



JOYFUL JOURNEY

Girls' Friendly Society, Colombo 3.

May - August 2025

Vol. 5

PRESIDENT'S REFLECTIONS.....

Dear Members,

As we reflect on the past few months, it fills my heart with joy to see the incredible vibrancy and dedication within our society. The period from May to August has been filled with meaningful events and achievements that truly highlight the spirit of our society.

One of the most inspiring events was our Craft Competition for Sunday School Children. We were thrilled to have 8 churches participate with a total of 68 students across both junior and senior categories. The talent and creativity on display were absolutely amazing, and much like the unique stories we find in the Bible, each piece of art was a testament to God's creativity at work in the lives of these children.

We held a special "quiet morning" to pray for the forthcoming world council. It was a serene and deeply moving experience, providing us with a moment to reflect and unite in prayer.

We were deeply honoured to host our World President, Ms. Jeanne Withanage, on a visit to Galle. We had a wonderful programme at Christ Church Galle, which was a valuable opportunity to connect and share our experiences with those members in the Southern archdeaconry.

In addition to these major events, our regular programmes have continued to thrive, thanks to your consistent participation and support. I encourage you to read through the rest of this newsletter to learn more about the activities during this period. Your commitment and passion are the driving force behind everything we do.

In all our endeavors, let us remember the words from Philippians 4:13, "I can do all this through Him who gives me strength."

May we continue to be guided by faith and united in purpose, knowing that with God, all things are possible.

Blessings!

Rohini Ratnam

News in brief.....

- The Upcountry Regional Office is shifted temporarily to Christ Church, Dickoya. Ms. Jemima Moses, the Regional Coordinator can be met only on Fridays at the church hall.
- Christianity Classes continue at the Regional Office, Hambantota.
- Computer Labs at the Regional Office Hambantota and All Saints' Church, Agarapathana continue.
- A team from the GFS Headquarters has started visiting the branches in the Nuwara Eliya Archdeaconry, Up Country Deanery once a month from August 2025. This will go on for the next six months.
- The GFS Annual General Meeting was held on Saturday, 29th July 2025 at the GFS Hall.
- The GFS August Holiday Sale was introduced and held for the first time at the GFS Hall on Friday, 29th August.
- The Kola Kandha project is booming.

Dear Readers,

We are happy to present to you this edition of the Joyful Journey for your reading pleasure. We are excited at the many activities that have taken place during this quarter which augurs well for the future of the GFS in our beautiful island. There is a lot more to get excited about, especially as we prepare to host the GFS World Council in Colombo in July 2026. Your prayers and commitment to work on various committees are very important! Enjoy!

The Joyful Journey Editorial Team



DIOCESE OF COLOMBO, COLOMBO ARCHDEACONRY

QUIET MORNING - PREPARATION FOR THE WORLD COUNCIL 27TH JUNE, 2026

The purpose of the “quiet morning” was to enrich the EXCO members, GFS members serving on committees and staff, spiritually and be refreshed, rooted, and empowered to glow for His glory as we work to host the World Council 2026.

Rev. Nirosan de Mel, the World Chaplain, conducted an interesting and practical session on “Understanding our behavioural type when working with teams”.

After the session conducted by Rev. Nirosan de Mel, the members broke into groups to pray for different prayer requests.

It was a very important and profitable time well spent.



UP COUNTRY DEANERY, NUWARA ELIYA ARCHDEACONRY

CONFIRMATION SERVICES

These confirmation services were all presided over by the Rt. Rev. Dushantha Rodrigo, Bishop of Colombo. The GFS Headquarters was very happy to be able to bless a total of 49 confirmation candidates in their spiritual journey with Jesus by giving them each a Bible. Our heartfelt gratitude is extended to a faithful donor and his family for their partnership in the ministry of the GFS.

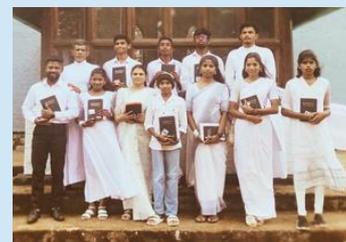
Combined Confirmation Service at St. Mary’s Church, Bogawantalawa and All Saints’ Church, Maskeliya held on the 31st August, 2025, at Bogawantalawa

The Confirmation Services of St. Mary’s Church, Bogawantalawa and All Saints’ Church, Maskeliya was held on Sunday, 31st August 2025 at 9:30 a.m. at St. Mary’s Church, Bogawantalawa. This special occasion was conducted in the presence of Rt. Rev. Bishop Dushantha Rodrigo, together with Rev. S. K. Daniel, Rev. Anantharajah, and Bro. Lawrence.

St. Mary’s Church, Bogawantalawa had 05 confirmation candidates and All Saints’ Church, Maskeliya had 11 confirmation candidates.

The GFS was able to bless 16 confirmation candidates with Tiruviviliyam Bibles.

The Bishop urged the newly confirmed children to walk in the way of Jesus, guided by the Holy Spirit, and to live faithfully according to God’s commandments. He reminded them that God has chosen them, but the response lies in their own hands.



Confirmation Service and 132nd Anniversary of All Saints’ Church, Agarapathana

11 Thiruviviliyam Bibles to the confirmation candidates were donated by the GFS. Rev. Sam Thushanthan, the Parish Priest thanked the GFS saying “We would like to extend our sincere gratitude to the Girls’ Friendly Society for their generous donation of Bibles to our confirmation candidates. Your thoughtful gift will serve as a lasting spiritual guide and a meaningful part of their faith journey. Thank you for your continued support and kindness.”



Confirmation Service and 136th Anniversary of Christ Church, Dickoya

Rev. S. K. Daniel, thanked the GFS for donating 17 Bibles which the children can use for their school study purpose as well.





**UVA DEANERY, NUWARA ELIYA
ARCHDEACONRY**

**CONFIRMATION SERVICE AT
ST. MARK'S CHURCH, BADULLA
1st JUNE, 2025**

Ms. Reeta Williams, the GFS President wrote in appreciation saying "I am writing this to say a huge thank you for the help you gave us. The GFS headquarters invested a lot and honored the confirmation candidates by presenting them with Bibles. This means a lot to our children. Not only this, but we have also got a lot of help and support from the GFS. We are dedicated to expressing our gratitude to them. Here, we need to remember our Rev. Jency Manjuka who is giving us a lot support to be with the GFS. We hope that with the grace of God, the GFS will continue to do their service in the future for those who need them."

Rev. Jency Manjuka expressed these encouraging sentiments through an email to the GFS Headquarters; "I am very grateful to you that you are continually helping the mission of God in Badulla. Please convey my thanks to the Donor who has given us Bibles to our confirmation children."

The GFS donated 5 Thiruviviliam Bibles to the confirmation candidates.

**REGIONAL OFFICE, UPCOUNTRY
FRIDAY PRAYER MEETINGS**

The ladies in this group currently study the Tamil translation of the book "The Basic Things You Need to Know When Our World Falls Apart". These books were donated by ServeNow. This meeting is now held at Christ Church Dickoya every Friday.



MONTHLY BRANCH MEETINGS

Monthly meetings were held in the following GFS branches:

- St. Mark's Church, Badulla
- Christ Church, Hambantota
- Christ Church, Dickoya
- All Saints' Church, Agarapathana
- St. Paul's Church, Pundaluoya
- Christ Church, Beverly

GALLE ARCHDEACONRY

CHRIST CHURCH, HAMBANTOTA

Fasting and Prayer Meeting

"So we fasted and implored our God for this, and He listened to our entreaty."

Ezra 8:23

The GFS members gathered for a time of fasting and prayer on the 7th June, 2025. Ms. Thushari Fernando, the Regional Coordinator was invited to conduct a Bible study. She spoke on Rev. Ch.2 vs 4-6 and connected this to giving not only our 10 percent in tithes but also time, prayers and studying the Word of God. Prayers were offered regarding the future work of the GFS, work of the GFS branch at Christ Church Hambantota and many other requests.





“God is in the midst of her, she shall not be moved; God shall help her, just at the break of dawn.”

Psalm 46:5

PHASE II - TRAINING ON MAKING HERBAL SOAP AND SHAMPOO



This training was held at the Regional Office in Hambantota. 13 ladies participated in this programme. The opening prayer was led by Rev. Anil Wickramasinghe, parish priest of Christ Church, Hambantota. Making aromatic and therapeutic soap was the first task in the training. The members supplied the required herbal substances.

Aloe Vera, Cohosh, Nellie, Gotu Kola, Fenugreek (uluhal) and Lemon were among these. Many kinds of herbs were then utilized to make herbal shampoos.

Everyone who attended the programme expressed a lot of interest, and we believe this will be very effective as it is something essential for women.



Many ladies who participated in this training programme are keen on launching it as a business; however, they encounter financial challenges. Some individuals wish to produce it for personal use.

We are confident that as the GFS engages passionately with the community, many will collaborate with the GFS in executing more such positive and advantageous initiatives.

THE GFS WORLD YOUTH LEADERSHIP PROGRAMME

The World Youth Leadership Programme was conducted online. A few of our Pink Pearls took part in all 4 sessions conducted by the GFS World and were blessed.

God has placed us in the place we are for a reason. He wants you to stand out and be the person who others can see God himself.”

Shelonica Jeevananthan

Salt and Light were a concept that I hadn't heard before, so it was interesting how it was connected to being a leader.”

Alisha Piyaratne

“Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity”.

1 Timothy 4:12



GFS CONTINUING GOAL
UN Sustainable Development Goal 13
Climate Action

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UVA DEANARY, NUWARA ELIYA ARCHDEACONRY

Environment and Gardening Project
10th June, 2025

ST. MARK'S CHURCH, BADULLA

The International Environment Day Programme was held with the GFS branch members, Mothers' Union, the ladies in the parish and their family members. The opening prayer was offered by Rev. Jency Manjuka. Everyone got involved in cleaning a section of the garden and planted different varieties of plants that were done focusing on selling Kola Kanda at the church for nutrition and income. The main purpose of this activity was to promote a healthy lifestyle through a nutritious breakfast. Youth are not aware of the importance of the nutrients and health benefits in the varieties of leaves which are used to prepare Kola Kandha. This project gave them an idea about this as well.

It is praiseworthy that there was no plastic used in keeping with this year's theme for World Environment Day "Beat plastic pollution". The afternoon was a very joyful time for everyone with a few fun games such as musical chairs and passing the balloon. This entire programme was a very happy and a relaxed time for all, as many of them battle with their own day to day challenges and financial issues. This helped people to bond and enjoy time spent with each other.

The vote of thanks was delivered by Ms. Merina Ratnarajah. The programme concluded with a prayer by Rev. Jency Manjuka.



UP COUNTRY DEANARY, NUWARA ELIYA ARCHDEACONRY

An Environmental Awareness Programme - 22nd June, 2025

ST. MARY'S CHURCH, BOGAWANTALAWA

This programme was organised by the GFS members with the participation of Sunday school children. Due to heavy rain, the programme was interrupted but later resumed. An illustration was presented by five girls; Vashniya Victoraj, Dilrukshika Abraham, Dilvarshika Abraham, Vanisha Victoraj and Lipniya Davidraj, explaining how to prevent land, water, and air pollution.

God has given us a beautiful world. As stated in Genesis 1:31, our responsibility to protect it was portrayed.



ALL SAINTS' CHURCH, MASKELIYA

Let us Eliminate the use of Polythene

This activity focused on children being led to collect polythene waste scattered around the church premises and deposit these at a designated spot.

The students enthusiastically participated and gathered the non-degradable waste into one place. Ms. Jeyakumari Aloysius explained to the students about the harmful effects of such waste and how these materials pollute water sources and the air. Later, the collected waste was safely set aside in a proper place.

The children were encouraged that instead of polythene, alternative eco-friendly materials like paper bags, lotus leaves and banana leaves should be used, which is a more welcomed and environmentally friendly practice.



The Importance of Protecting Our Environment and ways we can Preserve it in Today's World



This activity commenced with a prayer. Ms. Bhuvanewari Shanmuganathan, member of Christ Church, Dickoya, conducted an engaging discussion with the students on the topic "How Our Environment Becomes Polluted." Students shared various observations on inappropriate actions such as throwing waste paper on the streets, bathing animals in the rivers, not maintaining home gardens properly, spitting in public places, burning plastic and similar waste materials.

She highlighted that such seemingly small actions have now turned into major environmental problems. The students were encouraged not only to avoid such practices themselves, but also to create awareness among others they interact with.

Ms. Grace Daniel, a Grade 9 Sunday School student read the 1992 speech by Severn Cullis-Suzuki at the Earth Summit. The central message of the speech was a plea to "save us, our future generations, and the planet."

Ms. RanjithKumar, emphasised the importance of keeping our homes, environment, schools, and churches clean as a regular practice. This important and productive activity concluded with a closing prayer.

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH, AGARAPATHANA

Let us Eliminate the use of Plastic

The activity commenced with a prayer. Ms. Rebecca Jacob, the GFS President of the GFS branch read an article on the ways the environment is being damaged and the importance of protecting it.

Keeping our surroundings clean, reducing plastic usage and submitting used plastic materials for recycling were emphasised as easy and practical steps that can be taken. Ms. Devakumari Nandakumar, recited a beautiful poem titled 'Let Us Eliminate Plastic Usage'. The poem notably included strong messages on protecting the environment.

Finally, Rev. Sam Thushanthan spoke on the importance of keeping the church clean and encouraged discussion around this topic.

The programme concluded with a closing prayer.



ST. PAUL'S CHURCH, PUNDALUOYA

Let us Clean our Church Premises

6th July, 2025



Rev. Mani Mani Chandani started this programme off with an opening prayer. The activities for the day were cleaning the inside and entire premises of the church.

The outer premises of the church was mostly cleaned by the ladies of the GFS branch whilst some sections of the outer area were cleaned by members of the church. The interior of the church was also cleaned by the ladies.

Following the cleanup-up, an explanation on environmental conservation was given by Ms. Vasantha Thomas, the President of the GFS branch. Everyone responded with joy and applause!



EASTERN DEANARY, NUWARA ELIYA
ARCHDEACONRY

ST. MARY'S CHURCH, NAVATKUDAH

CHURCH PREMISES CLEANING CAMPAIGN

"Then the LORD God took [a]the man and put him in the garden of Eden to [b]tend and keep it"
Genesis 2:15

14th & 23rd June 2025

On the 14th June 2025, a community environmental awareness and clean-up initiative was held at St. Mary's Church, Navatkudah. This event was organized by the GFS branch to promote the importance of environmental cleanliness and the Christian responsibility to care for God's creation.

50 participants, including church members, youth, and children, enthusiastically took part. The initiative involved cleaning the church premises, including interior and surrounding areas, by removing waste and beautifying the environment.

A short break was provided during the event, where participants were served refreshments through the support of GFS. This time of fellowship not only refreshed the volunteers, but also fostered a spirit of unity and collective service.



Follow-up Activity – Tree Planting

Continuing the commitment to environmental stewardship, the participants regrouped on the 23rd June, 2025, to engage in a tree planting initiative. Trees were planted around the church grounds and nearby areas as a symbol of protecting and nurturing God's creation. This act of planting was a practical expression of the call in Genesis 2:15, reminding the community of their divine duty to "serve and preserve" the earth.

Outcomes and Impact:

- Strengthened community bonds and cooperation across all age groups
- Encouraged environmentally responsible behavior and habits
- Publicly reflected the Christian identity in environmental care
- Raised awareness within the wider community about ecological responsibility
- Inspired continued participation in future eco-conscious efforts
- Marked a step toward long-term sustainability and local biodiversity enhancement

These initiatives reflect GFS's active involvement in meaningful community service, rooted in faith and love for creation. We believe such programmes not only transform spaces, but also hearts, thereby cultivating a generation committed to justice, care, and stewardship.

GALLE ARCHDEACONRY
REGIONAL OFFICE, HAMBANTOTA

On World Environment Day, the children attending the Christianity class were made aware of the harm caused by the use of plastic. It was also emphasised that loving the environment is a special responsibility of a Christian child. The children brought flowers, seeds, chili peppers and various types of seeds from their homes. They divided these into two groups and planted the plants/seeds. They also came to the church on weekdays and watered the planted seeds. It turned out to be a very successful and practical experiment. The children waited eagerly and patiently until a plant came from the planted seeds. Very recently, plants had sprouted from the seeds. It was a very joyful occasion for them and we were able to teach several lessons using this practical experiment. Through this, they are motivated to plant at least one plant in their homes. The goal is to have the opportunity to raise children who love the environment. We will be able to measure the impact of this project.





GFS CONTINUING GOAL
UN SUSTAINABLE Development Goal 5
Ending the abuse of women and children
Orange Day Programmes

UP COUNTRY DEANARY, NUWARA ELIYA ARCHDEACONRY

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH, MASKELIYA

On 25th May, 2025, a special monthly branch meeting was convened at All Saints' Church, focusing on educating Sunday school children about abuse recognition and prevention, aligning with the goals of Orange Day. Children aged six to ten crafted orange fans, while those aged eleven to sixteen constructed a tree from cardboard and natural leaves, adorning it with drawings and phrases related to abuse. Rev. S. K. Daniel requested the presentation of Orange Day activities during the service, where a commendable number of attendees displayed their support by wearing orange.



Ms. Jeyakumari Aloysius, President of the GFS branch and Sunday School Superintendent, delivered a brief introduction addressing the issue of abuse.



The young children showcased their creativity by walking to the front with handmade orange fans. Ms. Mercy Mahendran and Ms. Jowin Jeyachandran recited the memory verses. The Sunday School activities aimed to raise awareness about various issues, including the consequences of child labour, the impact of women working abroad on children, and the dangers of leaving children home alone. These performances were inspired by phrases illustrated on a tree they had created. "The event is described as very special, even though it was organised and performed in a short period" said Mr. Vethamoni, Warden of All Saints' Church, Maskeliya.

On the 27th July, 2025, another programme for Orange Day was held, again, involving the Sunday school children. Students carried out creative activities such as arranging orange-coloured fruits on display, making crosses using orange coloured yarn and creating flowers using orange and red materials. The children participated actively with great enthusiasm. Using the items made by the students, Ms. Jayakumari Aloysius, Superintendent of the Sunday School, gave guidelines on safety awareness of how women can protect themselves.



It is noteworthy that All Saints' Church, Maskeliya has been conducting Orange Day awareness events on every 4th Sunday for the past three months.

ST. PAUL'S CHURCH, PUNDALUOYA



The programme began at 03.00 pm on the 17th August, 2025, with a prayer led by Ms. Vasantha Thomas.

Rev. Edwin Raj highlighted several points related to the safety of women based on three points: Young women should be alert while traveling in vehicles and take appropriate action against those who disturb them, if the heads of families act irresponsibly, necessary steps should be taken to overcome such situations and women and children should always pay attention to protecting themselves.

Based on these points, he engaged in a discussion with the women. The participants listened with great interest. The programme ended by singing the hymn "Thandhen En Yesuve" followed by a prayer by the Rev. Edwin Raj.

Orange Day Programmes Continue...

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH, MASKELIYA

On the 24th August 2025, this awareness programme commenced at 10.00 am. in the church hall with a prayer led by Ms. Jayakumari Aloysius.

The children, guided by their teachers, prepared and displayed orange doves. Ms. Getsy Vethamani, a Sunday school teacher explained that the purity, beauty, and sincerity found in doves should also be reflected in us, and that we should always remain under God's guidance and protection.

A special feature of this event was that the congregation also viewed the creative work done by the children and heard the explanation before the worship service began.

The programme concluded at 11.15 a.m. with a prayer led by Ms. Jeyanthi Ananthan.



GALLE ARCHDEACONRY CHRIST CHURCH, HAMBANTOTA

An awareness programme was conducted at Christ Church, Hambantota, organised by Ms. Thushari Fernando, the GFS Regional Coordinator. This initiative aimed to educate children about safeguarding themselves from domestic violence and violence against women. Participants learned that their bodies are their own, and they should report any inappropriate touch to trusted adults. The session utilised picture cards for instruction, followed by creative activities where children expressed their understanding through painting and poster-making. Consequently, the children gained valuable knowledge regarding personal safety.





**UN Sustainable Development Goal 12
Responsible Consumption and Production**

UP COUNTRY DENARY, NUWARA ELIYA ARCHDEACONY

AWARENESS PROGRAMME ON THE GFS HOME GARDENING PROJECT

On the 1st May, 2025, this programme was held at the GFS Regional Office in Dickoya organized by Ms. Jemima Moses, Regional Coordinator Upcountry Deanery, Nuwara Eliya Archdeaconry. GFS Members and a few parishioners from the branches at Christ Church, Dickoya, St. Mary’s Church, Bogawanthalawa, All Saints’ Church, Maskeliya and Church of St. John the Baptist, Watawala were present, making a total of 40 beneficiaries.

Mr. Subramaniam Gobinath, Instructor of Agriculture from the Ginigathena Divisional Secretariat, Central Province conducted the programme.

Mr. Subramaniam Gobinath taught the beneficiaries on the topics below:

- The five varieties of plants need five different methods of planting.
- He gave strict instructions to follow organic methods in cultivation.
- The plants should be nurtured like a child.
- The growing plants gives us relaxation to our minds.
- Organic cultivation produces chemical free vegetables.
- Our attitude towards cultivation would definitely inspire the younger and future generations.
- The service of soil testing will be given free of charge if requested.
- 10 plants of cabbage, leeks, brinjals, chillis and hot chillis each were distributed to the beneficiaries. These plants were recommended by the Department of Agriculture.
- This is an ongoing project and we hope that the ladies will be able to sell their produce.



FEEDBACK FROM THE PARTICIPANTS

“I learnt a lot of cultivation techniques today”.

**Ms. Violet Savarimuththu,
GFS member - Christ Church,
Dickoya.**

“The awareness programme was full of knowledge and encouraged me to take Agriculture seriously.”

**Ms. Jeyakumari Aloysius,
GFS Branch President,
All Saints’ Church, Maskeliya.**

“In spite of transport difficulties this awareness was very enlightening.”

**Ms. Arulmary Abraham
GFS Treasurer St. Mary’s Church,
Bogawanthalawa.**



HIGHLIGHTS
5TH JULY 2025

THE GFS WORLD PRESIDENT VISTS
THE GALLE ARCHDEACONRY!



Ms. Jeanne Withanage, the GFS World President together with Ms. Rohini Ratnam, the GFS Sri Lanka President, Ms. Sugi Jebamani, Vice President, & Ms. Dilanthi Manuel, Secretary met the GFS members attached to the Galle Archdeaconry. They were joined by Ms. Devini Tissaaratchy, CEO and Ms. Mercy Arulanandam, Coordinator.

Ven. Sunil Shantha Gunathilake and his wife, Ms. Padmaseeli Alwis and the team from Colombo were welcomed with bouquets of flowers, which were made by the members from Christ Church, Hambantota and Christ Church, Beverly.

Ms. Thushari Fernando and members from Christ Church, Hambantota, St. Luke’s Church, Deniyaya, and Christ Church, Beverly led the gathering in a time of praise and worship. A video on the services provided by the GFS and its history was shown.

Next, Ms. Rohini Ratnam, President of the GFS Sri Lanka addressed the gathering. She welcomed all the dignitaries and members present, adding that she was happy to meet the members of the Galle Archdeaconry for the first time. She also thanked the members for the various projects they had undertaken, especially the Soap Making project. She further stated that if members wished to undertake new projects in the region, they could work with the Coordinator, Ms. Thushari Fernando.

Ms. Sugi Jebamani introduced Ms. Jeanne Withanage, the GFS World President and invited her to speak to the gathering.

Ms. Jeanne Withanage, explained the history of the GFS, its mission, and the world goals in a very simple way through a power point presentation, which was very effective. This gave a very clear understanding to both the Reverends and members about the GFS World.

Ms. Padmaseeli Alwis spoke to the ladies about how to be partakers of Christ in their lives, who a strong woman is, and about our Christian service in Jesus. It was a very meaningful message from the Word of God on faith.

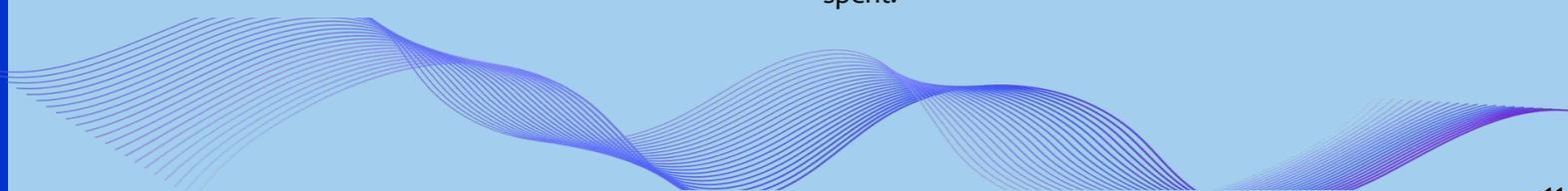
Ven. Sunil Shantha Gunathilake thanked the GFS for inviting him to the programme and spoke about several services that can be provided without spending money. He led the gathering to meditate on spiritual growth whilst Ms. Thushari Fernando sang beautifully, accompanied by her sister on the keyboard.

Rev. Anil Wickremasinghe prayed for the GFS programmes and remembered Ms. Mithila Edirisinghe, the President of the All Saints’ Church Galle, and her family during their time of bereavement due to the passing of her mother.

Ms. Dilanthi Manuel led a prayer session, during which prayers were offered for all aspects of the GFS and the World Council to be held next year.

Following Ms. Thushari Fernando's vote of thanks, Rev. Joseph Johnson offered a prayer of blessings for the food.

Everyone gathered for a fellowship lunch. It was a day well spent!





CRAFT COMPETITION & AWARD CEREMONY AT THE GFS HEADQUARTERS



GFS GOAL 3 - UN Sustainable Development Goal 4, Quality Education and



GFS CONTINUING GOAL -UN Sustainable Development Goal 13, Climate Action

On the 21st June, the Craft Competition 2025 was organized to promote biblical learning, creativity, and environmental awareness among Sunday school children. Participants from various churches engaged in hands-on creative activities based on selected Bible stories and environmental themes.

Invitations were sent to 21 churches, and 8 confirmed their participation. 18 teams from 8 churches in Colombo participated. A total of 68 students and 8 teachers attended the competition. The Junior Category had girls under 11 years whilst the Senior Category had girls aged between 12–16 years.

Junior Category – Poster on Ruth in the Barley Field

Theme: Children created posters depicting Ruth gleaning in the field, with Boaz watching or speaking to her in a rural Israelite setting.

Senior Category – Model on Rebekah at the Well

Theme: Participants created a model showing Rebekah offering water to Abraham’s servant and his camels, set in a desert environment.

The GFS provided all the required materials.

Our Chief Guest for the event was Ven. Christopher Balraj, the Archdeacon of Colombo and the GFS Chaplain. The Judges were Ms. Titus and Ms. Vasanthakumar. We thank all of them for their presence and active participation at this competition.

The Winner of the Junior Category was St. James’ Church, Kotahena and the winner of the Senior Category was St. Peter’s Church, Modera!

The Craft Competition 2025 was a successful and meaningful event, combining biblical storytelling, environmental awareness, and creative expression. The involvement of both, the children and teachers was commendable, and the teamwork of volunteers ensured smooth execution. We look forward to building on this success in future events.

Winner- Junior Category



Winner- Senior Category



THE GFS HOLIDAY SALE
29th August, 2025



The GFS Headquarters introduced the GFS Holiday Sale based on the request of vendors. We were happy to have had a successful sale with 25 vendors in addition to the GFS stall and the GFS Kitchen. The proceeds from this sale will be channeled towards the various programmes conducted by the GFS.

PRAYER POINTS



Let's give thanks to God for.....

1. The support extended to the ministry of the GFS by the Bishops of Colombo and Kurunegala, the Ven. Archdeacons of Colombo, Galle and Nuwara Eliya, the Area Deans and Clergy of the churches where there are GFS branches.
2. A new GFS branch was established at Holy Trinity Church, Nuwara Eliya.
3. All the active branches of the GFS and the programmes carried out.
4. The GFS World President and her team.
5. The President and members of the GFS Central Executive Council and their leadership.
6. The Committees and members of the GFS branches for their commitment to the GFS Ministry.
7. The staff of the GFS, both at the Headquarters and Regional Offices for their work.

Let's pray for.....

1. The up-coming GFS World Day of Prayer.
2. Wisdom to carry out all our programmes and activities.
3. Guidance for re-activation of inactive GFS branches.
4. Wisdom and guidance to plan the GFS World Council to be held in Sri Lanka in July 2026.
5. The sick, suffering, abuse and deliverance from all types and forms of addictions.
6. For the message of hope and salvation to be spread throughout our land.
7. For the children and youth of our Island.
8. For a peaceful and prosperous Sri Lanka!



UP COUNTRY DENARY, NUWARA ELIYA
ARCHDEACONY

**A NEW BRANCH IS ESTABLISHED AT HOLY TRINITY CHURCH,
NUWARA ELIYA!!**



We are very happy and grateful to Rev. Reuben Rajendran for inviting the GFS to open a new GFS branch at his parish. Ms. Devini Tssaaratchy, CEO and Ms. Dilani Kamalenthiran, Overall Coordinator attended the combined service on Sunday, 24th August. It was a wonderful service! The GFS branch was established after the service with 29 ladies and 14 young girls from the Paynter’s Home.

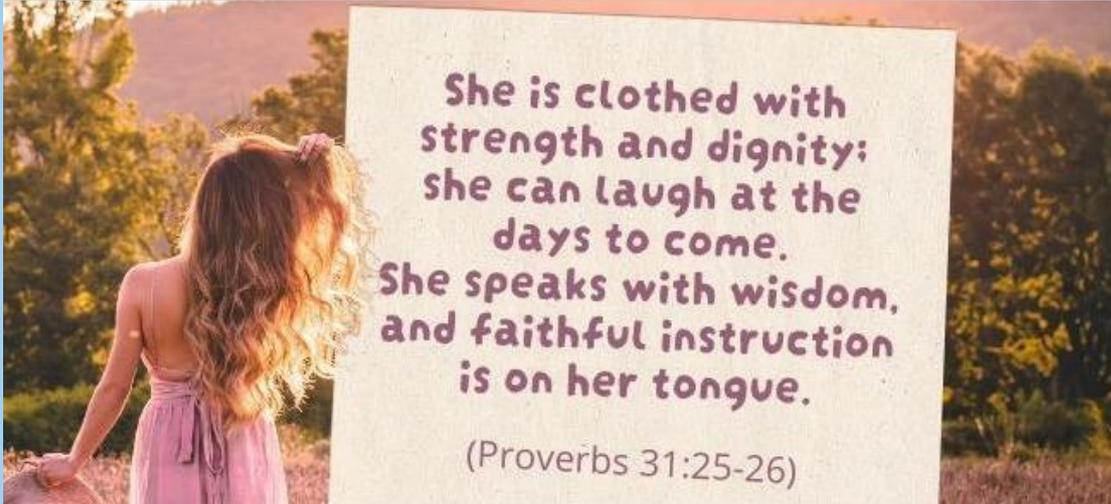
A presentation on the GFS was screened and a committee appointed: Ms. Mary Shunmagaiah, President, Ms. Patricia Ram, Secretary, Ms. Shakila Isaac, Treasurer, Ms. Harshini Jeewa, Youth Member, Ms. Kala Praveen, Committee Members with Ms. Lifniya Reuban serving as the Advisor. After the committee members were blessed by Rev. Reuban, those gathered trouped outside for a time of fun and games which was enjoyed by all.

Ms. Rohini Ratnam, the President, members of the Central Executive Council and staff extend their best wishes to Rev. Reuban Rajendran, the new committee and members of the GFS Branch at Holy Trinity Church, Nuwara Eliya as they join the GFS family in Sri Lanka!

Our grateful thanks go out to.....

- Ven. Christopher Balraj the GFS Chaplain for his advice and presence at GFS Central Executive Council meetings and functions.
- Rev. Niroshan de Mel, our World Chaplain for his valuable session at the Quiet Morning and his presence at GFS functions.
- Ven. Suni Shantha Gunathileke and Ven. Charles David for their support and participation in the work of the GFS.
- The Area Deans, Rev. S.K. Daniel and Rev. Jency Manjuka for their invaluable support and leadership to the GFS ministry in their respective areas.
- All the Clergy in the Galle Archdeaconry, Up Country Deanery, Uva Deanery and Eastern Deanery for their unstinted support and committed to the GFS Branches in their respective parishes.
- All the GFS members both in Colombo and outstations for their contributions towards the GFS ministry.

It is because of each one of you that the GFS ministry is growing in our beautiful island of Sri Lanka for the glory of God!



THE CENTRAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Rohini Ratnam
President

Sugi Jebamani
Vice President

Marcia Seneviratne
Vice President

Dilanthi Manuel
Hony. Secretary

Nimalee Gajasinghe
Hony. Treasurer

Chryshanthi Manuel
Asst. Treasurer

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Chief Executive Officer

Gayathri Gajamange
Snr. Manager
Admin. & Finance

Saritha Fernando
Snr. Executive
Accounts and Customer Service

Dilani Kamalenthiran
Overall Programme Coordinator

Mercy Arulanandam
Programme Coordinator

Thushari Fernando
Regional Coordinator
Galle Archdeaconry

Jemima Moses
Regional Coordinator
Upcountry Deanery
Nuwara Eliya Archdeaconry

Namalee Vithanage
Assistant - Support Services

Jeanne Withanage
World President

Rev. Niroshan de Mel
GFS World Chaplain

Ven. Christopher Balraj
GFS Sri Lanka Chaplain

