is that God owns everything, and we are called to be responsible managers, or stewards of His resources given to His children, which include; our lives, time, talents and possessions. Everything that that is entrusted to us (our personal lives, family, properties, employment and all resources) are to be used for God's glory and to glorify Him. Stewardship means that ***"we are to use what God has given us, wisely and faithfully, reflecting His ownership"***. The creeds of churches say ***"we believe in God Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and of all things, visible and invisible"***. Stewardship also involves recognising that all blessings come from God and accepting these with thanksgiving and gratitude. The foundation concept of stewardship is found in 1 Cor. 4:2 ***"Moreover it is required in stewards that one be found faithful"***.

1. God's Ownership and Our Stewardship:

- **God is the ultimate owner of all things;**

***"The earth is the LORD's, and all its fullness,
The world and those who dwell therein."***

Psalm 24:1

This means that we are not the owners of our possessions, talents, skills or time, but are responsible 'managers' entrusted with these resources for the sole purpose of glorifying God.

2. Stewardship and Responsibility:

- Christian stewardship is to be taken as a serious responsibility and not taken for granted or lightly.
- We are called to be faithful stewards, using our gifts, talents, time skills and resources to serve God and for the extension of His kingdom on earth.



3. Our Bodies-the Temple of the Holy Spirit:

Our bodies are the temple of the Holy Spirit. Thus, caring for our bodies and using them for God’s glory is of paramount importance. *“Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's. 1 Corinthians 6:19-20*

4. Time & Talents:

Stewarding our time by prioritising personal prayer and study of God’s Word for our spiritual growth and engaging in various aspects of Christian ministry (caring, sharing etc.) are also important aspects of stewardship.

5. Stewardship of the Household:

“But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.” 1 Timothy 5: 8

6. Possessions and Employment:

Money and the sources of how we earn our income are gifts from God to be used for His purposes, which include tithing, giving, serving, and sowing into His work. *“As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.” 1 Peter 4:10*

And the Lord said, “Who then is that faithful and wise steward, whom his master will make ruler over his household, to give them their portion of food in due season? Blessed is that servant whom his master will find so doing when he comes.” Luke 12:42-46

7. The Responsibility on us to Protect & Cultivate

“Then the LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to tend and keep it.” Gen.2: 15

★ Stewardship in the Bible:

Moses, who cared for the land of Israel, Joseph, who was a faithful steward of Potiphar’s house, the parable of the talents and many more.

The Reward!

As always, God gives us rewards for being faithful. Faithful stewardship is a way to be rewarded with God’ s blessings, favour and increase. There is always joy, purpose and victory in being faithful stewards.

Let us all remember that, as stewards we are always expected to make good use of things we are entrusted with!





GFS GOAL 1

**Spiritual Development and
Spreading the Good News**



NEW YEAR SERVICES OF BLESSING – JANUARY 2025

GFS Headquarters – Colombo

A New Year service of blessing was held at the GFS Headquarters on 1st January 2025 with 14 participants. Rev. Chintha Polgampola opened in prayer, followed by a hymn and a sermon by the GFS Chaplain Ven. Christopher Balraj. Drawing from Matthew 25:35, he emphasised on the GFS's role in being a blessing to others. He said that we are the channel that God uses to bless others. The service concluded with prayer, blessings, and refreshments.



Regional Office – Dickoya

The New Year service of blessing was held on 3rd January 2025, led by Rev. S.K. Daniel with 16 attendees. His message from Ephesians 3:1–12 highlighted the GFS's community mission. Intercessory prayers were offered for the work of several branches. The service ended with blessings using holy water and oil. Milk rice and tea were served at the end of the service.



SERVICES OF THANKSGIVING FOR THE GFS 150TH ANNIVERSARY

Christ Church – Hambantota

65 participants, including 20 GFS members, joined in a New Year blessing integrated into the Sunday service. Rev. Anil Wickramasinghe preached from Luke 12:13-21, encouraging trust in God for the New Year. The service ended with intercessory prayers and light refreshments.



Headquarters

The Girls' Friendly Society, founded in 1875 in England by Mary Elizabeth Townsend, celebrates its 150th anniversary this year. As the first women's organization within the Anglican Communion, the GFS has provided spiritual support, friendship, and empowerment to young women across 32 countries. In Sri Lanka, GFS was established in 1904 and now proudly serves as the World Host Country (2023–2026) under the leadership of Ms. Jeanne Withanage, the World President.





A beautiful thanksgiving service was held at the GFS Headquarters on the 8th February to mark this milestone. The Rt. Rev. Dushantha Rodrigo, Bishop of Colombo and Mrs. Shehara Rodrigo, were our chief guests. The Ven. Christopher Balraj, Archdeacon of Colombo & Chaplain of the GFS, Rev. Niroshan de Mel, the World Chaplain and clergy graced this occasion. The service featured an inspiring sermon, intercessory prayers, worship by the Pink Pearls choir, and a uniquely Sri Lankan Kiribath Cake, reflecting the vibrant legacy and enduring mission of the GFS. Traditional sweetmeats were served at the end of the service.



Southern Archdeaconry

The GFS 150th Anniversary was celebrated across three locations in the Southern Archdeaconry on 23rd March 2025.

- At Christ Church, Hambantota, 22 members gathered for a special service, with prayers offered in gratitude for the 150 years of the GFS ministry, led by Rev. Anil Wickremasinghe.
- The celebration continued at St. Luke’s Church, Deniyaya, where 25 members participated in a service and enjoyed tea and fellowship. Rev. Joseph Johnson participated in the event.
- At Christ Church, Beverly, 25 members attended the anniversary service followed by the monthly GFS branch meeting, with prayers of thanksgiving for the GFS ministry. Tea was served afterwards and a time of fellowship was enjoyed by all.

These services marked a meaningful moment in the GFS journey, filled with prayer, fellowship, and gratitude.



Upcountry Deanery

The GFS 150th Anniversary Service for the Upcountry Deanery was held on the 19th January 2025 at Christ Church, Dickoya, with 111 participants including 24 GFS members. Organised by Ms. Jemima Moses, Coordinator and led by Rev. S.K. Daniel. The service included intercessory prayers from branch representatives, a time of praise and worship, and a brief introduction to the GFS. Despite poor weather preventing the display of banners and limited photo documentation, the service was spiritually uplifting. Refreshments of milk rice and tea were served. The event was supported by branch leaders and volunteers, and marked a meaningful 150th anniversary celebrations in the Upcountry Deanery.





**Regional Office Dickoya Special Ladies’
Prayer and Fellowship Meeting**

Held on the 24th February at the Regional Office, this meeting brought together members from Christ Church, Dickoya, and All Saints’ Church, Maskeliya. Ms. Devini Tissaaratchy shared a message on “How to be Spiritually Fit,” emphasising spiritual discipline. Time was set aside for personal prayer, followed by refreshments. The presence of guests including Ms. Princy Bastian, a GFS member from Colombo and a supportive local lady from another faith added a special touch.



5th Sunday Service – Christ Church, Dickoya

The GFS branch at Christ Church, Dickoya took part in the 5th Sunday Service with a special intercessory prayer for the upcoming GFS World Conference in July 2026. The prayer was led by Ms. Premila Sam, a member of the GFS. The event was supported by Rev. S.K. Daniel and coordinated by Ms. Jemima Moses, Regional Coordinator.

GFS MONTHLY PRAYER MEETINGS

Christ Church, Dickoya

The GFS meeting at Christ Church, Dickoya focused on confirmation students and their parents, with 32 participants. The session included prayers and meaningful discussions on spiritual growth, family bonding, and the dangers of drug use. Ms. Vanesha llangovan spoke on preparing for First Holy Communion, while Ms. Vasantha Ranjithkumar encouraged daily Bible reading. Ms. Grace Edwin led a prayer for the GFS Upcountry programmes. The meeting strengthened faith and family connections within the church community.



St. Paul’s Church, Punduloya

The GFS branch at St. Paul’s Church, Punduloya held its monthly meeting on the occasion of the church’s 101st Anniversary, with 34 attendees. The celebration included a special service, cutting the anniversary cake and fellowship. The meeting, led by Ms. Chandrakala Ramesh, the branch President, welcomed Ms. Jemima Moses, Upcountry Regional Coordinator, who discussed upcoming GFS activities including Orange Day, a church premises cleanup, and an essay competition. A special prayer was offered for a special needs child, Marshi, and her family. The gathering ended with a prayer by Ms. Grace Mathawan, reflecting a spirit of unity and care.



St. Luke’s Church, Deniyaya

The GFS monthly meeting was held on the 23rd April, 2025 at 12.30pm after the Sunday service. Before the meeting they also celebrated the 150th anniversary. 20 members attended the meeting and they discussed matters such as holding monthly prayer meetings, monthly GFS meetings and planning programmes. Everyone agreed to hold this meeting every month. Rev. Joseph Johnson’s attendance at this meeting was much appreciated. The meeting ended at 1.15 pm.





Christ Church, Beverly

The monthly GFS meeting was held at the Christ Church, Beverly on the 27th April, 2025, with 22 members in attendance. It was agreed that the meeting would be held on the last Sunday of each month. They were happy to have Brother Justin also attending the meeting. They discussed a sewing project, which they will inform us about in the future. They also discussed holding a monthly prayer meeting. It is encouraging to have clergy attending meetings and providing their support to the ministry of the GFS.



All Saints' Church, Agarapathana

The GFS monthly branch meeting on April 26th was specially held for confirmation candidates and their parents, with 35 participants including 11 GFS members, 11 candidates, and 13 parents. The meeting began with an opening prayer by Ms. Rebecca Jacob, President of All Saints' Church, Agarapathana. Rev. Sam Thushanthan delivered an inspiring message on living a Godly life, encouraging both candidates and parents to follow Scripture. He also thanked the GFS for gifting each candidate a Bible to support their faith journey. Ms. Noeline Thayanathan led a silent meditation, followed by a special prayer by Ms. Ranjani Robinson, a GFS member and parent. The meeting concluded with a blessing from Rev. Thushanthan. The GFS is grateful for Rev. Thushanthan's continued support and dedication to its ministry.



Christ Church, Hambantota

The monthly GFS meeting was held at Christ Church, Hambantota on the 27th April 2025 at 12.30 pm after the Sunday service. 16 members participated at the meeting. Everyone was impressed with the soap training we conducted and it was felt that there was quite a bit of interest in the programmes we offer through the GFS.

In addition, a discussion was held on visiting elderly women once a month and speaking to them on a relevant topic. The meeting ended at 1.30 pm.

Branch Meeting at All Saints' Church, Maskeliya

The GFS branch at All Saints' Church, Maskeliya held its monthly meeting with 12 members along with Rev. S.K. Daniel. The meeting commenced at 1.15 pm. Ms. Jeyakumari Aloysius, the Branch President started off the meeting by delivering a welcome address. This was followed by her extending a warm welcome to Ms. Diana Mahendran, the Secretary and inviting her to conduct an activity on teaching the members on how they can do hairdressing by themselves which will help them when they dress up to attend various functions.

The demonstration on hair dressing was done on Ms. Violet Selvakumar. The ladies were all fascinated and watched in pin drop silence!

The meeting was concluded with a prayer by Ms. Sutharshini Yasotharan, the Treasurer of the branch. It is heartening to see meetings held in this manner which is very interesting and educational. These types of activities encourage the members to attend meetings and will encourage new memberships.



GFS GOAL 2



**UN Sustainable Development
Goal 3 - Good Health & Well-Being, Point 3.5**

THE AMAZING STORY OF THANALETCHUMI.....

Sight Restored!

A Life-Changing Journey for Thanaletchumi

In a heartwarming testament to hope and healing, 68-year-old Thanaletchumi, a retired tea plucker from Dunkeld Estate, had her sight restored in her left eye after being blind in both eyes due to severe cataracts. Thanks to the *“We Care for Your Eyes”* camp organised by the GFS Headquarters and Christ Church, Dickoya together with Samarasinghe Opticians in Hatton, she was diagnosed and later underwent successful surgery at Dickoya Base Hospital in November 2024. Supported by her daughter-in-law, Renuka and the compassionate efforts of the GFS team, the journey from diagnosis to surgery was fulfilled with prayer, care, and support.



Thanaletchumi now joyfully awaits surgery to be done on her right eye.

CONTINUING PROJECTS

The Kola Kandha Project

This project at the GFS Headquarters continues well and we are pleased to report that we introduced ‘narang juice’ too. Our customers were very happy with this! We serve Kola Kandha thrice a week according to the leaves that are available in the market.



The Sunday School Meal Project at All Saints’ Church, Maskeliya

This project too continues by serving children a nutritious meal of yams, lentils and milk rice.





GFS GOAL 3



**UN Sustainable Development
Goal 4: Quality Education**
Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

Regional Office, Dickoya: Career Guidance Programme

On the 25th February, a long-awaited career guidance programme was held. Attendance was low with only four girls present. Sessions were led by representatives from Ceylinco Life and retired banker/ GFS member Ms. Princy Bastian, who gave an insightful talk on banking and savings. The programme emphasised the value of reaching even one young person with career direction and life skills.

A follow-up session at Ceylinco Life’s auditorium was done from the 10th - 12th March. A presentation on life insurance and career prospects by the staff, including a short interview was conducted by the Branch Manager. The girls submitted their CVs and attended a two day workshop on March 11th–12th, which focused on introducing clients to the company and how this opportunity could shape their career paths.



Regional Office, Hambantota: Training on Soap Making

Training on making washing soap was conducted at the Regional Office, Hambantota on 28th March 2025. The trainer, Ms. W. M. Geetha Kumari, an NVQ level qualified and trained professional works at the government affiliated NAITA. 19 women participated including several young women. The training was provided on how to make soap and make it safely, health risks that may arise during making soap and where to buy ingredients. Phase 2 will be for the participants to make soap on their own and teach on how to make fragrant soap and shampoo on the same day will be held. The objectives are to give the ladies an opportunity to start a self-employment project and also use it for their household consumption.



Regional Office, Hambantota: Soap Making 2nd Training

The training programme began at 9.00 am on the 24th April, 2025 at the Regional Office in Hambantota. 13 members participated in this programme. The opening prayer was led by Rev. Anil Wickramasinghe, parish priest of Christ Church, Hambantota.

The training commenced by making medicinal and fragrant soap. The necessary herbal ingredients were provided by the members who came. These included aloe vera, cohosh, nellie, gotu kola, fenugreek (uluhal) lemon, etc.

Next, we started making herbal shampoos, and many types of herbs were used. Everyone who came for this training showed great interest and we believe this will be very effective as it is something essential for women.

Furthermore, several ladies who attended this training programme are interested in starting this as a business, but they face financial difficulties. In addition, there are also those who want to manufacture it for their own use.

The GFS provided tea to all those who came. We believe that as the GFS works very enthusiastically with the community, many will join the GFS in conducting many more such good and beneficial projects.





"We are very pleased to have met a few ladies who graduated from the sewing project held at Christ church, Hambantota in September 2022. This meeting took place after the 2nd training on making soap and shampoo on the 24th April, 2025."

"My name is N. Krishna Kumari. I am 30 years old. I am a housewife. I often participate in programmes organised by the Girls' Friendly Society. I also participated in the sewing course conducted by the GFS at Christ Church, Hambantota, from which I learned a lot about sewing and making clothes, toys, mosquito nets, rugs, etc. I have been weaving rugs for a long time and I have also earned an income from this. I sell the woven rugs for about Rs. 750/-. I weave rugs because I do not have a sewing machine. I still have several rugs that I have knitted that are not being sold. I am grateful for all of that I learned through the sewing project."

N. Kirshna Kumari

"I have never sewn on a machine; only with a needle. It was only after the training provided by the Girls' Friendly Society that I learned to sew many items. I learned a lot about making wall hangings, toys, rugs, and clothes. For a while, I sewed and sold toys. But later, I had to stop because of my illness. I am grateful to all of you for the training you have given us."

T. Sakunthala

"When I came to the sewing programme, I didn't know how to cut or sew anything. I learned a lot from this course. I don't do tailoring as a business, but I sew my daughter's school clothes. It's a big achievement! Otherwise, I would have to pay a lot of money for getting her clothes tailored. Thank you to the Girls' Friendly Society for the training they provided us."

S. P. Renuka



Computer Labs

Computer Labs at the Regional Office, Hambantota and All Saints' Church, Agarapathana also continue successfully empowering children and ladies with computer skills.



Christianity Classes

Christianity classes at the Regional Office Hambantota continue to be held successfully.



Visit to Regional Office – Dickoya, Nuwara Eliya Archdeaconry 24th – 25th February 2025 Strengthening the Upcountry Ministry

Ms. Devini Tissaaratchy (CEO) and Ms. Mercy Arulanandam (Regional Coordinator, HQ) visited the Dickoya Regional Office to support programmes planned by Ms. Jemima Moses, the Regional Coordinator Up Country. The visit began with a session on preparing Annual Operating Plans (AOPs) and report writing for GFS Coordinators, followed by a meeting of the Upcountry Leadership Group set up by Rev. S.K. Daniel. Despite low attendance, ideas were discussed around launching a Spoken English class, educational support at Wigton Estate, and a sewing project in Maskeliya. This visit highlighted the commitment of the GFS to serve remote communities and support youth development, while also pointing to areas for growth in leadership and logistical planning.

GFS BRANCH VISITS AND MEETINGS

Grow GFS

Diocese of Kurunegala Reactivation of GFS Branch – Christ Church, Matale

On the 19th January, 2025, the GFS team visited Christ Church, Matale, to re-activate the GFS branch in the Diocese of Kurunegala. The visit included a Sunday service where Ms. Devini Tissaaratchy preached the Sunday sermon on the first miracle of Jesus. After the service, an awareness session on caring for mild fevers at home by Dr. Priyanthi Molligoda, a GFS member from Colombo was conducted. The session was engaging and informative. A time of Q&A was very interesting too. Encouraging support was expressed by Ms. Getsy Joachim, the President of the branch and the secretary of the church, Ms. Josyes Navaratnam. The team left books and resources for future study for spiritual development.



Christ Church, Beverly

The GFS meeting was held on the 23rd March, 2025 at 11.30am. 20 members participated. The GFS members discussed the work for the coming month, held a monthly prayer meeting, and discussed the ways in which they can increase the membership. They also thanked all the children who participated in the essay competition. It was proposed to hold the meeting every month. The meeting ended at 12.15 pm.



“Help a child stay in school”

School Bag Project

This year, we were blessed with a new donor for this project and received 200 school bags to be given to deserving children in our GFS branches. This is 100 more school bags than the previous years! Each branch received 10 school bags to be given to selected deserving children.



Christ Church, Beverly



Christ Church, Hambantota



All Saints' Church, Agarapathana



All Saints' Church, Maskeliya



Christ Church, Dickoya



Church of St. John the Baptist, Watawala



St. Mary's Church, Bogawanthalawa



St. Paul's Church, Pundaluoya



**Church of the Transfiguration,
Bounavista**





SPECIAL ACTIVITIES

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN’S DAY CELEBRATIONS BY THE GFS BRANCHES

The GFS Headquarters

On the 8th March, 2025, the GFS Headquarters hosted an International Women’s Day programme focused on ‘Educating women and girls about healthy food and the importance of medical follow-ups for chronic conditions’. Our member, Dr. Priyanthi Molligoda conducted the session, offering valuable insights in Sinhala. The event included fun activities like a “Fruit Salad” game and a baila competition, with winners receiving prizes. Refreshments were served, and attendees received dry rations and personal items as tokens of appreciation. Despite a slow start, the program successfully engaged 43 women, leaving them excited for future events.

Church of the Ascension, Bandarawela

The International Women’s Day celebration at the Church of the Ascension, Bandarawela, on 8th March 2025, had 55 participants and focused on the theme “The success of every woman should be the inspiration of others.” The event included an opening prayer, a talk on unity by Rev. Wilson Gnanadass, a beauty culture session, a Bible quiz, and the creation of special GFS badges. A cake was donated by Ms. Pathmini Selvachandran, and participants received gifts. The event fostered unity and empowerment, with the GFS branch office bearers aiming to support the new Reverend’s ministry. The day ended with refreshments and a vote of thanks by Ms. Thenmoly Rajendran.





Christ Church, Dickoya

On the 15th March 2025, Christ Church, Dickoya hosted the International Women's Day Programme for the Nuwara Eliya Archdeaconry, with 53 GFS members participating. The event featured inspirational talks, interactive games, a cookery demonstration, and cultural performances, all organised with the support of Rev. S.K. Daniel. Highlights included a Bible-themed activity linking personal stories to biblical women, a fun team game, and a poem on women's well-being. The programme was a joyful and meaningful celebration of womanhood, concluding with a blessing from Rev. Daniel.



GFS Monthly Branch Meeting St. John the Baptist Church, Watawala

The GFS branch at St. John the Baptist Church, Watawala held its monthly meeting with 13 participants, with leadership by Ven. Charles David. The newly appointed President, Ms. Kavitha Moses, shared updates on GFS Upcountry programmes. Ms. Vinothini Moses gave an inspiring message on environmental care through home gardening, based on Genesis 2:15. It was a meaningful and thoughtful gathering. The meeting concluded with a prayer by Ms. Chithra Dharmaraj.



All Saints' Church, Agarapathana

On the 9th March 2025, All Saints' Church, Agarapathana celebrated International Women's Day with a simple yet meaningful programme after the Sunday service. Rev. Sam Thushanthan opened in prayer and distributed greeting cards made by the GFS members to all the ladies. A mini sale of homegrown vegetables and snacks was held in the Pre-School classroom, aimed at empowering women and girls by showcasing their capabilities. Ms. Chandra Thirunavukarasu guided participants on how to organize such sales, and the event closed with a prayer by Ms. Noeline Thayanathan.



Christ Church, Matale

The GFS Branch of Christ Church, Matale, celebrated International Women's Day on the 16th March, 2025, with 34 participants. This event, the first organized since the branch's reactivation in January, featured prayers by GFS members Ms. Mary Jeyaratnam and Ms. Nishanthi, followed by a performance where children acted out biblical characters. Ms. Jeyaratnam spoke about the importance of listening to God's word through the story of Martha and Mary. The program also helped boost Sunday school attendance and included a special distribution of school bags by Rev. Joachim. The event concluded with a prayer, and future similar programmes are planned to be held quarterly.



The GFS Annual April Market on the Green

This sale was held on Friday, 4th April 2025 at the GFS Hall. We had 32 vendors selling various products. The GFS had its own stalls which included the GFS Kitchen, GFS Produce and Games stalls.



GFS GOAL 4

5 GENDER EQUALITY

UN Sustainable Development
Goal 5 –Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.
Ending the abuse of women and girls

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN’S DAY CELEBRATION COUPLED WITH THE UN ORANGE DAY

St. Mark’s Church, Badulla

On the 8th March 2025, the GFS branch at St. Mark’s Church, Badulla organized a combined International Women’s Day and Orange Day programme, attended by 40 participants. Centered on the theme “Violence against Women and Solutions to Overcome it,” the event featured inspiring sessions by Rev. Jency Manjuka and Fr. Prasanga, including discussions on biblical women and the value of womanhood. The day included interactive activities, games, performances, and shared meals, fostering empowerment, awareness, and fellowship. The well-coordinated programme concluded with heartfelt prayers and gratitude for the clergies continued support of the GFS mission.





STAFF NOTICE

Adieu & Thank you Alisha!



The GFS headquarters is sad to see Ms. Alisha Piyaratne leave us by end April 2025 after a brief stint at the GFS. She rendered yeoman services in social media, video presentations, designing and working with the Pink Pearls. Alisha will continue to remain a Pink Pearl and work with them.

She leaves us to join an organisation related to her field of study. We wish her God's blessings in all her future endeavours.

Welcome Dilani!



We are also very happy to welcome aboard Ms. Dilani Kamalenthiran who will function as the GFS Overall Programme Coordinator. We are excited to have her work in the ministry of the GFS and we pray God's blessings upon her as she journeys with the GFS!



THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL



STAFF MEMBERS



Jeanne Withanage
World President
Rev. Nirosan de Mel
GFS World Chaplain
Ven. Christopher Balraj
GFS Sri Lanka Chaplain

Rohini Ratnam
President
Sugi Jebamani
Vice President
Marcia Seneviratne
Vice President
Dilanthi Manuel
Hony. Secretary
Nimalee Gajasinghe
Hony. Treasurer
Chryshanthi Manuel
Asst. Treasurer
Ruwanthi Fonseka
Asst. Secretary

Devini Tissaaratchy
CEO
Gayathri Gajamange
Snr. Manager –
Admin. & Finance
Saritha Fernando
Snr. Executive –
Accounts and Customer Service
Dilani Kamalenthiran
Programme Co-ordinator/
Admin. Support
Mercy Arulanandam
Programme Coordinator
Thushari Fernando
Regional Coordinator –
Galle Archdeaconry
Jemima Moses
Regional Coordinator –
Nuwara Eliya Archdeaconry
Alisha Piyaratne
Social Media and
Programme coordinator
Namalee Vithanage
Assistant - Support Service

