

# Newsletter

## Girls' Brigade International

No. 32, August 2009

*Hello Everyone,*

I have recently returned from the 2009 International President's Committee Meetings held this year in Uxbridge, England. It was a very busy but also exciting time as the members discussed the way ahead for Girls' Brigade International. As an organisation, together, we look forward to ICGB 2010 and all that that will bring – and I am reminded of the words of the chorus of a fairly well known hymn:

*"I know who holds the future,  
and He'll guide me with His hand;  
with God things don't just happen,  
everything by Him is planned.*

*So as I face tomorrow,  
With its problems large and small,  
I'll trust the God of miracles,  
Give to Him my all."*

**Ann**

### ICGB 2010

**ICGB 2010** is being held in Eastern Malaysia in the city of **Kuching**, Sarawak.

**Dates: 24-31 July 2010.**

**Cost per ICGB Representative: SGD 1300**

**Cost per Touring Party Member: SGB 1700**

(SGD = Singapore Dollars)

If you have not already registered then please make contact with GB Malaysia.

**Outstanding balances must be paid by 31 January 2010**

[www.gbmalaysia.org](http://www.gbmalaysia.org)

ICGB blog: <http://icgb2010.blogspot.com/>

*From our International President*

Dear friends,  
Greetings, and sending you all showers of blessings from our focus of this newsletter - Africa. In the past one year, I have had the privilege of attending two powerful events in Africa, the 9<sup>th</sup> Africa Fellowship Conference in Abuja, Nigeria in August 2008 and the first ever Africa Fellowship Girls' Camp in Livingstone, Zambia in April this year. It was good for me to be part of these two very different gatherings - one for leaders and the other for young and emerging leaders!

The Theme for the African Leaders' conference was "Networking in God's Kingdom", Networking or working together is an important hallmark for any organisation to be effective in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The bible passage in Corinthians highlights the importance of the body working together to accomplish its goal. This lesson is relevant for GB in Africa and the international family to consider how to harness each other in order to accomplish our mission.

It is therefore befitting that the theme from the Girls' Camp in Zambia, "More than Rubies" serve to underpin the reason of why our organisation exists. It is for the reason of bringing out the best in our young girls. In a continent and world where many young girls fail to access opportunities, it essential for our organisation to always give inspiration toward a better life. Our girls should find safe space in GB, to grow and develop always remembering that they are more precious than Rubies!

Enjoy reading stories about Africa as you continue to Seek, Serve and Follow Christ.

Your companion in Service,  
**RUTH M CHIKASA**

## AFRICA FELLOWSHIP FOCUS

Greetings from GB Africa Fellowship to our GB Family around the world.

So much has happened in Africa and indeed around the world during the last year and the first half of 2009. On behalf of the Africa Fellowship, I would like to express our sincere sympathy to all our GB family members and friends especially those in Australia, who were affected in any way by the "Victorian Fires" and those in different parts of the world including some countries in Africa, affected by floods and hurricanes. Our hearts and prayers are with those who lost their loved ones and with the families of GB members/officers who were promoted to Glory. As Africa Fellowship we especially remember Ms Hee Piang Chin and express our sincere condolences for her recent loss. We assure her of our prayer support.

A lot of exciting things are happening around Africa. As I write this, I am busy preparing for an "Open day" for the Girls' Brigade in Zimbabwe to be held second Saturday in September, 2009. Zimbabwe has been experiencing difficult times due to harsh Socio, Economic and Political environment prevailing for the past several years. However, the Officers and girls are rising up to the challenge and have gone all out to revive Girls' Brigade in Zimbabwe. This open day is geared to make a showcase of what GB is all about. We are praying for strength and doors to open for us!! Kenya is also in the same process of rebuilding, having been affected severely by the hostile political climate that followed their 2008 elections. Only one company is still functional in Kenya. We extend heartfelt thanks to all those who remembered to pray for Africa, with all its challenges, and other fellowships during difficult times. We continue to ask for prayers for peace and national healing in all countries that were affected one way or another by political or religious unrest. But in all this, GB Africa continues to step out in faith with the knowledge that the success of our calling is not our own.

I was privileged to attend GB South Africa's Annual conference in June 2009. I had a chance to meet with the youth and discuss bridges and barriers. It was an eye opener and the main points that came out were that we need to come up with programmes that are interesting to the youth and relevant to the present times and that officers must be innovative and creative. Suggestions that came out included music and dance, drama, making use of technology to reach out, training workshops for officers to equip them etc. I believe that when God opens a door for us into the great ministry of service for Him, we must match the size of the task with the greatness of God and be assured by the Divine Promise, that because He called us, He will equip us adequately, for all our needs.

Africa is a unique continent with all its different cultures and languages, but the GB Africa Fellowship is a group of believing girls and women who are looking up into God's promises and are vigorous in our endeavour to change the lives of those around us. The first ever Africa Fellowship Girls' Camp was held in Livingstone, Zambia in April 2009. Over fifty girls from five countries attended the camp. This was no mean achievement, in light of the global economic melt down and the general economic climate in most of the African countries. The camp came barely less than a year after the Fellowship conference in Abuja, Nigeria in August, 2008 and of course during preparations for ICGB 2010.

The girls had a full programme for the seven days with lots of teaching, craft and sight seeing. The theme for the camp was "More than Rubies", Proverbs 31:10. (NIV). The girls had the opportunity to take home a piece of craft they made during the two craft workshops using recycled equipment. They had a chance to visit the Mighty Victoria Falls and a Boat Cruise on the Zambezi River. It was exciting to get soaked in the "Rain Forest". The girls and officers did not even bother to hire raincoats. The experience was unbelievable and breathtaking.

The EXCO, which was ushered into Office in 2008, also met in April, concurrently with the girls' camp. The Fellowship constitution was revisited and a draft document circulated to member countries. Africa Fellowship is in the process of producing a training manual that is common to all for use during training in member countries and in extension work.

Africa, being the vast continent that it is, travelling is a challenge for us. Air travel is the best - but very expensive - and by road it can take several days/weeks to reach your destination. At the EXCO meeting in April, we came up with recommendations to divide the Fellowship into Regions.

*The proposed regions are as follows:*

### **Southern Region**

South Africa  
Zimbabwe  
Botswana  
Swaziland

### **Central Region**

Zambia  
Malawi  
Namibia  
Congo DR

### **Western Region**

Tanzania  
Kenya  
Rwanda  
Uganda

### **Eastern Region**

Nigeria  
Ghana  
Sierra Leone  
The Gambia

This is expected to strengthen and encourage interaction within the Fellowship. Regional and Fellowship events will be arranged to share and encourage each other. South Africa, Zambia,

Tanzania and Nigeria were nominated to spearhead the ground work for the regions. Training co-coordinators will be appointed from each region to work with the Chairperson for training and extension work. We are praying about the constitution and this proposed regionalism and seek God's guidance.

We observed the GB International World day of Prayer within the Fellowship though at different times, our prayer focus was the same. To Arise and Shine as Africa to face the challenges we meet head on. To break shackles and prepare for Liberty and to go and speak out in order to transform lives. (Isaiah 52:7). Transformation begins within us. Are we up for the challenge as GB? We must be vigorous for our own deliverance and awake from our slumber. Our lives must shine and bring peace and comfort to those around us. If we are not aware, awake and alert, we will allow our spiritual identity to be lost or compromised. Our spiritual identity is who we are in relation to God Almighty, our Creator, it is who we are not on a physical, political or financial level, but who we are ultimately, spiritually and eternally.

May Peace, Love and Joy fill our lives as we Seek to Serve and Follow Him earnestly.

Love and Blessings  
Priscilla P. Penny  
International Vice President Africa

### **Africa Fellowship Prayer Focus and up coming events**

ICGB Malaysia 2010  
Proposed Girls' Camp – South Africa 2011  
Fellowship Conference – Tanzania 2012  
Re-writing the Fellowship Constitution to present  
at Council meeting in 2012  
Producing a Training Manual for the Fellowship by  
2010  
Set ground work for Regions by 2010 at ICGB

### **News from around Africa**

**Ghana** – For us in Ghana the news is that our third officers' biennial conference will be held in Tema from 20-23 August 2009. Officers from all

the regions will be attending the conference. The special guest of honour will be our First Lady – Mrs Naadu Mills – who will talk on the theme “**Faithfulness and Fruitfulness – Essential tools for effective leadership**”. We are therefore asking our dear sisters that you pray that as many as were able to attend the conference will see the need to be committed to their call and also see the reason why they must be faithful to the Lord. The Lord who called us is faithful, we must also remain faithful.

Stay Blessed  
**Irene Adamah**  
National Secretary

\*\*\*\*\*

**Malawi** – GB Malawi is still small but growing. We began 2008 with six companies and closed the year with seven. Now in 2009 we have added another three companies – one in Kaphuta and another two in Mzuzu (at Viyele and St Andrews). As officers and girls move out they start new companies. Recently, one senior who had moved to anew area confided that the one thing she missed was GB. Will she get her new church interested in starting a company? It is constantly a challenge to present Christ in a vibrant way to girls and to set an example for a way of life. Every month companies continue to come together for Bible Study and fellowship. This month (August) we have our annual rally/camp – always something to look forward to!

**Helen Scott**  
National Secretary

### **Easter Poem – “The Man to Think About”**

The man who suffered for our sins,  
Sacrificed His blood for our sake,  
Was nailed to a cross,  
Was mocked and insulted,  
Beaten badly and shamefully.

The man full of love,  
The most precious Son of God  
The most brave one sent from above  
The man who carried all our burdens  
On that day at Calvary  
When He died with such cruelty.

After all He went through  
He rose again on the third day  
He ascended into heaven  
Went to prepare a place for us  
That whoever believeth in Him  
Shall have everlasting life  
Jesus, the man to think about

**Seniors/Brigaders – 1<sup>st</sup> Ekwendeni Company**

\*\*\*\*\*

## Nigeria

Dear Ann

My name is Jayne Crawford; I am from the 18<sup>th</sup> Girls' Brigade Company, Fintry, Dundee.

My Mum met you at a wedding and she told me that you would be interested in me writing an article for your next magazine.

A little bit about me, I am currently serving as a missionary with SIM (Serving in Mission). I have been placed in Kent Academy, a boarding school for Nigerian children which is situated in the village of Miango in Plateau State. I currently teach Grade 4. I enjoy being involved in after school sports, evening devotions and am trying to produce a School musical. When time permits I am keen to get involved in the community outwith the school compound and have attended my local Girls' Brigade on a few occasions.

Today I attended Girls' Brigade and used the opportunity to take a few pictures and to interview some of the girls. I have tried to write about my experience visiting a GB company in a foreign country and have also tried to convey the girl's experiences. (Now read about some of Jane's experiences) -

Shortly after arriving in Nigeria, I sat next to a co-worker for lunch one day and was excited to discover that she was Captain of a local Girls' Brigade Company. I immediately asked if I could attend that week and she said yes.

On Saturday morning I got up bright and early as GB was to start at 8:00am. I didn't want to be late so hurried down to the church full of excitement and anticipation of meeting these girls and of being part of something which would remind me of home.

I needn't have hurried, after all *"This is Africa"* or *"TIA"*. I had forgotten that things don't always start on time in Africa. By 8:20am, long after I had begun to wonder if I was in the right place, at the right time, a few girls started to arrive. They were too shy to speak to this strange white person who had turned up - so after my initial attempt of saying *"Good Morning"* in Hausa, and after realising that I had actually said *"Good afternoon,"* we sat and looked at each other for a while.

Eventually a few more girls came and they began to play games as part of their physical work. Once the captain and another officer had arrived things got a bit more organised and the girls began their exercises. The company lined up in squads and a Brigadier stood in front of them and led an exercise, she would say "Exercise 1, now begin" and they would copy the short routine she taught them. We continued this until exercise 8 had been completed. The exercises often had

songs or rhymes to accompany them and the girls had fun while taking part. I joined in with a few and tried not to feel self-conscious as some of the villagers had gathered round to watch.

After the exercises the girls completed some figure marching then marched into the church. Here I found it a little difficult to follow what was happening since the Captain and Brigadiers spoke in Hausa for the most part. I realised that a few announcements were made, the aim and motto of the Girls' Brigade were recited, an offering was taken, songs were sung and then they took out their bibles. We had a short bible study where the girls were encouraged to read and to take part in a discussion.

Suddenly I realised that I was being talked about as the girls had turned to look at me, then I was asked if I had anything to say to them. I hadn't prepared a lesson and was worried because I didn't really have anything to say. At that point I had not understood that in the UK it is customary to give someone warning before they are asked to give a talk but in Nigeria it's perfectly normal to be asked on the spot. As I approached the front, wondering how many of the girls would understand me and whether or not I would be able to say something profound I felt the Holy Spirit move inside me, he told me to talk about GB and to tell the truth. I told these girls that I felt privileged to be with them. I was excited that GB was international and that the same aim and motto that I grew up with was being taught here. I encouraged them to hold on to GB if they move out of Miango to a different area, or even to a different country. Since then, some of the girls have become more confident in talking to me. I interviewed a few of them recently and one of the questions I asked is *"Why do you attend GB?"* It encouraged me that most of the girls told me they attended GB in order *"to Learn the word of God"*. An Explorer told me that she attended GB in order *"to go to camp"* which I found to be a very valid reason for a seven year old. Her answer reminded me that children can be the same no matter which part of the world they come from.

When I asked *"What do you usually do at GB?"* the girls listed practical items such as *"we learn how to sew, to look after babies, to be hygienic"*. They also listed spiritual aspects such as *"to learn how to be a good girl, to learn to be honest and to learn to be trustworthy"*.

These young people's lives are greatly affected by the Girls' Brigade. They enjoy having bible study and fellowship with each other and they spend much of their time serving others by cleaning the church, helping out at home or helping other people within the community.

When talking to the Captain about why she is involved with GB she replied *"It's a ministry in God's vineyard, it's about helping girls to know*

Jesus.” She went on to say that one of the benefits of GB is giving the girls somewhere to go where they know that they can talk to a trusted adult “In our culture some of them don’t open up to their parents but they will talk about their problems with us”.

I feel blessed to be part of this international organisation and to know that I am united with people across the world in wanting to teach girls and young ladies to “Seek, Serve and Follow Christ”

I want to give my thanks to Deborah and the 28<sup>th</sup> Company T/W Miango for allowing me to write about my experiences with them.

### Payer requests from this company:

That girls will come on a more regular basis, there are around 70 girls involved in the company but many have responsibilities at home and find it difficult to be there regularly.

That we will see more Girls’ Brigade companies in this area of Nigeria.

**Jayne Crawford**

\*\*\*\*\*

## **GB Africa Fellowship Girls’ Camp – Livingstone, Zambia**

An interview with 16 year old Sara Manyama from the village of Bulamba and 16 year old Lilian Mfungo from Musoma both from GB Tanzania about their visit to Zambia: Six of us, three girls and three officers, travelled from Tanzania to attend the first ever GB Africa Fellowship camp for girls, held in Livingstone Zambia in April 2009.

**HH (Helen Hoskins, National Secretary GB Tz) – Tell me about your safari to Livingstone.**

**Sara** – I left home on 30 March and travelled to Herena’s village and slept there. Then on 31 March we travelled by bus to Musoma to stay with Lilian. Then on 1 April the three of us set out with our officers Catherine and Edita, on the long bus journey from Musoma to Dar es Salaam. The bus broke down so we slept overnight at Morogoro and next day arrived in Dar. On 3 April we left Dar es Salaam. That night we slept on the bus at the border of Tanzania and Zambia. So on Saturday 4 April we set out again and travelled overnight, arriving Lusaka on Sunday morning 5 April. We transferred to another bus and arrived at our destination of Livingstone on Sunday afternoon.

So the safari took me 7 days and 5 buses! It was good to arrive at last.

**HH – Where did you stay in Livingstone?**

**Sara**– We stayed in such a good guesthouse and they had comfortable beds and mattresses and sheets. For breakfast we had eggs, bread and juice. For lunch we had rice, spaghetti and ugali, with chicken, beef and juice, and then again in the evening.

**HH - What did you do at the camp?**

**Lilian** – We had discussion groups and craft and made necklaces and cards. We had a lesson on Virginity, and also talked about Barriers and Bridges for GB. We played Netball and did Drill. One night Tanzania led the evening devotions and I preached from Jeremiah 33:3. Another night was a Fashion Parade, and Herena represented Tanzania wearing a Masai outfit. Everyone agreed she looked stunning.

**HH – Where did you go for excursions?**

**Sara** – We went to visit a Zambian chief’s home and met his wife. Then we went on a boat on the Zambezi River. It was the first time the three of us had ever been in a boat. Then we went to the Victoria Falls. The water thunders down a great distance and the spray comes down like rain and we got very wet.

**HH – What did you do in Livingstone town?**

**Lilian** – We went to a Supermarket where they have trolleys and shelves of lots of nice things and you pay at a checkout. We used Zambian money called Kwacha and bought a packet of biscuits.

**HH – What language did you use at the camp?**

**Sara** – The girls from Zambia, Nigeria and South Africa all spoke English. We tried to speak some English with them and we taught them some Swahili as well. We made lots of friends.

**HH – How was the journey home?**

**Lilian** – We stayed a few days in Dar es Salaam on the way home and did some shopping. I bought a suitcase. On our return journey we again passed through Mbeya, Iringa, Dar es Salaam, Morogoro, Dodoma, Singida, Tabora, Shinyanga, Mwanza and Bunda to Musoma. It was a long way and we saw so many people and places. It was better than a geography lesson.

**HH – What was the best part of the camp?**

**Lilian** – to meet GB girls and leaders from other countries.

**Sara** – to travel to another country and find GB people everywhere.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Rejoice Kurtong** - GB Nigeria’s National Youth Secretary wrote about the different topics that were covered during their week-long stay in Livingstone at the African Fellowship’s Girls’ Brigade Camp.

The theme for the camp “More than rubies” based on Psalm 139 and Proverbs 31. A series of talks took place throughout the week dealing with such topics as virginity, humanitarian service, a woman of integrity, democracy and governance. The

significance of physical fitness was also emphasised and on a daily basis everyone participated in a different physical activity.

During the week-long stay in Livingstone the girls had the opportunity to meet with the International President, Ruth Chikasa of Zambia and the various country Presidents who were in attendance from South Africa, Malawi, Tanzania, Zambia and Nigeria.

The girls also managed to take in some of the tourist attractions – they enjoyed their outings to the Zambezi River (one of the seven biggest rivers in Africa); a cruise on a boat – both exciting and relaxing; The Victoria Falls – both breathtaking and exciting – by the time they had finished the long walk along the falls, they were soaking wet; a visit to the Mukini village established in the 18<sup>th</sup> century – they had enjoyed seeing a traditional home setting for the Chief.

Homeward bound – on their journey back to Nigeria they were privileged to transit Addis-Ababa where for one night they enjoyed “presidential treatment” at the Crown’s Hotel. It was for them a blessed experience as the beauty of Addis-Ababa city could be seen from their room balcony – reminding them that God is indeed marvellous in his creation.

Rejoice concluded that the camp had been a “wake-up call” for them – a realisation that women/girls are special, beautifully and wonderfully made by God and as Girls’ Brigade members they should fulfil the GB mission to uplift those who are less privileged all over the world starting with their immediate environment and extending internationally.

\*\*\*\*\*

## **News from the Girls’ Brigade of Zambia**

The Lord Almighty has been able to see us through light and difficult moments. Thank you for all who have been praying for our Country. We thank God whenever we read of the good work that Girls’ Brigade is doing all over the world. We are a growing organisation not because of our knowledge but because the organisation is built on the rock Jesus Christ.

Girls’ Brigade Zambia is working towards improving the lives of the girl child. The project that was supported financially by the International Office through seed money is one that has helped about ten girls in skills empowerment such as tailoring, catering and basic computer knowledge.

We are now shifting the GB national efforts to building a National Training Centre. It is not an easy task that we have embarked on but we believe that with the help of God and friends from other countries where Girls’ Brigade exist, we will be able to build this centre. The centre will benefit most of the girls from urban and rural areas. The land that we have acquired for the training centre is very big such that it will have all facilities for various trainings and health.

On 18 July 2009, thirty youth from United Kingdom (Girls’ Brigade and Boy Scouts) arrived in Zambia for their rural expedition project. Four youth from Girls’ Brigade joined them and will be out with them to the Northern Province of Zambia at Shiwangandu in Chinsali until after the first week of August. More information will be shared by the youth in the next newsletter.

In June GBZ held its National Council and elections for new office bearers were conducted. There is not much change from the previous leadership because all those who had served only one term were given an opportunity to complete another term. In August girls will gather in Luanshya (where GBZ Headquarters is) from all over the country for their annual rally. This is one of the wonderful moments for the girls. During this event activities cover the four square programme of Girls’ Brigade.

We are looking forward to sending more than ten participants among them, officers, girls and touring parties for ICGB in Malaysia. We are always praying for the organising committee for success.

**Joyce Kafumbe**  
National President

\*\*\*\*\*

## **News from Zimbabwe**

During the Girls’ Brigade International Day of Prayer, GB Zimbabwe held our enrolment and re-dedication of officers and girls.

We had a wonderful time as new officers and girls were enrolled to become full members of the Girls’ Brigade Zimbabwe. All officers were encouraged to seek God’s help in deepening themselves to the service of the Girls’ Brigade.

**Melody Murombedzi**  
National Secretary  
GB Zimbabwe

\*\*\*\*\*

## **GB World Day of Prayer 2009, Tanzania**

June 10<sup>th</sup> is always a special day for GB Tanzania as we celebrate the GB World Day of Prayer and also our birthday.

This year, 2009, on June 10<sup>th</sup>, we celebrated our 8<sup>th</sup> birthday with a GB Officers' seminar in the village of Kirumi for our newest GB company. Twenty people attended the seminar and the teachers were four of our GB trainers. The Company has now begun meetings with the girls on Saturdays and we look forward to some of the Officers attending our 5 day Officers' Training in September.

Our existing 28 Companies (9 registered and 19 preparing for registration) celebrated the GB World Day of Prayer with 10 district camps over the weekend of June 19-20. The theme of the camps was "Arise, Shine, Break Shackles and Transform Lives", and every Company had composed a song on Isaiah 52:1, 2. Every camp followed the same programme, with Opening ceremony on Friday afternoon, a full programme on Saturday with Bible lessons, Plays, Songs, Craft, Games and Drill. Then the closing service on Sunday morning.

We were very happy to have visitors, Jock and Sue Bidwell, from Australia, but teaching at St Jude's school Arusha for two years. Our National Secretary Helen Hoskins reports on Jock and Sue's visit – "With Jock and Sue, and our trusty intrepid driver Ladi, in three days we visited six of the ten GB camps over the weekend June 19-21. On Day 1 we packed 25 people and a sack of rice into my car, to deliver girls to the Tairo camp, then continued on the road to the Kibara camp. Three companies were gathered there and the opening of the camp attracted much attention and many onlookers as the girls marched and sang and the camp was officially "opened". We set out from there and called in briefly at the Bulamba camp to greet the Butimba and Bulamba girls before returning to the Tairo camp where four Companies were gathered and already having a great time. Another camp opening and back home to rest.

Day 2 we arrived at Tarime camp (three Companies) in time for the cake decorating. They had made a wonderful cake, cooked on a charcoal burner and were decorating it ready for a wedding next day. We left after lunch and arrived at the Oliyo camp (negotiating what looked like impassable tracks, but nothing to phase Ladi) and found Oliyo and Kowak companies doing Drill on the playing field. It was a perfect setting for Jock and Sue to organise some games, and soon boomerangs were flying (some even coming back), and girls having a lot of fun with other games.

Day 3 we set out for the closing service of the Ikizu camp. This was the first ever camp for the two new Companies of Ikizu and Tarani. The girls performed some of the plays they had done at the camp, and also songs. After the service we realised that lunch was not quite ready (they were still taking stones out of the rice), so Jock soon had everyone involved in kite flying, and other games and the time passed quickly and we enjoyed yet another wonderful Tanzanian meal before returning home."

It was a wonderful celebration with over 600 girls and officers taking part. And together we pray that we will hear God's call to - "Arise, Shine, Break Shackles and Transform Lives"

**Helen Hoskins**  
National Secretary  
GB Tanzania

\*\*\*\*\*

## **GB Northern Ireland**

**For the next three years Girls' Brigade, Northern Ireland (GBNI) has embraced the challenge of supporting the Northern Ireland Cancer Fund for Children (NICFC). Girls' Brigade Companies across the province will come together to fund raise for local children and teenagers who are diagnosed with cancer.**

Money raised by GBNI companies will help pay for the services NICFC offer to help children and their families through their own cancer journey. These services include qualified Youth Work, Residentials at Narnia log cabin, Financial Grants, Holidays in Newcastle and Coleraine for the whole family, Parental and Family support. More recently, NICFC launched their Young Shoulders Programme, to help young people who have a parent diagnosed with cancer. The website [www.nicfc.com](http://www.nicfc.com) has more details on these ambitious plans.

Dawn Weir, NICFC Community, said, 'We are so grateful for this support from GB. Every week in Northern Ireland another two children are diagnosed with cancer. With this support and motivation to take on this challenge, we can continue to provide a range of financial, social and emotional services. Every penny raised stays in Northern Ireland and helps us rebuild the lives of families living with a childhood cancer diagnosis.'

Every week in Northern Ireland, two more families receive the news that their child has been diagnosed with cancer.

Approximately 500 children across NI are currently in treatment, or post treatment for cancer and it is estimated that 1500 siblings are

living with cancer. All of these young people have access to NICFC support services.

Shimna Valley Holiday Home, Newcastle, County Down provides the ideal environment of a 'home from home' for the whole family. Over 150 families have been welcomed to Shimna Valley in the past year. The house provides a sanctuary from the daily stresses and emotional toil inflicted by cancer on their child. A 'godsend' as one parent recently put it. The house provides a basis for Parental Support weekends and bereavement weekends.

**Alison Irvine**  
Marketing officer  
GB Northern Ireland

\*\*\*\*\*

## From the Europe Fellowship Chair

Dear EF friends,

For several years we've been aware that we need to maintain contact with the many young people who leave GB each September to go to university or to start work.

Many of our GB members find this a difficult time - as their schooling comes to an end and they step into new experiences their contact with GB can easily slip away.

Our aim states we want to help girls find 'true enrichment of life' and it seems that just when they need support and advice for independent living, we lose contact. How can we help them in this great adventure?

GB Europe has committed to nurturing and supporting these emerging leaders and so we've produced two new publications. First is a leaflet suggesting ways in which leaders can support young people as they leave home for the first time and it also explains how leaders can help GB members who come to live in their communities as they take up university/college places. Find the leaflet on our EF website. All the guidance in it comes from young people who have been through this experience so it's really relevant.

Our second publication provides both practical and spiritual advice for young people as they embark on their new challenges. It's been written entirely by members and former members of GB and has involved in excess of 40 contributors.

The issues touched in it include alcohol, self-image, loneliness, money matters, first aid, car

maintenance and much, much more. It will be available for sale soon, so why not buy a copy for any young person about to take their first steps into the big wide world?

By supporting and nurturing our members at this vital point in their life journey we can welcome them into GB communities around the country where they can continue to Seek, Serve and Follow Christ in many different ways.

Some may link with new companies or simply benefit from being cared for by GB families in new environments, and others may find different ways of doing GB, such as joining summer mission teams or helping at GB national events.

Please use the resources we've produced to reach out to this group of young ladies and, in so doing, help GB in Europe to keep contact with the great potential of this group.

Every blessing to you all,  
Vivienne Aitchison  
EF Chairman

\*\*\*\*\*

## Kosova connections

More than 28 volunteers jetted off to Kosova this summer as part of the GB Europe Summer Mission.

Twenty of these were from England and Wales, six from Northern Ireland and two from Scotland.

The group worked at the Smile Centre in Gjakova and met members of the newly set up GB Kosova.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Rita Burrows of GB Canada writes** – "In Mid August I will be God willing, traveling to Hopedale on the Labrador coast to do training. This is a new outreach for Brigade in Canada as it is to the Moravian Church members. We hope that as a result perhaps more requests will be forthcoming.

Members may know that the Moravian church was the earliest of protestant churches, and the first to establish protestant work in other countries.

We thank you for your prayers, and remember you all constantly in ours. **Rita**"