



Girls' Brigade International

NEWSLETTER

Exciting news from the President's Committee meeting June 2011 - "Cross Over, Break Camp, Move On"

We are on the web with a new address!
www.gbworldwide.org

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From our International President

Greetings to you all in the precious name of Jesus!

So much has happened since the last newsletter was circulated. We give thanks in all things, though continue also to approach God with confidence for the people and issues that concern us.

As you may be aware, our dear International Administrator, Ann Webster, continues to trust God through a difficult time of illness. I was able to visit with her in July when I was in the UK for the President's meeting, and during that time, it was agreed that Ann needs to focus on her health without the responsibility for GB work. Please continue to pray for her and her family as they look to God for strength and grace.

We are so glad for the blessings she has brought us, and Amy at the GBI Support Centre will be in touch about how we would love to say thank you to Ann for her years of GB service.

Many of you, especially in Africa, will remember our dear sister Briget Leher. Briget served God faithfully in many GB ways, most recently as Chairman (IVP) of the Africa Fellowship. It was with deep sadness that we learned of her passing in July. Briget was

living in the UK with her family, and we thank God that the funeral and thanksgiving for Briget was held at the end of the President's meeting week in July. Priscilla Penny (IVP Africa), Joyce Evans (International Treasurer) and I were able to attend and celebrate Briget's life and bring greetings and thanks to her family from the Girls' Brigade family.

The time shared with our GB sisters in Europe was very positive, and I enjoyed sharing with leaders and young leaders at their annual conference. It has made me famous - I am a YouTube star! You can see me on this link, but try not to laugh! <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4c7KhYyJAUU>

I share now some thoughts about our International prayer theme for the year 2011 - 2012.

Cross over, BREAK CAMP, move on!

Last year we looked at how, when God told Moses to lead the Israelites across the Red Sea (they did something similar, across the Jordan when Joshua was leading them) the people of God were truly crossing *over* in order to move *on* toward all that God had promised them.

In an earlier part of their journey together, Moses addressed the people in an equally strong tone, having heard from God then too:

"The LORD our God said to us at Horeb, "You have stayed long enough at this mountain. **Break camp and advance** into the hill country of the Amorites; go to all the neighbouring people in the Arabah, in the mountains, in the western foothills, in the Negev and along the coast, to the land of the Canaanites and to Lebanon, as far as the great river, the Euphrates. See, I have given you this land. Go in and take possession of the land the LORD swore he would give to your fathers - to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob - and to their descendants after them." (Deuteronomy 1 vs 6-8)



Continued overleaf...

Our vision:
Girls' lives
Transformed,
God's world enriched.

WHAT DOES TRANSFORMATION MEAN TO GBI?

Transformation comes through partnership with the Holy Spirit who alone can convict of sin and bring about inner change that is visible on the outside. (Tsay Yang Hua)

Three distinct instructions: Cross over, Break camp, Move on.

I was recently at a camp in Zambia and following a great week of activities, learning and fun, we came to the point of movement - we had to break camp.

Sometimes this moment causes pain. Many girls (and leaders) are tearful as they part from one another. The routine is over, the friendships that have grown are facing new distance and of course that sense of mountaintop togetherness is broken by the separation that comes as camp is broken.

What stories are told though as a result of the end of that time - friendships made, new faith being born, new skills learnt and fun times shared.

Breaking camp is the natural step that a group takes in order to keep on moving. Whether the group members return to an old and familiar situation or walk toward a new horizon, the fact remains that there will be no movement at all unless the group is willing to pack up in the place where they are and set out again!

At this time in Girls' Brigade it is important that each leader, country and Fellowship seeks to follow God's leading in HIS mission. We are so privileged that the Lord himself is calling Girls' Brigade forward in these days, as part of HIS Mission of reconciliation and transformation.

I am so excited and challenged to think about how GB is NOT just an organisation doing worthy work amongst girls and young women. WE ARE PEOPLE OF GOD - serving Him THROUGH Girls' Brigade to join in with HIS MISSION Lives transformed and enriched as people learn to seek, serve and follow Jesus Christ!

Girls' Brigade is in a mission of transformation. Our part of God's big mission focuses primarily on girls and young women.

This is who we reach out to and nurture. This is our heart.

**"WE ARE PEOPLE OF
GOD - serving Him
THROUGH Girls'
Brigade to join in with
HIS MISSION"**

Our vision is to see thousands and thousands more girls and young women throughout God's world living lives to the absolute full in God.

Girls' lives transformed:

God's world enriched

I believe that in the rest of 2011 and beyond it is important for each leader, country and fellowship to address the question of forward movement.

How do we enable this vision to become reality in each nation?

I believe that each of us must take significant steps of courage and openness to God's word to Girls' Brigade in this generation:

1. **Cross over** the big boundary lines, challenges, waters that are hurdles in our particular GB context, and of course in our personal lives as Christian women in leadership.
2. Celebrate all that God has enabled us to do, **but** remain international in our resolve to **move on** toward the vision we see GB is called to
3. **Break camp.** Camps are structures and ways that keep a group together and organized in a particular place for a period of time - they are only ever meant to be temporary.

Each GB country or fellowship will have 'set up camp' in a particular way over the years. To me the value of being a camp is one of organisation and structure. Camps are places people come to for a period of time. They are kept safe and cared for according to the particular 'rules' and ways.

A camp is a structure that enables people to be in community together. GB is one such community and our style of camp varies around the world.

I believe that every GB board, council, leadership team must be ready now to break camp in order to be able to move on toward our vision!

At the President's Committee meetings in July 2011 it seemed right for us to break from our current camp in a new way, so that our international leadership team can take new steps to support and encourage forward movement in each GB Fellowship/country.

That's why we have:



"You have stayed long enough at this mountain, **break camp and advance."**

1. Closed the GBI HQ at Challenge House in Scotland and now 'live' within the GB England and Wales Support Centre in Oxfordshire, England. GBI has a base, desks, and a part time administrator at the Support Centre, fulfilling the role previously held by Ann. Some of you will have had contact from AMY ALLEN already.

2. Invited Ruth Gilson to work alongside the President's Committee to develop our vision planning as we move on in God's Mission. Many of you will know that Ruth (often nicknamed REG because it's her initials) has served the Lord in GB England and Wales for a number of years, and has a passion to see GB continue to fulfill our world-wide calling into future generations. England and Wales have agreed to second Ruth to GBI for a while, part time. I am thrilled to have a namesake to share the IP's priorities and thoughts with, so that as a team together we can serve you all well!

One of the challenges of any vision is that it has potential to be stuck in a cliché. When we came together at ICGB Malaysia, and then at the President's Committee in the UK we brought our dreams together beyond a shapeless cliché.

At ICGB we all agreed that '**Girls' lives transformed: God's world enriched**' is our common passion and vision. The IPC believes that this will carry us forward IF WE work individually and together to bring it into reality in ways that are relevant to our varied cultures and contexts around the world.

As we Cross Over into a new time of vision, we must now break camp from the place we gather to celebrate our journey so far, so that we indeed move on again in our GB journey as part of the ever moving Mission of God.

We are women of vision and mission in God's world - God bless you as you step forward in courage and openness. The Lord himself walks with you.

Ruth Chikasa, International President

Fellowship Reports

January to December 2010

Africa Fellowship

Looking at 2010, it was a year full of blessings, challenges and new beginnings. Blessings in that we are able to continue with activities with the girls throughout the year, challenges that we faced as we continued with ministry, new beginnings as we joined the rest of the GB family around the world in Malaysia for ICGGB 2010 as we "Crossed Over and Moved On" into a new and exciting era for GBI.

We are forever thankful for prayers from our GB family across the world as we continue to face several socio-economic challenges throughout the continent. We continue to ask for prayers for the continent as we try and make a difference in the lives of young girls and women.

*Total membership:
645 Companies / 26,579 Members*

Major events and activities undertaken:

As the year 2010 began, all focus was on preparations for ICGGB which was to be held in Malaysia.



We did not meet as a Fellowship as this would have financially undermined our attendance at ICGGB. However, Africa joined the rest of the world for the GB World Day of Prayer on 10th June 2010. In the weeks preceding and after the 10th June, countries marked the day in a different way and on different days. Girls' camps and Church Parades were held throughout.

Like the rest of the GB family, although we did not meet as a Fellowship, we embarked on the discussions that were to be finalized at ICGGB. A meeting for the Southern Region (South Africa, Botswana, Zimbabwe and Swaziland) was held in South Africa to engage the countries on the discussion paper for ICGGB. Swaziland was however, not represented. Another meeting was held in the Central region (Zambia and Malawi). The other countries participated in the discussions through e-mail and we had a final meeting at ICGGB as a fellowship.

Camps, Rallies and Training Workshops were held at National Level during this year in different countries.

We are still working on the Drucker Self Assessment Programme. We have not really come to a good level having been behind with the programme. However, efforts are being made to rectify this and we will have a good opportunity at our EXCO meeting in November 2011 and at the Fellowship Conference in 2012.

Achievements

We managed to put together our website and Africa is now on the web. www.girlsbrigadeafrica.org

Africa had a good representation at ICGGB 2010 in Malaysia and was able to be part of the business discussions and took part in the historical changes to our constitution.

Future/planned developments

Africa is preparing for its 9th Fellowship conference to be held in Tanzania in 2012.

Africa is also preparing for the 2013 International Girls' Camp to be held in South Africa, to celebrate 120 years of GBI. Preliminary planning meetings have been held and a separate report has been prepared.

We anticipate the year 2011 will have a lot of activities at Fellowship level.

We have doors open for extending into Congo DR and Rwanda. We ask for prayers for God to guide us and provide the resources required.

**Presented by:
Priscilla Penny
International Vice President
(Africa)**

Asia Fellowship

The Asia Fellowship consists of: Singapore, Malaysia, Hong Kong, Philippines, Thailand, Cambodia and Brunei.

Singapore: Restructure of committees. Held four Exco retreats. New theme: Living with Purpose. 83rd Anniversary.

Malaysia: Reviewed Materials. 72nd Anniversary.

Hong Kong: Revision of training & reward system. 48th Anniversary.

Philippines: BGGP existed for 7 years as a school based program to supplement the basic educational program of schools. It was not given proper

recognition by departments and agencies.

Thailand: 15th Anniversary.

Cambodia: Started GB work in October 2007. October 2009 work continued in the Methodist school of Cambodia.

*Total Membership:
238 Companies / 15,404 members*

Major events and activities undertaken:

Singapore: FUN Challenge, LGBT Challenge, Fast-Food & Fuzz, Youth Olympic Games, Volunteers'

Appreciation Lunch.

Malaysia: Malaysia hosted the 10th ICGGB on 24th to 31st July, GB International Day of Prayer regionally held.

Hong Kong: Dragon Boat Race, Colour Party Training, Love Your Family Service, Uniform Group Day, Youth Anti-Drug.

Philippines: Basic & Advanced Officers' Training, Young Leaders L.E.A.D.' S.E.R.V.E. Training Camps.

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Thailand: Open new HQ, 1st Mission team, Advanced Officers' Training, NCD Retreat & planning national event, Drill Competition.

Cambodia: GB Camp - Pioneers in November.

Brunei: Meet on Fri from 4-6pm at St Andrew's Church; reach out to student in St Andrew's School through Character Building teachers.

Achievements:

Singapore: National Youth Achievement Award, Pioneer Brigadier Brooch. Hosted IPC meeting on 19th - 22nd July. Won the International Competition. Hosted GBAF meeting on 13th - 14th Nov.

Malaysia: Organised 10th ICGB. National presi-

dent Tnay Yong Hua elected IVP Asia.

Hong Kong: Secretary of Home Affairs Commendation Scheme 2010 - Fiona Ching Yee Yuen.

Philippines: Certificate of Recognition, Disaster Risk Reduction Programme.

Thailand: Owning our 1st HQ after 15 years, increase of NCDs going to camps, better quality drill.

Cambodia: Musical Drill, Healthy Attitudes.

Brunei: Enrolment Service in St Andrew's Church with BB.

Other news:

Singapore: Community Outreach - Greenleaf Servant Leadership Conf; GB in Asia (Cambodia); Challenging extension to India & Myanmar.

Malaysia: Go Green Project, Outback Adventure Camp, Parent-Daughter Outing, Family Day, Bible Day/Quiz, Story Telling Competition, Jogathon, Missionary trip to Cambodia.

Philippines: Community Outreach - Reaching 100, Clean-up the Streets, Feeding program, Disaster Awareness, Healthy Tips, Tree Planting, Sharing Project.

Future/planned developments:

Singapore: Seek to remind ourselves of our calling & core values. How GBS lives with understanding can only be seen in the way we love one another, serve one another wholeheartedly for the extension of His Kingdom.

Malaysia: Organising the 7th Fonomarae Malaysia: 16th - 19th December 2011.

Hong Kong: Planning 50th Anniversary of GBHK in 2012.

Philippines: National Camp, 22nd - 26th October 2011. Theme: Rooted N' Grounded.

Thailand: Launch S.M.A.R.T. scheme in 2011.

Cambodia: Train teachers & expose them to GB work; GB leaders to train Pioneers to help with Seniors.

Presented by:
Tnay Yong Hua
International Vice President
(Asia)

Europe Fellowship

GB Europe continues to work hard to fulfill its mission statements:

To support, encourage and equip our member countries in their desire to make disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Over the last year we have worked with four goals in mind:

Target 1 ~ To Promote Growth

Target 2 ~ To Encourage Discipleship

Target 3 ~ To Develop Communication

Target 4 ~ To Nurture our Emerging Leaders

We believe that in striving towards these goals we will enable our leaders to fulfill our world-wide aim.

Total Membership:

1167 Companies/53,592 Members

Major events and activities undertaken:

The fellowship have held three executive weekends where senior volunteers, emerging leaders and staff members have met together. As well as working towards our Fellowship goals these meetings have been used to provide support and

encouragement to these ladies who have the burden of responsibility within their national roles. Their jobs can be very lonely. Our Annual conference in Northern Ireland was a major event and centred on the theme 'Intermission - Into Mission'. We were privileged to have Helen Warnock, the Chief Executive of the Northern Ireland's Scripture Union as our key note speaker. She helped us to explore who this God is, whom we serve, and whose message we share. During the weekend we also explored the power of God in enabling us to achieve our MISSION and the potential of ICGB in helping us to engage in ongoing MISSION work week by week. We also used this as an opportunity to train our FIZZ teams as they prepared to engage in MISSION in Kosovo. 32 young women spent time in the Summer visiting our new companies there, working with the children and taking aid to the widows. We are also delighted that FIZZ has been accepted as a new International Project and we see great potential to train and empower our young people in mission and service in the years ahead.

Achievements:

One of our major achievements this year has

been the identification of a new set of goals (see below) to help us to move forward. However, in practical terms we were also proud to have completed the production and distribution of a publication called 'Sole Stories'. Its aim was to give guidance and support to young women moving on from GB into university, college or the world of work. The publication was written BY young women in GB, FOR young women in GB. The book deals with a range of issues from A-Z from alcohol to Zzzzzz (sleep)! It talks about loneliness, faith, depression, employment, love and breakups. Each issue starts with an honest personal testimony and includes help from the Bible or advice from established Christians who have 'been there before'. The

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publication is available from our national offices and we are proud to say, has been accessed, too, by external Christian groups. Alongside this, our national offices have produced help sheets for leaders who have young women leaving their companies and moving on to higher education. It helps them to find ways to keep these young women engaged with GB at this transitional period in their lives.

Other news:

We are delighted to report that the work begun in Kosovo, last year, has continued to develop. We now have three functioning companies working in different environments. Please pray for their continued growth. We are privileged and excited that in 2010 we hope to have two Kosovan leaders joining us for our conference. Of course, no review of 2010 would be complete without the mention of ICGB. This was an important part of our GB year

Pacific Fellowship

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ from GB members throughout the Pacific. This year several parts of the Pacific have had natural disasters including floods in parts of Australia, earthquakes in and around Vanuatu and Tonga, and in Christchurch NZ. I know those affected in the Pacific have appreciated the prayers and messages of support received from the wider GB family. GB Companies in Christchurch have been affected by the earthquakes with one losing their church completely, while others have lost resources and the security of knowing that they can go to GB on a weekly basis.

Major events and activities undertaken:

GB Australia held their two yearly Fonomarae in Tasmania in January with the theme "Going Wild for God."

Our Pacific Fellowship Conference, AGM and workshop was held in Auckland in April.

Delegates from Australia, Cook Islands, New Zealand and Papua New Guinea attended ICGB in Malaysia in July/August.

The Solomon Islands ran a Fonomarae in Gizo Island from the 27th September to 3rd October, 48 companies with 700 plus girls and leaders attended.

In September, Renelle (deputy Chairperson) and I

and we wish to thank all of those in GB Malaysia who worked so tirelessly to provide for our needs at the conference in Kuching. All our National Boards were present and felt blessed to share with GB friends from around the world as we were challenged to 'Cross Over and Move On'.

Future/planned developments:

Returning from ICGB, we have taken on board the conference theme and in planning for 2011 we are looking at the different areas in which we need to cross over and move on. Challenged, too, by the new GB International Vision Statement, 'Girls' lives transformed, God's world enriched', we move into 2011 with a new set of goals to take us forward. We aim:

To Communicate Effectively

To Inspire Discipleship

went to Port Moresby in Papua New Guinea to do some training with their leaders. It was a full week of training and at the end of the week we commissioned a New National Commissioner, National Secretary, National Chaplain, Treasurer and a full National Executive including a National Youth Representative. We also commissioned 18 new leaders and four Captains. Long Service Awards were presented to leaders who had completed 5, 10 and 20 years of service and a Life Membership Award was presented to Winnie Saufaur who has been a dedicated leader of GB in PNG for many years.

Achievements:

Australia presented 62 Pioneer Pins and 24 Queen's Awards. A life membership was awarded to Mrs Elisabeth Stokes, a previous National Commissioner, and a Past President's Badge which was awarded to Miss Betty Allen at ICGB was presented to her at the New South Wales State Conference.

Cook Islands presented 8 Queen's Awards and have achieved another milestone by being the first organisation in the Cook Islands to have members attain the gold Duke of Edinburgh Award. The total number of Duke of Edinburgh Awards presented was 5 Bronze, 7 Silver and 10 Gold.

To Empower Emerging Leaders

To Explore Cultural Relevance

Our first challenge has been to ensure that all our work is bathed in prayer and we are excitedly producing material to create a Prayer Wave to engulf GB and empower us for the future, enabling us to move on.

"You have stayed long enough at this mountain. Break camp and advance."

Deuteronomy 1 v 6-7

Presented by:
Vivienne Aitchison
International Vice President
(Europe)

Niue Island has presented their first Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award to a girl who has completed the whole Award on the Island. This was a challenge because of the size of the Island which meant that some aspects of the Award had to be redesigned to suit Niue.

New Zealand continued to launch new Iconz for Girls units, having a total of 17 units operating by the end of 2010.

Three companies in NSW, Australia, celebrated 50 years, with Victoria, Australia, celebrating its 70th birthday.

Other news:

All countries reported on their activities during GB week including the International World Day of Prayer. The Cook Islands ran a whole week of

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activities including visits to the hospital, old people's home for lunch, donating food items to the local hospital, prison and the Theological College.

Niue had their National Day and International Prayer Day on June 19th; this was combined with the Boys' Brigade.

Australia has set up a Strategic Review Committee who along with National Council have developed a five year plan which has begun with a survey of church that had GB. The responses from this will provide a framework to be developed to address any issues that arose. This is the beginning of looking at ways to move GB forward in Australia. The Australian National formal uniform in Australia has been revamped and a new casual uniform has been introduced.

South Australia is responsible for developing "Butterflies" aimed at Pioneers and Young Leaders - enclosed in their cocoons, learning about

the world around them, just waiting to burst out and be beautiful women of God. This group is structured and has regular events. "Grace", a support group for all leaders, was developed to fill the gap identified with those outgrowing "Butterflies". This is more of a personal development, social support group, less structured and aimed at supporting each other to be the best people and leaders they can be.

The Solomon Islands were very active in running training throughout all their Regions during 2010 and have more planned for 2011.

Future/planned Developments:

Training opportunities will be provided in 2011 for Vanuatu and probably Tuvalu if this can be arranged. American Samoa have indicated that they would like some training as GB has become a bit fragmented there since the devas-

tating earthquake and tsunami that struck them in 2009. The Acting National Commissioner has indicated that revival of the GB with training will be organized just as soon as she has completed some medical treatment that she is currently receiving.

I would like to acknowledge and thank GB International for the support we have received once again with the £1000 training grant. This certainly gives our finances a boost to enable us to travel to these countries to provide much needed support, encouragement and training.

**Presented by:
Jennifer Box
International Vice President
(Pacific)**

Caribbean & Americas Fellowship

2010 was a year of transition: we retooled our mission, bade farewell to our outgoing IVP Mrs Andrea Stephens (to whom we express our thanks for her service) and moved to a new IVP and Deputy Chair in myself Hazelann H Boreland and Connie Francis Gumbs respectively. The dichotomy of Caribbean Americas Fellowship is that it covers one of the largest geographical areas in the GB family, it represents 22 member countries, but due to the size of our member states it is the smallest in terms of numbers. For this 2010-2014 quadrennial we examined where we are as a region and based on our unique needs, our pledge for the next 4 years is to be 6 Bees in the sense of us being worker **BEES** in Christ's vineyard. Hence, our Mission Statement for the 2010-2014 quadrennial is Divided by Seas, but United in Christ in the mission of encouraging inter regional cooperation and advancement of Brigade for the transformation of the lives of Girls and enrich the world around us, by being deliberate **BEES** for Christ **Building, Equipping, Extending** and **Serving** in Christ's kingdom.

Building stronger inter country bridges in greater exchange and fellowship and renewed connections.

Equipping girls, young leaders, officers and member countries through Camps & Regional Conferences, Youth Empowerment Programs and resources.

Extending our reach within existing member countries and regionally by outreach to unchartered paths.

Serving our member countries in continued community service and adopting families on the edge.

*Total Membership:
112 Companies/2984 Members*

Major events and activities undertaken:

Goal 1 - "Building Bridges"

As the first tier of our quadrennial mission - the fellowship's goal for 2010 has been to "Build Bridges" in 3 major areas:

1. Establish a framework for uniformed **"Youth/Young Leaders' Work"** via regional use of the Duke of Edinburgh and GB International Queen's Award program.

2. Identifying the critical member countries in need of **outreach** (both in terms of membership needs and improvement of communication and relations), and using key Fellowship Executives to focus on establishing links with and fostering growth in identified countries:

Anguilla, St Eustatius, Haiti & Bermuda - in the North West.

Canada, Curacao, St Vincent & St Kitts - in the South East.

We approached this goal in 3 ways: this year's

2011 Fellowship Camp (under the command of Deputy Chair Connie Gumbs) was set up as an outreach tool for membership growth in St Vincent and also serves as step 1 in a common Youth Empowerment project; as Chairman in 2010 I focused on establishing better relations with Anguilla (for this year, 2011, I will focus on Canada and St Eustatius); and for 2010 through 2011 the Outreach Executive will focus on Haiti, Bermuda, Curacao and St Kitts.

3. **Building Bridges within communities** by strengthened member states memberships, accountability and through the Adopt a Family Initiative.

Achievements:

Bridges through Youth/Young Leaders' Work

At the July 2010 Fellowship AGM in Malaysia it was agreed that we would implement a regional uniformed Youth/Young Leaders. Scheme by

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the use of Duke of Edinburgh and GB Queen's Awards Program, because up to that point only 3 member countries were active in either of those areas: Jamaica, Cayman and Bahamas. With prayer and dedication the program was launched Fellowship-wide in January 2011 with keen interest among member-states and has already been implemented in GB BVI. The next major event will be the use of various training exercises to be undertaken at the July 2011 Camp in St. Vincent, which will go towards the Awards Schemes.

Bridges through Outreach

In July 2010 AGM two Outreach Executives were appointed - Jocelyn James (for the South East region) and Antoinette Hall (North West) with the mandate of initiating contact with countries with and without GB work, which the Fellowship identifies as being in need of Outreach, and encourage the establishment or growth of GB membership and proper dues status within those countries. As a result, by December 2010 communications with GB St Kitts had resumed (first by its own initiative then reinforced by the SE Outreach Executive in January 2011) and in April 2011 contact with Curacao was made by the SE Outreach Executive.

In October 2010 the Deputy Chairman made contact with GB St Vincent - to set up a framework for the 2011 Outreach Fellowship Camp, by December 2010 GB St Vincent (which had dwindled to about 20 members nationwide) had set up a full Camp Committee which generated new interest from past members and officers and have gained the full support of the

entire St Vincent & Grenadines Methodist circuit which will co-sponsor the Camp. By 31 May 2010 eleven member states had confirmed attendance with over 120 persons registering to visiting GB St Vincent so far. The Camp is an outreach mission not only by the Fellowship's presence and support, but we will use it as a training tool for all Youth/Young Leaders present with Day Camps to children outside of GB from the wider St Vincent community (in the hope of exposing more girls to GB's impact and providing a stimulus for increased membership).

General Outreach - The Fellowship has seen a renewal of ties with several countries with whom we had no or limited contact: GB Anguilla has for the first time in 3 years reported on its activities and are sending a strong contingent of about 15 delegates to this year's Fellowship Camp & AGM; GB St Kitts as said above has re-established communications beginning with the reporting of its 50th Anniversary celebrations for 2010; and GB Dominica who began reporting in 2009 is for the first time in 4 years also sending delegates (more than 10) to this year's Fellowship Camp & AGM.

Bridges to communities via Accountability, Membership & Adopted Families

Accountability - Improved reporting from among countries, as we have rekindled contact with 14 out of the 17 active member countries and have received National Reports & up to date stats from 13 out of the 17.

Membership - Regionally we have reversed a 5 year trend of losing members, by maintaining a stable 2010 membership (despite an aggregate loss of 214 members from Jamaica, St Kitts and

Anguilla collectively). The bulk of that loss was an expected correction as we have for the first time in 4 years received statistics and regained contact with Anguilla and St Kitts. However, with praise to God, we report that all other active countries have either maintained or increased their membership with the exception of Jamaica (which lost 5 companies and 26 members). Antigua is up from 3 to 4 companies and from 62 to 81 members, Anguilla companies are up from 2 to 3 companies, BVI up from 4 to 5 companies and members up from 163 to 186, Cayman Islands members up from 152 to 235, Trinidad & Tobago members up from 50 to 93 and St Martin/Maarten members slightly up from 89 to 94. Even St Vincent is up from roughly 20 to 31.

Adopt a Family EFA Initiative - Agreed in July 2010 Fellowship AGM, launched in September 2010 to be piloted in member States locally for 2010-11 and then adopted regionally from 2012-13. The vision is Empowering Families on the Socio-economic fringe by offering them equal access to education - by granting the adopted families aid for secondary education costs (school lunches, transportation, books, uniforms, facilitating child medical checkups, etc.) to stem the trends of drop-outs, underperformance or withheld secondary education for rural/low income families, coupled with mentorship from Young Leaders and GB's review of adopted children performance. Jan-May 2011 implemented by GB BVI who have selected 2 families, approved their funding and commenced the program.

Future/Planned Developments:

July 8-18 2010 - Fellowship Camp & AGM, proposed for St Vincent & the Grenadines.

Nov 2010-May 2012 - Outreach work to various member states.

Dec 2011 - Review of National Adopt a Family initiatives & review of 2011-13 National Youth Projects.

July 11-21 2012 - IPC Meetings, Fellowship Conference & AGM, proposed for the British Virgin Islands ending with a Commemorative 50th Anniversary Celebration with GB Antigua.



The International President's Committee with GBEW Central Office staff during their week's visit

Presented by:
Hazelann Hannaway Boreland
International Vice President
(Caribbean & Americas)

Treasurer's Report - Financial Year 2010

The 2010 Statement of Financial Activities continues to reflect the world financial situation, particularly, interest rates remaining low. Our investment income continues to be affected. All other income is only slightly lower than previous years. Fess still indicate that overall membership members are dropping, although it is encouraging that some Fellowships show increases in membership. The big surprise was the surplus from ICGGB Malaysia. We thank all the Officers and staff for an excellent conference and the prudence



shown in handling the finances. On the expenses side most were in line with the expected forecast. Governance costs are high, as the work of the Girls' Brigade International Constitution is completed and approved.

No seed grants were awarded this year. Training awards of £1000 were given to three of our Fellowships. Two fellowships had grants in previous years that had not been utilized, either because of personal reasons or not able to get enough funding to finance that training. This shows the need for GB International to continue assisting financially. Small grants were also given to 3 individuals from the Margaret O'Rourke Memorial Fund.

We need to say a big thank you to all, especially those of you who continue to support the work of Girls' Brigade International, both those within our movement and those outside. We received £6051 this year towards the International Project. The final total raised

was an amazing figure and the work still goes on. At ICGGB the new International Project for the next 4 years was introduced: money raised will support the FIZZ project that GB Europe is promoting.

Our International Office in Scotland continues to be very busy. We express our thanks to Ann for sharing her administrative gifts, also for your love and patience.

We thank our Solicitors and Accountant for a year of service. It has been another year of changes and we have valued their expertise.

Presented by:
Joyce Evans
International Treasurer

GB International Project: FIZZ - Update & Funding

The FIZZ project mobilises a new generation of GB women to serve communities around the world; joining, pioneering and enabling projects that restore hope for life.

Through FIZZ, GB is committed to:

Empower women to join in God's mission, in His world.

Provide women with opportunities to become and grow as disciples.

Enable transformation within individuals and communities.

One of the outworkings of this is the FIZZ mission team trips to Kosova and, this summer, 45 members of GB Europe served out there.

Situated in the Balkan region of Europe, Kosova was part of a horrific ethnic conflict in 1998 which caused the deaths of 11,000 people and left many families emotionally and financially devastated.

While the team was over this summer, they helped to restore hope for life by organising holiday Bible clubs for local children, distributing aid to widows, participated in mission

events with churches and assisted with the running of the three GB companies in Kosova.

Heidi Cooper, from a GB company in England, said, "My favourite part of the trip was when we went to meet the children from the local Roma camp. We only played simple outdoor games with the children but the smiles and glimmers of joy in their eyes were so rewarding. I would really encourage others to step out of their comfort zone and join in with missionary work next year."

The FIZZ project, run by GB Europe, has been chosen as the GB International focus until 2014 - helping to fund projects, like the work in Kosova, and develop the mission team idea.

So how can we help?

A "Gifts With a Difference" leaflet has been produced explaining more about the initiative and how it can be supported.

Examples include: £7 will enable GB to purchase an Albanian Kids' Bible for use in church and GB; £15 will provide a craft kit full of glitter, colouring items and goodies to allow the

girls to be creative at GB and the Holiday Bible Clubs; £20 will enable GB to provide a widow with a kit full of essential food items.

Your gift donations are greatly appreciated and contribute to fulfilling the global vision of GB.

To download the leaflet, please visit <http://www.gbEurope.org/>

Written by Catherine Burt, Media Coordinator, GBEW and Amy Allen, Team Administrator, GBEW & GBI

WHAT DOES TRANSFORMATION MEAN TO GBI

Through transformation there is change.....

From darkness to light

From bondage to freedom

From insecurity to confidence

From despair to hope

(Vivienne Aitchison)

The International President's Committee's visit to England - a week in view

IPC Visit to the European Fellowship Weekend

Members of the International President's Committee joined GB Europe at their conference in June 2011.

What a privilege!

Our weekend embraced the 2011 Wave of Prayer with prayer stations using resources from the Ripples interactive prayer resource (available on www.gbicc.org/downloads). How exciting that our prayers on the International



The IPC and members of GB Europe listening to a presentation by Hannah Field, GBEW

Day of Prayer were shared via Facebook with GB friends around the world.

We focused on Deuteronomy ch. 1 v. 6/7, 'You have stayed too long on this mountain, break camp and move on!' As we explored these words we heard stories from our IVPs of GB breaking camp and moving on all around the globe.

We listened to Ruth's key note speech as she challenged us to move from 'Vision to Reality'. We unpacked what this might mean as we engaged in a seminar encouraging us to move from rules to relationships in order to change our ethos. We looked at how we could move our

focus from church to community so that we could meet the needs of the many for whom church can be a threatening place. We considered how we could cross over and move on in the methods we use to make them relevant to 21st century culture.

Why not read Ruth's speech and challenge yourselves to find where you need to cross over and move on, too. Are there places where you have 'stayed too long'?

Written by Vivienne Aitchison
International Vice President (Europe)

WHAT DOES TRANSFORMATION MEAN TO GBI

In places like New Zealand and Australia, it means seeing girls lives transformed from having nothing to do with church or God, to becoming aware of Christianity and to eventually coming into a personal relationship and commitment to follow Christ.

(Jennifer Box)

Visit by David Kerrigan, Baptist Missionary Society

On the Thursday that the IPC were meeting, they were pleased to be visited by David Kerrigan, General Director of the Baptist Missionary Society (BMS), which is based in the same building as GBEW Central Office (Baptist House).

David was invited to come and talk to the IPC about possible ways that the BMS and GB International may be able to work together in developing countries.

He began by outlining something of the work that the BMS undertake around the world and the IPC replied by explaining the diversity of the work undertaken by GB around the world and emphasized its mission heart.

David also acknowledged that even though he worked in the same building as GBEW, his knowledge of GB has been limited to his awareness of the traditional company models

that he has seen working in local churches, and is not aware of other GB models across the world.

One of the main strands of work in the BMS is work which involves empowering women and this is a main piece of work in places such as Afghanistan, Bangkok and Latin America.

It is always useful to the BMS to be able to work with local churches and partners when going into a new country, so it may be that this is an area in which GB can work with the BMS.

If there are areas of exploration where GB are working, or wanted to move into, the BMS would be open to working in partnership with GB.

During the meeting, channels of communication were opened and members were invited to resume conversation if specific partnership opportunities became apparent in any of the Fel-

lowships.

The IPC were extremely grateful to David Kerrigan for visiting them, and look forward to any future partnerships that may come of this.

If you would like to learn more about the Baptist Missionary Society, please visit: www.bmsworldmission.org.



The IPC pictured with David Kerrigan

Two exciting trips for the IPC



The IPC pictured with 1st Newbury Girls' Brigade

The IPC were fortunate to be invited to visit a local Girls' Brigade in Berkshire.

1st Newbury Girls' Brigade is a thriving company with a long 80 year history. It currently has 7 leaders and over 40 girls attending every Tuesday night.

On the night that the IPC visited, it was a slight change from the norm, not just because the IPC were there but the older girls were also holding

a 'Bring and Buy' to raise money for a mission charity.

The evening started off with devotions for the whole company, led by Nikki Griffin from GBEW Central Office, and the girls then split up in to their groups.

Some of the IPC sat in with the Juniors who talked about what had been happening that week and then worked on their 'Movement with Small Apparatus' badge, which was a joy to watch!

There was much excitement once the Bring and Buy opened as there were lots of fun activities and games including face painting and 'Whack the Rat' as well as the opportunity to purchase gifts that the girls had made on previous weeks.

Great fun was had by all and the IPC enjoyed observing an English Brigade night.

On Wednesday afternoon, the IPC visited the historical town of Stratford-upon-Avon, famous for being the home of the great playwright William Shakespeare.

The IPC had the chance to do some sightseeing and shopping as well as seeing the theatre where Shakespeare first produced his plays.

Unfortunately, we were hit with a couple of rain showers, but it did stay mostly fine!



The IPC pictured with Ruth Gilson by the river at Stratford-upon-Avon

No place like home

It was a Gala dinner with a difference for the International President's Committee, as part of their annual meeting.

Hosted By GB England & Wales (GBEW), the event took place at staff member Hannah Field's house in Didcot, near Oxford, instead of a restaurant.

GBEW Operations Co-ordinator Sue Cutting says 'It was a lovely evening and a great opportunity

to share with each other. It reminded us all of the early church, described in Acts, and how they used to meet in each other's homes to eat, share and worship.'

Hannah and other members of the GBEW staff team converted her living room into a 'restaurant' for the occasion and cooked and served some delicious homemade meals.

The meal was attended by the IPC, members of the GBEW staff team and GBEW's Chairman Jane Ellis, Treasurer Barbara Darby, President Mavis Hughesdon and Vice-Presidents Dawn Webster and Kathy Hubbard.

In between courses some of the GBEW staff team shared about their different work areas, such as mission, media and work with the 18-30s and how they seek to be relevant, relational, responsive and restorative in these.



From left to right:
Tnay Yong Hua (IPC), Priscilla Penny (IPC), Barbara Darby (GBEW), Kathy Hubbard (GBEW)

Then, at the end of the meal, worship leader Luke Hamlyn led a worship session and thoughts were shared by International President Ruth Chikasa and GBEW's National Director Ruth Gilson.

Written by Catherine Burt
Media Coordinator, GBEW



Lots to talk about during the meal!

If you would like to listen to Ruth Chikasa talking about her inspirational thoughts on GB International, please watch the YouTube clip, accessed by typing in the following link:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4c7KhYyJAU>

Upcoming Events

Australia Fonomarae 2012

When: 5th - 13th January 2012
Where: Stanwell Tops, Sydney, Australia
Cost: Aus\$970
Theme: 'Its Your Choice!'

This is a chance for Pioneers and Young Leaders to have a week of fun, new challenges and meet new friends.



ICGB 2014

When: July 2014
Where: Swanleigh Conference Centre, Western Australia

Would you like to the opportunity to meet and share with Brigade leaders from around the world?

Each country will be invited to bring a maximum of 10 delegates, 50% of which must be younger delegates (18-30 year olds).

Please contact your national board for more information.



Pacific Fonomarae 2012

When: 2nd - 8th January 2012
Where: Lakeland Park, Frankton, Queenstown, New Zealand

Would you like to meet girls from around the Pacific Fellowship?

Are you between the ages of 18 and 25?

Would you like the 'bigger picture' of Girls' Brigade?

Then you are invited to attend the Pacific Fono in New Zealand in January 2013.

International Girls' Camp 2013

When: 8th - 15th December 2013
Where: Stellenbosch University, Cape Town, South Africa
Who: 18 - 25 year olds
Theme: 'Girls' Live Transformed, God's World Enriched'

Girls will be invited from all over the GBI family, with 25 girls invited from each fellowship, along with 5 leaders.

The week will be jam packed with activities, socializing and mission opportunities.

Please contact your national board for more information.

Future IPC Meetings

July 2012
 British Virgin Islands / Caribbean Fellowship

2013 (dates to be advised)
 Asia Fellowship (venue to be advised)

The IPC will also meet at the International Girls' Camp 2013

'News Burst'

Africa Fellowship

After not hearing from GB Ghana for some time, Priscilla Penny and Ruth Chikasa attended their 4th Bi-annual Conference at the beginning of September.

"It was good to see so many young leaders!" said Ruth.

Priscilla hopes that the visit from Ruth will encourage them to interact with others at a fellowship and International Level.

Asia Fellowship

GB Malaysia held a training camp in Sarawak where 83 girls and 7 officers attended. Nine different speakers shared on different topics and good comments were given. During the first day of the camp, the leaders collected and kept the girls' mobile phones so that the girls paid more attention! Some of the girls have now said that they would like to become a leader.

Caribbean & Americas

GB St Vincent and GB Dominica have been struggling with their numbers in recent years. To try and revive their numbers, St Vincent hosted this year's regional camp, though it was amidst many challenges. It is hoped that they will be able to use this exposure to fellow GB sisters and this year's time in fellowship as motivation for growth and revival.

Europe Fellowship

In September, GB Northern Ireland launched their YOUNIQUE year - 100% unique, 100% for God. This launch was begun with a new scripture teaching workshops. Throughout the year, GBNI companies will be given the chance to take part in competitions, events and the YOUNIQUE challenge.

Pacific Fellowship

Deaconess Ms Enikelen Netine from Vanuatu was awarded a Life Membership of Girls' Brigade in May 2011. GB Vanuatu celebrates 50 years next year, and Ms Enikelen has been a member for 47 of those years. Over this time she has held numerous positions within GB ranging from a Leader to the National Commissioner.

Here dedication and commitment over the years is very much appreciated.

Congratulations to Hazelann Hannaway Boreland (IVP Caribbean & America Fellowship) who gave birth to a son in September. He was an early arrival, but they are now both at home and doing well. Hazelann and her husband express their heartfelt appreciation for all your prayers and concerns.

In the Pacific Islands, most of their girls will have been brought up in the Church and will attend Church on a regular basis. Here, transformation would be from having the knowledge of knowing Christ, to then making their own personal commitment to follow Him. (Jennifer Box)



Ruth Gilson

Hi! I'm Ruth (though many people call me 'REG' - it's my initials!) I was in GB in the North of England as a child, and couldn't wait to train to be a leader. Having come to know the Lord in my teens I then went to study Theology, thinking maybe that I would become an ordained Minister. God had other plans for me though, eventually leading me on the GB team in EW.

It's been a real joy (and hard work too) to serve in this way, and I have to say I am just SO overwhelmed and thrilled to be invited to work alongside the president's Committee at this time.

GB is, in my view, being re-positioned by God to be increasingly effective and influential in girls' lives in this generation.

From the grass roots, week after week gospel relationships, we encourage and nurture to the huge world issues affecting girls and young women's lives - GB IS GOOD NEWS!

Just so you know a bit about me - I live in Oxfordshire (70 miles from London), semi-own a ginger cat, worship at a lively Baptist church and love reading, gadgets and fun!

I'm looking forward to keeping in touch with you all - my email is ruthgilson@gbworldwide.org

Ephesians 1:11 'It is in Christ that we find out who we are and what we are living for'

I love working with GB!

It's only been a few months since I joined the team, and I confess I'd never been in GB as a girl - though I wish I had!

Part of my GB role is handling programme and other queries for EW, and the other part is all about admin and support for the worldwide family of GB. I get really excited about it too, and love hearing your news! This summer was great because I had time with the President's Committee at their UK based meetings. It was amazing to learn so much more about all that God is doing through you amazing women around the world.

Here's the news about me: I'm married, own two cats, help to lead worship in my home church (piano is my thing!) and love spending time reading and listening to music.

Keep in touch with me on email via home@gbworldwide.org



Amy Allen

Our Foundations

Our aim:

To help girls to become followers of the Lord Jesus Christ and through self control, reverence and a sense of responsibility to find true enrichment of life.

Our principles:

The Brigade acknowledges Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord according to the Scriptures and seeks to fulfill its aim to the Glory of One God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

The Brigade Witnesses to the standard set by Jesus Christ and gives positive teaching on the Christian attitude to life.

The Brigade promotes a just society where all people are equally valued.

Our motto:

Seek, serve and follow Christ.

Our crest:

All over the world, Girls' Brigade members wear the same badge. The badge has 4 main elements, each with a special meaning to those who wear it.

Our vision:

**Girls' lives
Transformed,
God's world enriched.**

**The Girls' Brigade
International**

Have you noticed we've got a new web and email identity?

We thought it helps show the world that we are a friendly, welcoming family so check GB International out at www.gbworldwide.org

(Don't worry though, if you use the old GBIC address or emails you will still reach us :)

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